

## **Alfred Deakin Institute, Deakin University**

In 2009, Deakin University will establish the Alfred Deakin Institute (ADI), a high profile research and research training facility in the Research College of Comparative Social Inquiry. The ADI will have its headquarters at the Waterfront Campus in Geelong.

### Vision

*The ADI will generate and promote research that will inform public debate and public policy. Research will feature cross-disciplinary and problem oriented approaches, based on collaborative relationships within Deakin University and with external partners, including government entities. From its foundation in the humanities, social sciences, education, law and communication studies, the ADI will promote research that integrates knowledge generated from other disciplines in ways that address problems of local, national and international importance.*

### Focus

In its research foci, the ADI will draw inspiration from the achievements and legacy of Alfred Deakin. It will build cross-disciplinary links across the university, and with external partners, addressing research questions of contemporary significance. It will be guided by four shaping themes:

- **Regional Communities and Development**
- **Ideas and Innovation in Public Life**
- **Global and National Risk: security, culture and society**
- **Governance, Economy, Law and Ethics**

### Capacity Building

The ADI will feature research teams that are problem-oriented and policy-relevant. It will build capacity in ways that enable government ministers, departments, policy-makers to take action based on evidence. In addition to specified projects (eg. start-up projects include: Education and Regional Community Development; and Australia and the Changing Pacific), the ADI's cross-disciplinary research teams will examine the social, economic, cultural and other consequences of scientific and technological innovation.

The ADI will advance the goal set out in Deakin University's Strategic Plan, *Delivering Effective Partnerships*, 2008 of improving Deakin's research performance 'so that it is in the top third of the Australian higher education sector by building a critical mass of researchers who will develop a distinctive portfolio of high quality discovery, applied and commercial research.' In particular, the ADI will directly contribute to the strategies:

Enhancing Deakin's research capacity by providing centrally co-ordinated, specialist research facilities supported by professional research services; and

Ensuring that Deakin is known as a University whose research and research training has important social benefits and regional relevance, particularly through entering into strategic partnership arrangements.