

Austrade at a glance

Austrade—the Australian Trade Commission—is the Australian Government’s export and international business facilitation agency. It provides:

- › access to overseas markets and international opportunities for Australian businesses through offices and partners across Australia and an expansive international presence
- › export market development grants
- › programs designed to improve community awareness of, and commitment to, trade and international investment
- › consular, passport and immigration services in designated locations.

Operating framework

Austrade operates as a statutory agency within the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio responsible to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade.

Until 30 June 2006, Austrade operated under the *Australian Trade Commission Act 1985*, *Export Market Development Grants Act 1997*, the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and was governed by a Board of Directors.

On 1 July 2006, following amendments to the *Australian Trade Commission Act* and the *Export Market Development Grants Act*, Austrade became an agency under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and the *Public Service Act 1999*, managed by a Chief Executive Officer. See page 62.

Outcomes

Austrade’s outcomes are primarily directed to the economic wellbeing of the Australian community and job creation by helping Australian companies grow and expand their business internationally. See page 36.

Global network

At 30 June 2006, Austrade operated in 142 overseas locations in 64 countries. The global network is divided into four global regions: the Americas; Europe, Middle East and Africa; North East Asia; and South East Asia, South Asia and Pacific.

Austrade’s Australian network has 18 national offices and 54 TradeStart offices. TradeStart is an Australian Government funded program delivered in partnership between Austrade, industry associations, state and territory governments, and regional development organisations. Eight TradeStart offices are co-located as Export Hubs with AusIndustry, the program delivery division of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR). See page 8.

Staff

At 30 June 2006, Austrade had 1,072 employees; 527 of these were Australia-based, 80 of whom were posted overseas. There were 545 overseas-engaged employees. See Appendix D for a full staffing overview.

Allies and partners

Austrade works closely with many ally organisations from the Australian business community. Austrade also extends access to its services and its overseas network through professional firms, chambers of commerce and peak industry associations, as well as federal, state and local government agencies and regional development organisations. An example is the Corporate Partnerships program, which has established formal arrangements with key allies to promote exporting and internationalisation to their membership and clients. See page 8.