

Submission by David Secher MA PhD RTTP

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(Written in a personal capacity; the views expressed do
not necessarily reflect those of either organisation)

In Australia, as in the UK and the USA, Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) play an important role in turning public research into commercial success. They catalyse culture change and they also provide essential legal, financial and commercial support to academic inventors. Since 2002 PraxisUnico has provided training to more than 3200 university and other professionals, raising the quality of that support. Training researchers in entrepreneurship is especially valuable for those who will pursue careers outside academia, but is no substitute for expert professional advice within universities.

Initially with partial UK Government funding and focused on training in the UK, more recently PraxisUnico has become financially independent of Government funding and has delivered training throughout the world, including, and in collaboration with KCA, in Australia.

The report is admirably clear and concise and much of it chimes with experience in the UK. However, as a foreigner, I am not sufficiently informed about the local environment to comment on the likely effectiveness of specific recommendations.