



## New directions in Australian higher education policy

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## Overview

- *Education Revolution*
- Building a world-class higher education system for the future – the Bradley Review
- Growth in the Higher Education Sector
- Quality in Teaching and Research
- Responding to Bologna - Further developing our global focus



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## Tackling past under-investment

- The \$11 billion Education Investment Fund (EIF) is a major component of the Government's Education Revolution.
- It will provide long-term, sustainable funding for capital expenditure and renewal and refurbishment in universities, vocational institutions and research facilities.
- \$5 billion from the surplus in addition to the \$6 billion from the Higher Education Endowment Fund (HEEF).
- The first round of funding is proceeding using the guidelines developed for the HEEF. For the 2009 funding round expressions of interest for around \$300 million in funding were received by the closing date of 14 August 2008.



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## Better Universities Renewal Funding

- The \$500 Million for Better Universities – Renewal Funding (BURF) is a one-off capital grants program paid by 30 June 2008
- Funding agreements with each provider will determine the projects to be undertaken, consistent with its individual mission and the following priority areas:
  - information and communications technology
  - laboratories
  - libraries and student study spaces
  - teaching spaces
  - student amenities



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## Restoring Fairness

- The Australian Government is meeting its election commitment to phase out fee paying places for domestic undergraduates. This is a long-held and often-stated commitment.
- It is a matter of basic principle for the Australian Government - students must have access to university on merit, not ability to pay.
- We want to provide enough places for qualified Australian students to take up a subsidised place on equal terms.
- There were approximately 15,000 domestic undergraduate full-fee paying places in 2007.



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## Equity of Access

In 2009, two new scholarship categories will be introduced:

- **National Priority Scholarships**, (amount available \$2,207) targeting Undergraduate students enrolling in priority disciplines such as nursing, teaching, medicine, dentistry, allied health, science, engineering and mathematics; and
- **National Accommodation Scholarships** (amount available \$4,414) for students relocating interstate to study specialist courses not available near their home.

By 2012, the number of Commonwealth Scholarships for undergraduate students to go to university, doubled from 44,000 to 88,000 at a cost of \$238.5m.



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## Fresh incentives to study maths and science

- Maximum annual student contribution amount reduced from \$7,412 to the lowest 'national priority' rate of \$4,162 (per EFTSL) for commencing students & HELP remission of up to \$1,500 annually for a period of 5 years for students graduating with maths or science undergraduate degrees from the end of 2008, if they work in related occupations, including teaching of these subjects in secondary school.
- Funding of around \$560 million over 4 years has been allocated to support this initiative.



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## A world class higher education system for the future - the Bradley Review

- Following the release of a discussion paper in June 2008, submissions were invited from the public, and closed 31 July 2008.
- Around 340 submissions were received and are available at [www.dest.gov.au/herereview](http://www.dest.gov.au/herereview).
- The Review will report to Government by the end of the year.



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## Terms of Reference

Key themes:

- Diverse, high performing institutions with a global focus
- Productivity and participation
- Effective and efficient investment
- Underpinning social inclusion through access and opportunity
- Enhanced quality and high standards
- A broad tertiary education and training sector
- Policy linkages



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## Higher Education in Modern Australia

Australia's higher education system should be marked by a capacity to:

- Meet the needs of the labour market and industry for high level skills
- Provide opportunities for all capable students to participate
- Provide students with a stimulating and rewarding higher education experience
- Connect effectively with other education and training sectors
- Play a vital role in the national research and innovation system
- Operate internationally
- Contribute effectively to the development of Australia's social and cultural structures and its national and regional economies



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## Developing & Sustaining Capacity

In order to develop and sustain these capacities, Australia's higher education system needs to be:

- Appropriately resourced
- Correctly structured
- Well governed and regulated



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## Review of the National Innovation System

- On 22 January 2008, the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, announced a wide ranging review of Australia's national innovation system to be conducted by an expert panel chaired by Dr Terry Cutler.
- The establishment of the review recognises the vital role innovation plays in boosting productivity and international competitiveness, and re-iterates the Rudd Government's commitment to fostering innovation across the economy.
- The report on the National Innovation System is due to be released in September with an innovation White Paper to be released before Christmas.
- The Bradley Review will take account of the outcomes of the Review of the National Innovation System in developing its final report to Government.



