

Tuesday 10 May 2011

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FEDERAL BUDGET REAFFIRMS ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES - ATN**

The **Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN)** says the Federal Budget confirms the Gillard Government's commitment to the nation's Higher Education sector despite the difficult fiscal environment.

**Curtin University  
of Technology**

ATN Chair, Professor Jeanette Hacket said the commitment to ongoing indexation and funding to support the expansion of the sector were strong signals from the Government that universities have a critical role to play in the national economy.

**University of  
South Australia**

"Under this budget, universities will receive 3.8 per cent indexation, a full one percentage point higher than last year. This represents a further \$550 million over four years worth \$3.15 billion. In addition, there is a further \$1.2 billion to fund growth in student places," Professor Hacket said.

**RMIT University**

**University of  
Technology  
Sydney**

"This funding is a critical step in underpinning the long term sustainability of the sector - a sector which has a pivotal role to play in both educating our future workforce and up skilling existing workers in the resources, construction, renewable energy and infrastructure sectors."

**Queensland  
University  
of Technology**

The ATN also welcomed the Government's commitment to increase regional loading and its ongoing commitment to funding to assist in increasing participation by students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

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