

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**From Bench to Boardroom -  
ATN E-GRAD SCHOOL A NATIONAL FIRST**

In a national first - an online graduate school for researchers will be established under the banner of the five universities of the Australian Technology Network.

Designed to assist post graduate researchers in moving through their career path, both within the university environment and in business and industry, **e-Grad School (Australia)** will develop a suite of virtual graduate school services to be made available to universities and other research providers in Australia and internationally.

ATN Chair and Vice Chancellor of the University of South Australia, Professor Denise Bradley, said the e-Grad school builds upon the highly successful training programs already in place for higher degree research students.

“The ATN universities have committed themselves to research, research training and academic work – and in quite specific terms, we have invested heavily in training programs for HDR students,” Professor Bradley said.

“The ATN’s groundbreaking LEAP project (Learning Employment Aptitudes Program) for HDR students has been delivering online, moderated skills training in entrepreneurship, leadership and communication, project management, public policy and research commercialisation since 2000.

“This project has realised a level of multi-university collaboration at the leading edge of Australian university practice. The program has been widely recognised – most recently through the award of Federal Government funding to deliver this training across the Higher Education sector through the umbrella of a virtual graduate school – e-Grad School (Australia), operating as ‘eGSA’, from April, 2007,” Professor Bradley said.

The e-Grad School will offer a comprehensive range of virtual research training services to universities and other research providers in Australia and internationally.

These services will include courses to enhance the generic capabilities of research graduates; career enhancement preparation for postgraduate research students, both for industry and academia; advanced information literacy; modules on research methodology; and research supervisor development and accreditation.



“Future university teachers need to be more aware of research commercialisation, knowledge transfer and impact issues than was the case with the previous generation of university academics. Egrad Australia will transform Australian Graduate Research Education in the e-research and e-learning environment by providing access to collaboratively developed online resources.”

Importantly the on-line school will contribute to market responsiveness and the global competitiveness of Australian research graduates through collaboration to address industry needs and expectations of these graduates.

EGrad Australia will be underpinned by an advisory board comprising national and international stakeholders.

**The board which includes representatives from Government, industry and international universities will meet for the first time in Adelaide on Wednesday 8 February, as part of the annual ATN Conference.**