



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Building partnerships – finding solutions

The **Australian Technology Network** of universities (ATN) and the **Australian Procurement and Construction Council** (APCC) have joined forces to offer innovative post-graduate programs for people looking to accelerate their technical know-how and fast-track their career in procurement. It is widely recognised that procurement is the fastest growing profession in Australia. However, the demand for procurement professionals is outstripping supply and the procurement profession is facing a significant skills shortage. Estimates are that 500 to 1000 new people are required for strategic procurement roles each year.

Procurement planning and decision making now requires the leadership of professional skilled people. At least 10% of procurement personnel are involved in *strategic* procurement with 5,000 requiring tertiary qualifications.

Jane Montgomery, Executive Director of the APCC, says organisations are now strategically aligning the procurement function with their overall organisational effectiveness and objectives.

“The procurement activity requires an understanding of longer-term economic, social and environmental trends. The role of the procurement professional extends beyond the procurement process to play a strategic part in the delivery of business objectives, Ms Montgomery said.

“This initiative builds upon the existing strong history of programs in the procurement discipline across a number of the ATN member universities. Now for the first time, we are able to offer our members and those seeking to advance their careers professional development seamlessly across the nation.”

**BUILDING  
PARTNERSHIPS  
FINDING  
SOLUTIONS**

ATN Executive Director, Vicki Thomson said the Network has a track record in collaborating to deliver local solutions to national problems.

“This initiative provides a valuable platform for the public and private sectors, the Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) and industry to work together at a national level in delivering university strategic procurement programs,” Ms Thomson said. “By supporting the programs, employers are investing in the long-term sustainability, performance and competitiveness of their organisation”.

The five Masters by coursework programs are delivered in a number of formats and locations to enable those working in full time roles to access professional development in procurement with ease. Participants can choose to undertake the course from the ATN member most convenient for them. The ATN will provide full credit transfer across the programs for those students who move states during their enrolment.

*Further Information:*

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Jane Montgomery 02 6285 2255 [www.apcc.gov.au](http://www.apcc.gov.au)

## Background

### Estimates of the potential demand for tertiary education in professional procurement

Research on the demand for procurement professionals in Australian organisations indicates the following data:

- Presently 1,500 personnel are pursuing Masters of CIPS demonstrating the recognition that procurement is a profession.
- Telstra has 200 personnel involved in a specialist procurement role and it is estimated that 40% of these (80) require tertiary education.
- The Department of Defence has 7,000 personnel involved in procurement with an estimated 10% (700) requiring tertiary education.
- Many government departments and private sector organisations are finding it extremely difficult to recruit qualified procurement personnel (eg Department of Transport, Qld has vacancies for five qualified personnel, Corporate Express has a similar scenario).
- Currently more than 50,000 personnel are employed in procurement in the public and private sectors across Australia.
- It is estimated that at least 10% of procurement personnel are involved in strategic procurement with 5,000 requiring tertiary qualifications.
- Current requirements are 500 to 1000 new entrants into strategic procurement roles each year.
- It is estimated that currently there is an annual demand in excess of 5000 for university places in strategic procurement programs across Australia and growing.

### About the program

- The program is delivered in a number of formats and locations across Australia to enable those working in full time roles to access the professional development easily.
- Strategic procurement covers topics market analysis, strategic sourcing, category management, business performance, economic analysis, organisational behaviour and spend analysis
- Students enrol in their preferred university program:

UniSA : Master of Management (Integrated Supply Chain Management)

UTS : Master of Business in Operations and Supply Chain Management

RMIT: Masters in Logistics & Supply Chain program

QUT: Executive Master of Business (Strategic Procurement)

Curtin: Master of Business (Strategic Procurement)

- Should students wish to substitute courses of their “home” institution then full credit transfer applies.

## **About the Australian Technology Network**

The **Australian Technology Network** is an influential alliance of five distinctive and prominent Australian universities located in each mainland State: Queensland University of Technology; University of Technology, Sydney; RMIT Melbourne; University of South Australia; and Curtin University.

- We are committed to forging partnerships with industry and government to deliver practical results through focused research.
- We educate graduates who are ready to enter their chosen profession, dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and eager to claim a stake in building sustainable societies of the future.
- ATN universities teach over 180,000 students, or almost 20% of Australia's student population. With 1 in 4 international students choosing to study at an ATN university, we are also the largest provider of international education, both with our onshore and offshore students.
- The ATN's aim is to help secure Australia's reputation as the clever country, contributing to its social and economic wealth by building strategic partnerships and undertaking solution based research which is relevant to the expectations of industry and the community.

## **About the Australian Procurement and Construction Council**

- Founded in 1967 the **Australian Procurement and Construction Council Inc (APCC)** is the peak council of departments responsible for procurement, construction and asset management policy for the Australian, State and Territory governments and the New Zealand government.
- The APCC reports to the Australian Procurement and Construction Ministerial Council (APCMC), comprising Ministers with direct responsibilities for procurement and construction matters. The APCMC is a Council Of Australian Governments (COAG) Ministerial Council.
- The APCC has established itself as a national reference point for both government and industry on best practices, principles and emerging issues in procurement, construction and asset management disciplines.
- The Council provides leadership in these disciplines to improve and implement new and evolving procurement practices in ways that will deliver service benefits to the Australian community.

## **About the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Australasia (CIPSA)**

- The **Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Australasia (CIPSA)** has been established in Australia for the past three years and is now widely accepted as the predominant professional body for procurement practitioners.
- CIPS Australia is the peak industry body for the procurement profession in Australia and New Zealand. With over 3,000 members in Australia and New Zealand, it is dedicated to promoting best-practice, continuous improvement in professional standards and raising awareness of the contribution that procurement and supply management can make to organisations.
- CIPS Australia is a subsidiary and delivery arm of The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, the international body serving the procurement and supply profession and one of the world's largest providers of specialist training in all aspects of procurement and supply. CIPS has around

45,000 members from 138 countries around the world consisting of leading business people, professional managers, academics and people working in the purchasing and supply chain arena.

- Mandated to act in the public interest and for the benefit of the procurement profession as a whole, CIPS Australia aims to benefit the procurement profession by:
  1. Acting as a voice for the profession
  2. Helping individuals to become better professionals
  3. Helping organisations improve their procurement practices
  4. Building the global body of knowledge for purchasing and supply

*For more details contact:*

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