

12 December 2011

ATN commends Carr for his commitment to the Industry, Innovation, and Science & Research portfolio

The **Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN)** has commended Senator Kim Carr for his commitment to the innovation and productivity agenda of the nation.

ATN Executive Director, Vicki Thomson, said Senator Carr had been a strong advocate and champion for the University sector and its role in powering the economy through research and innovation.

“Minister Carr has displayed an obvious dedication and commitment to the portfolio combined with an understanding of the importance of science and research produced by the university sector in driving innovation and productivity,” Ms Thomson said.

“This commitment has been obvious since he was Shadow Minister for Science and Research from 2001 – 2004 which was joined by Industry and Innovation from 2003 - 2004, and finally throughout his tenure as Commonwealth Minister for Industry, Innovation, Science and Research since 2007.

“Through his leadership DIISR has implemented a program of excellence in research for the higher education sector and a focus on delivering innovation and productivity outcomes to the Australian community, of which the ATN has always been highly supportive. The ATN wishes Senator Carr well in his new role as Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Defence Materiel.”

The ATN also congratulated Ministers Chris Evans and Greg Combet.

“The ATN, with its strong emphasis on industry linked research is relieved to see that Higher Education will fall within the remit of a newly expanded Department of Industry, Innovation, Science Research and Tertiary Education.

“Such linkages are critical as we progress an aggressive skills development agenda whilst also ensuring a strong research and innovation sector to underpin our national economy. The test will be to ensure that this newly expanded Department works across the portfolio areas in an integrated manner,” Ms Thomson said.

“It is critical for the future of Australia that the innovation and productivity agenda continues to be aligned with research produced by the university sector. The ATN stands ready to work closely with Ministers Evans and Combet in dovetailing the work of their ministries as it applies to the industry, innovation, science and research nexus.”

Further information: Vicki Thomson – 0417 808 472