

**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**17 November 2021**

**AIIA Urgently Calls on Federal Government for National Quantum Strategy and  
Greater Industry Partnership**

Australia's peak industry representative body for innovation technology, the Australian Information Industry Association ([AIIA](#)), welcomes today's announcement from the Prime Minister to invest \$100 million for a national Quantum Strategy, including \$70 million over the next 10 years for a Quantum Commercialisation Hub, which will be designed to help commercialise Australia's Quantum research and forge links with global markets and supply chains.

The AIIA has been advocating for more funding and acknowledges the funding announced today is a good start, though is unlikely to be sufficient to deliver a leading national Quantum Strategy. The AIIA is also calling on the Federal Government to urgently establish a national strategy that includes close consultation with industry to ensure Australia remains a globally competitive economy that is not left behind.

AIIA CEO, Ron Gauci, said: "The AIIA has been advocating for a national Quantum Strategy and funding with a focus on commercialisation. We need to begin with a national strategy that will help determine where funding should go. Quantum technology has the potential to be a multi-billion dollar industry that generates thousands of Australian jobs, but we need the Federal government to consult with industry to develop a national strategy that will propel our ICT sector forward to ensure our country does not become a laggard.

"The investment by the private sector, including Google's announcement yesterday of a \$1 billion investment over five years in Quantum and AI in Australia, highlights that the opportunity has been endorsed by industry. Our most recent White Paper urged the Government to look at Australia's critical infrastructure and work with industry to develop standards aligned with our international partners. By contrast Canada has invested C\$360 million over seven years to launch a National Quantum Strategy, while the UK's National Quantum Technologies Programme has been running since 2014, with an investment of over £200 million to fund a national network of four Quantum technology hubs.

"We originally recommended that the Federal government invests a minimum of \$110 million over four years in a national Quantum computing centre to keep pace with global trends. This investment is based on the Quantum Centre needing to be at least double that of a national artificial intelligence centre due to the wider breadth of Quantum computing research and development, in both hardware and software.

"But the government needs to execute at speed and scale or we will continue to lose highly skilled people offshore and get left further behind on these critical technologies. Funding

announced in May's Federal budget for the national AI strategy is still yet to be accessed by industry. We need the government to move at speed to harness the opportunities such as Quantum and AI offer Australia," Gauci concluded.

In the AIIA latest Whitepaper, ***Growing Globally Competitive Industries: Powered by Australia's innovation technology***, it called on the Federal government to:

- Invest at least \$110 million over four years in a national Quantum computing centre
- Investing in Quantum can create a new multi-billion-dollar industry generating thousands of jobs for Australia
- Create a national Quantum technology strategy

To read a full summary of recommendations for the sector see the white paper [here](#).

**ENDS**

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**About AIIA**

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem. Since 1978 AIIA has pursued activities to stimulate and grow the digital ecosystem, to create a favourable business environment for members and to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We do this by delivering outstanding member value by providing a strong voice of influence; building a sense of community through events and education; enabling a network for collaboration and inspiration; and developing compelling content and relevant and interesting information.

The AIIA is a not-for-profit organisation aimed at fuelling Australia's future social and economic prosperity through technology innovation.