

17 August 2009

Student Services must not be a political football

The **Australian Technology Group of Universities (ATN)** has called on the Senate to support a Government Bill which will ensure the continued availability of quality student services to the nation's university students.

ATN Executive Director Vicki Thomson said the passage of the Student Services and Amenities Bill currently before the Senate was critical to ensuring the sustained delivery of essential student services.

These essential services include well being and academic services; student advocacy service; clubs societies and collectives; sport, recreation and arts programs and support services for overseas students. These are not 'marginal and extreme political activities' as described in the Opposition's Senate committee report on this issue. The ATN has also rejected moves to quarantine the fund to sporting facilities only.

"The Guidelines underpinning the legislation are explicit in outlining the allowable uses of the Fee. Failure to pass this bill will have a potentially negative impact on the nature of services provided for our regional students. As well, reduced services are a significant threat to the level of international enrolments, to the satisfaction of international students with their on-campus experience and more generally to the global reputation of the Australian higher education system.

"The ATN seeks a model that delivers the best service outcome with the best value for money to ensure student services remain a viable and valuable part of the university experience."

Further Information: Vicki Thomson 0417 808 472

www.atn.edu.au

The Australian Technology Network is an influential alliance of five distinctive and prominent Australian universities located in each mainland State. The ATN's aim is to help secure Australia's reputation as the clever country, contributing to its social and economic wealth by building partnerships and undertaking solution based research which is relevant to industry and the community.

**Curtin University
of Technology**

**University of
South Australia**

RMIT University

**University of
Technology
Sydney**

**Queensland
University
of Technology**

Chancellery
GPO Box 2471
Adelaide
SA 5001

Tel +61 8 8302 9132
Fax +61 8 8302 0943

www.atn.edu.au

**BUILDING
PARTNERSHIPS
FINDING
SOLUTIONS**