



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Beyond Bradley – expanding education opportunities in Australia



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Outline

- Government's vision for the sector
- New framework for the future
- Central theme: a focus on growth, participation and equity



Vision for Higher Education

Government's vision for the sector

Higher education is central to achieving many of the Government's policy objectives for the nation's future

Government is committing \$5.4 billion in higher education and research over four years to create:

A stronger Australia

A fairer Australia

Capacity to deal with future challenges



Framework for the future

Key elements of the reform framework:

- **Participation** – attainment, access and engagement
- A **growing** sector with a renewed student focus
- A **sustainable** sector
- Sustainable investment for **research**
- Transforming tertiary education **infrastructure**
- A new era of **quality**
- **Income support** for students
- A fair deal for Australia's **regions**
- Improved Tertiary **pathways**
- New relationship between Government and educators - **compacts**





Real action for real participation

Attainment, access and engagement

Levels of attainment: the ambition that by 2025, 40 percent of all 25 to 34 year olds will hold a bachelor degree or above

Increasing access: the ambition that by 2020, 20 percent of higher education enrolments at the undergraduate level will be of people from a low SES background



Real action for real participation

Attainment, access and engagement

\$433 million will be injected to support the ambition for low SES students

- **Partnership programs:** \$108 million over four years to link universities with schools and VET providers
 - programs designed to increase aspirations
- **Student loading:** \$325 million over four years as a financial incentive for universities to expand enrolment
 - higher levels of support able to be provided to students



A demand driven funding system

A renewed student focus

- **Student-centred funding model:** from **2012**, public universities and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education will be funded for places based on demand
- **Transitional arrangements:** in place over 2010 and 2011
- The new funding model **will support:**
 - achievement of the Government's attainment ambition
 - help meet Australia's future skills needs
 - encourage a diverse higher education sector



Responding to the demand driven funding system

- Universities pursuing their own missions
 - growth and diversification
- Getting the balance right: universities' missions and national objectives
- Institutions have the capacity to operate in a demand driven system



A growing higher education sector

A renewed student focus

- **Nursing and teaching HELP debt repayment reduction:** \$83 million over 4 years to encourage graduates to go on to work in the professions
- **Maximum student contribution for nursing and teaching units:** \$33 million over four years to raise the contribution amounts from the National Priority Band rate to the Band 1 rate. The increase in student contributions will provide extra revenue for higher education providers that will be available to improve the resourcing of education and nursing courses.
- **Remove the loan fee on OS-HELP loans:** \$17 million over 4 years



Creating sustainable tertiary education Indexation

New indexation arrangements will apply to all grants funded under HESA, CGS funding clusters amounts, maximum student contribution amounts (from 2011), OS-HELP maximum loan amount & the FEE-HELP borrowing limit

Opportunities:

- Greater certainty about future funding
- Increased capacity to plan for future development, including increased scope for greater diversity
- Increased capacity of Australian universities to attract and reward academic workforce



Creating Sustainable Higher Education

Structural Adjustment

- **Structural Adjustment Fund:** \$402 million over four years to allow universities adapt to the new system and ensure long-term sustainability of their institution
 - will allow universities to form new connections and collaborations across the higher education and VET sectors
 - includes \$200 million for capital components of structural adjustment to be funded from the Education Investment Fund (EIF)



Sustainable investment for research

Investment in research and Cutler Review

- Sustainable Research Excellence in Universities
- Collaborative Research Networks
- Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)
- Joint Research Engagement



Transforming Australia's tertiary education infrastructure

World class tertiary sector infrastructure

- Close to \$3 billion to be invested in **infrastructure** across the higher education, research and VET sectors, including:
 - \$1.1 billion investment in the Government's new Super Science initiative (\$901 million from EIF)
 - \$934 million for 31 projects announced as part of EIF Round 2
 - Allocation of \$500 million for Round 3
 - \$650 million for an additional Sustainability Round



A new era of quality in Australian tertiary education

New quality and regulatory arrangements that will:

- Balance the move towards a student-centred funding model
- Assure the quality of teaching and learning as participation is increased
- Provide better information about the performance of institutions and allow for a consistent national approach to assuring quality
- Three key measures:
 - new standards-based quality assurance framework
 - national quality and standards agency
 - at-risk performance funding



A new era of quality in Australian tertiary education

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)

- Increased focus on quality
- TEQSA will be established in **2010** and will protect the overall quality of the higher education system
- Will accredit providers, evaluate performance and provide greater national consistency - **\$57 million** over four years



A new era of quality in Australian tertiary education

Performance funding

- valued at **\$206 million** over four years to be introduced from **2012**
- Institution-level performance targets will be established
- Will hold universities accountable for their performance so that attainment, participation and quality ambitions can be realised
- Amount of funding available roughly equal to 2.5 per cent of funding currently provided for teaching and learning
- TEQSA will provide an independent assessment of whether the targets have been achieved



Income support for students

- Will **increase access** to, and **better target**, income support provided through Youth Allowance, Austudy and ABSTUDY for students who need it most
- **Fairer and more equitable** allocation of existing resources.
- Cost \$3.1 billion over four years, offset by improved targeting of Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY and conversion of funding from other affected programs (budget neutral overall).



Income support for students

- Increase the **parental income test threshold**
- Reduce the **age of independence**
- Provide a **Student Start-up Scholarship**
- Provide a **Relocation Scholarship**
- Increase the **personal income test threshold**
- Extend student income support to all **masters by coursework** programs
- Relax the means testing of **equity and merit-based scholarships**
- Tighten the **workforce participation criterion** for independence under Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY



A fair deal for Australia's regions

- **Review of regional loading:** the Australian Government is committed to examining the cost of providing quality teaching and research in regional Australia so that a new, more logical basis for funding may be introduced
- **Feasibility Study** – Charles Sturt University and Southern Cross University
- **Structural Adjustment** funding – support closer collaboration with vocational education and training providers



Improving tertiary pathways

- **Compact with Young Australians**
- Qualifications reform through the **Australian Qualifications Framework Council (AQFC)**
- Single **Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education and Employment (MCTEE)**
- Expanding the ambit of **Skills Australia**



A new relationship between Government and educators

- Reforms will herald a new relationship between Government and higher education institutions
- Relationship based on mutual respect, trust and shared goals
- Mission-based compacts will be introduced to outline the relationship between the Government and individual providers and will facilitate alignment of institutional activity with national priorities
- Consultations on the framework for compact development will occur in 2009





Australian Government

Transforming Australia's Higher Education System

