

Highlights

- The election of the new Government saw decisions to integrate Invest Australia and the Global Opportunities program into Austrade and to revitalise the Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) scheme.
- Austrade provided a comprehensive submission to the Review of Export Policies and Programs (the Mortimer Review).
- Austrade undertook a range of innovative and strategic business missions such as a financial services technology mission to Microsoft headquarters, a health and medical services mission to the UK to meet buyers, including the National Health Service; and the first Women Business Leaders mission to India.
- Austrade worked directly with over 15,500 Australian businesses in 2007–08, assisting 5,301 clients to achieve over \$23 billion in export deals. In addition, Austrade helped a further 1,648 businesses to export successfully through the Corporate Partnerships program and another 1,031 businesses indirectly through traders, consolidators and agents.
- Austrade supported 219 businesses to undertake investments offshore worth \$2.8 billion, including in the retail, mining, medical, pharmaceutical and automotive industries.
- Nearly 4,000 grants worth over \$150 million in total were paid to recipients of the Austrade-administered EMDG scheme.
- Austrade supported Ministerial visits to facilitate international business in China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Pacific, South America and the United States over the year.
- Business Club Australia provided business matching services and networking opportunities around the Rugby World Cup in Europe in 2007 and worked with business, sponsors and other government agencies to plan business events around the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.
- Austrade assisted with more than 60 high-level business matching activities during the APEC Leaders Week in Sydney in September 2007, including specific events to profile business opportunities in Russia and Vietnam.
- Cochlear Limited was awarded DHL Australian Exporter of the Year at the 45th Australian Export Awards in Brisbane in November 2007. The program for the coming year was launched in May 2008 in Adelaide by the Minister for Trade, the Hon Simon Crean MP.
- Austrade supported businesses attending an extensive range of events and exhibitions onshore and offshore during the year. More than 4,000 people attended Austrade seminars and briefings on international markets and industry opportunities. In addition, more than 3,550 appointments were made for Australian businesses with international buyers from a diverse range of industry sectors.