



Joint Media Release

Australian *ExpatriateConnect.com* Launched in London

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Some 450 Australians gathered at the Australian High Commission in London on the evening of Wednesday 9 June 2004 for the international launch of *ExpatriateConnect.com*, Australia's new national expat database.

In launching the project, Nobel Laureate and former Australian of the Year Professor Peter Doherty told those assembled that *ExpatriateConnect* is an exciting opportunity to create something that few, if any, other countries have attempted, with the potential to vastly enrich Australia in a multitude of ways.

"We should be thinking of Australia today as the sum of all Australians, no matter where they roam in the world", he said. "Providing an enabling interface between Australian businesses, researchers and others at home and the approximately one million Australians overseas will facilitate networks, interactions and transactions across oceans. *ExpatriateConnect* is a highly innovative tool which will help the Australian nation to be the best it can be in a globalised world."

Professor Doherty urged all overseas Australians and other individuals with educational, personal or other ties to Australia who reside abroad to support the project by visiting the www.expatriateconnect.com website to sign themselves up and to tell all their friends, family and colleagues about it. He stressed that the success of the venture long term will depend upon participation by significant numbers of those in the Australian diaspora. "Every individual expat Australian is an asset for Australia", he said.

ExpatriateConnect is an initiative of the Australian Institute for Commercialisation (AIC), an independent not-for-profit company established in 2002 as a \$10 million Queensland Smart State initiative to improve the commercialisation of Australian research. *ExpatriateConnect* has been funded principally by the Queensland Government, with generous financial and in-kind support from a number of other Australian State Governments.

The Southern Cross Group (SCG) is *ExpatriateConnect*'s founding partner. The SCG is an international non-profit volunteer-run advocacy and support organisation for the Australian diaspora.

www.ExpatriateConnect.com

www.ausicom.com

www.southern-cross-group.org

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