

10 July 2006

MEDIA RELEASE

ENGAGEMENT IS ESSENTIAL – ATN

The Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) says the Federal Opposition's Innovation Blueprint released today recognises the role of the university sector in Australian innovation, as well as a focus on **people** as the vehicle for university and community engagement.

**Curtin University
of Technology**

ATN Director Vicki Thomson said it was critical that the value of the university sector to the national economy and future social development of the nation was recognised by Government, Industry, Opposition and the community."

**University of
South Australia**

"The ATN views initiatives such as the proposed *Knowledge Transfer Partnerships* as essential, recognising as it does that knowledge transfer needs support and funding above and beyond that which currently exists.

RMIT University

"It is essential that good ideas from academia be transferred to the wider community, and universities need to engage closely with business, industry and government. All ATN universities have a focus on this type of engagement – it must be a core function of any tertiary institution and it is a distinguishing feature of the ATN.

**University of
Technology
Sydney**

"Support for knowledge transfer allows the business community to see the value of universities and what can be added in a tangible sense to their companies – and ultimately to their bottom line.

**Queensland
University
of Technology**

"People are the key – as the saying goes 'ideas move on two legs'. Knowledge transfer will always be driven by individuals and it is encouraging to see that this proposed scheme recognises that. At the end of the day it is people that build trust and ongoing partnerships, particularly between universities and business/industry.

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"The ATN looks forward to the upcoming discussion paper from the Opposition detailing their planned reforms for the university sector as a whole."

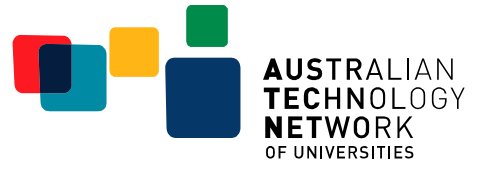
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The Australian Technology Network of universities is made up of RMIT University, Curtin University, the University of South Australia, the University of Technology, Sydney, and Queensland University of Technology.

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