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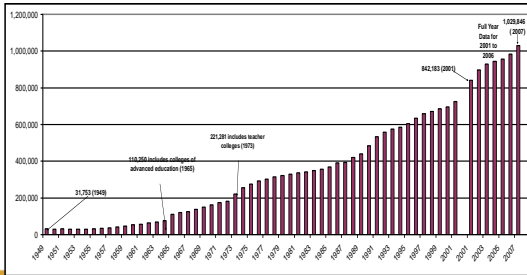
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## Higher education enrolments, 1949 to present




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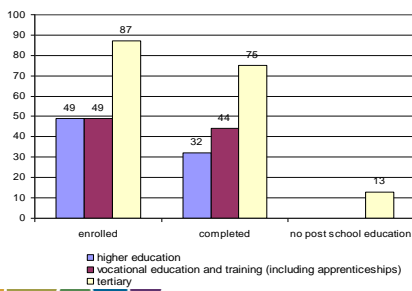
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## Participation in tertiary education by age 24, 2005



Source: LSAY Cohort Report – The 1995 LSAY Year 9 cohort: 24 year olds in 2005, March 2007

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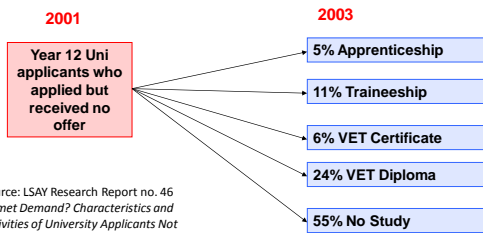
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## Educational Participation of “Applied for Uni but no offer” group



Source: LSAY Research Report no. 46 Unmet Demand? Characteristics and Activities of University Applicants Not Offered a Place

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## Learning and Teaching Performance Fund (LTPF)

- \$220 million over the past three years for *excellence*
- Next year the LTPF will also reward *improvement*, distributing around \$74 million.



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## Excellence in Research Australia (ERA)

- Quality assurance system for publicly funded research
- Developed by the Australian Research Council (ARC in consultation with the National Health and Medical Research Council)
- It will assess research quality within Australia's higher education institutions using a combination of indicators and expert review by committees comprising experienced, internationally-recognised experts.
- ERA will use leading researchers to evaluate research in eight discipline clusters.
- A consultation paper was released inviting comments by end June: [http://www.arc.gov.au/pdf/ERA\\_ConsultationPaper.pdf](http://www.arc.gov.au/pdf/ERA_ConsultationPaper.pdf)



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## Bologna Process - Australia's Response

- The Bologna Process and Australia: Next Steps
- Ministerial Advisory Group on Bologna
- Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement
- Brisbane Communiqué



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## The need for a National Diploma Supplement

- Describe qualifications in an easily understandable way
- Assist employers and other higher education institutions
- International mobility of students
- Consistent system across Australia's public universities



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## Proposal for an Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement

The consortium's final report was released in May 2008. Key recommendations:

- that the Australian Diploma Supplement be referred to as the Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement
- that the Graduation Statement should be provided without cost to all higher education graduates, in addition to an academic transcript
- that implementation in Australian universities should be on a voluntary basis commencing as soon as practicable in 2008; and
- to ensure national consistency, Graduation Statements should be presented in a uniform sequence by all higher education institutions.



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## The Brisbane Communiqué

### Context

- In April 2006, Australia hosted the Asia-Pacific Education Ministers' Meeting in Brisbane, Australia
- Attended by 27 Education Ministers and senior officials

### Key themes:

- quality assurance frameworks for the region linked to international standards
- recognition of educational and professional qualifications
- common competency based standards for teachers, particularly in science and mathematics



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Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

**Thank You**



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