

28 June 2010

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **APPOINTMENT OF NEW FEDERAL EDUCATION MINISTER**

The **Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN)** congratulates Simon Crean on his appointment to the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations portfolio.

ATN Chair Professor Ross Milbourne, said Mr Crean will bring to the portfolio past experience in the Education sector coupled with a unique understanding of the critical significance of universities in contributing to Australia's international competitiveness.

"The university sector in particular involves aspects that don't necessarily fit under a simple framework - it is a portfolio which has the capacity to cut across areas of Trade, Innovation, Science and Immigration," Professor Milbourne said.

"Simon Crean brings that mix of experience to the portfolio having served as Minister for Trade, Science and Technology, and Education.

"Education is an important and significant export for Australia. With almost 1 in 4 international students studying at ATN universities, as well as our strong focus on building partnerships with overseas institutions, we have a strong interest in international education and research policy.

"We also believe strongly that an emphasis and investment in education, as the driving force of our economy, is the key to securing Australia's future. Supporting the education sector only becomes more important with both an ageing population and predicted skills shortages in a range of key business and industry sectors.

"The ATN has always endeavoured to work with Government in developing and implementing policy which is in national interest. With the recent change in leadership and a new Education Minister at the helm, we look forward to working with the Gillard government on its continuing reform and implementation agenda."

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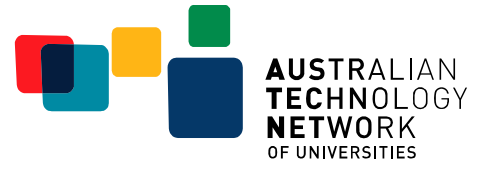
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