

Media Release
Senator the Hon Kim Carr
09 Apr 2010

Charting a high-tech future for the Australian book industry

A new Book Industry Strategy Group, under the leadership of Mr Barry Jones AO, will set the course for the Australian book industry as it meets the opportunities and challenges posed by increasing online book sales and the use of ebooks.

In announcing the appointment of the group's chair and members, Innovation Minister Senator Kim Carr said that the Book Industry Strategy Group (BISG) will develop strategies to ensure that the Australian book industry continues to thrive in a global digital environment.

Senator Carr made the announcement today at the Worldwide University Network (WUN) Enterprise International Student Forum hosted by the University of Sydney. The university chose innovation in digital publishing as the topic for the inaugural WUN International Student Forum in response to the Minister's decision to establish the BSIG in February 2010.

"This is an exciting and a challenging time for Australia's book industry," Senator Carr said.

"The ongoing health of the Australian book industry is vital. It plays a crucial role in defining our culture and facilitating the creation and dissemination of new ideas.

"The industry also makes a substantial contribution to the Australian economy and provides jobs and security for authors, publishers, printers, and retailers.

"To keep it this way we must seize the opportunities the digital revolution is offering and develop innovative solutions to the challenges the industry is now facing.

"Over the next twelve months, Mr Jones and members of the BISG will examine how the industry must evolve in order to prosper in the new digital landscape, and develop business models to effectively integrate digital and traditional printed book production.

"The BISG includes representatives and practitioners from across the book supply chain, including trade, educational and scholarly publishers, chain and independent booksellers, printers, authors, unions, and experts in copyright and information technology.

"I congratulate and thank the chair and all members and look forward to working closely with them over the coming 12 months.

Mr Jones brings extensive experience and leadership to the chair's role. He has had an illustrious career in politics and academia and is the author of several best-selling books, with his writings translated into Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Swedish and Braille.

Senator Carr also announced the full [membership of BISG](#) and the group's [terms of reference](#).

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