



AIM HIGHER: LEARNING, TRAINING AND BETTER JOBS FOR MORE AUSTRALIANS

Rebuilding and transforming Australia's universities

Labor will invest \$2.34 billion in Australia's tertiary sector to help transform our universities into world class learning institutions.

Labor's policy will help more Australians get the training and education they need for a decent job.

Labor will provide vision, investment and direction for a diverse world-class Australian university system by Establishing:

- A competitive \$450 million fund to encourage universities' transition to 21st century learning institutions;
- A \$150 million community engagement fund to support regional, rural and outer-suburban universities' leadership role in local communities; and
- A \$150 million teaching and learning fund to recognise and reward teaching and learning excellence including the provision of support for new university teachers.

Labor will also secure the foundations for high standards and improved quality by:

- Maintaining the value of funding to universities by including the Wage Cost Index (Education) as part of a composite index to increase university grants over and above existing increases and provide \$312.7 million additional funding;
- Funding all university places at the full Commonwealth rate including approximately 25,000 full-time equivalent places which are currently funded at a marginal rate at a cost of \$347.6 million;
- Providing \$3 million to establish quality assurance of student assessment in consultation with the university sector and introducing an enforceable National Quality and Accountability Code for publicly funded and subsidised higher education providers;
- Providing an additional \$2.4 million to the Australian Universities Quality Agency to audit offshore campuses to the same standard as domestic campuses of Australian universities; and

Labor will encourage universities' transformation through increased forms of collaboration—nationally and internationally—between the education sector and the community through new forms of information technology.

The Howard Government has cut \$5 billion from our universities since 1996.

Over-crowded classrooms, inadequate facilities, infrastructure in disrepair, threats to quality and compromised standards have all become increasingly common features of our universities.

Staff morale is at an all time low, our students are learning in deteriorating conditions and public confidence in our universities is being undermined.

The Howard Government's simplistic response to this crisis is to force students and their families to pay more.

Labor believes that Australia's university system needs vision, investment and long-term reform—not just higher costs for students.

Labor will provide universities with a secure funding base which does not rely on driving students deeper and deeper into debt.

'Rebuilding and transforming Australia's universities' is an initiative of **Aim Higher: Learning, training and better jobs for more Australians**—Labor's plan to rebuild, reform and expand Australia's universities and TAFEs.

Printed and Authorised By:



Claire Moore
Labor Senator
for Queensland