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## **BRADLEY REVIEW A WATERSHED - ATN**

The Australian Technology Network of Universities say the Bradley Review of Higher Education released today represents an historic watershed in higher education policy debate in Australia.

ATN Chair, Professor Margaret Gardner, AO, said the review had addressed the core issues raised by the sector relating to university access, the misalignment between vocational education and universities, funding and quality.

“The recommendations in the Bradley paper represent the best chance in more than two decades for revitalising investment in quality education and research, breaking out of the existing equilibrium and focussing attention on those areas where changes in policy are needed and are likely to have a positive effect,” Professor Gardner said.

The Bradley Paper makes a series of recommendations which go to the core of what must be done to ensure that Australia meets the nation’s graduate and research needs, remains an integral part of international education and research networks and draws greater numbers of students from around the world.

“We note that the Bradley Paper supports the implementation of targets around participation and recommends an increase in research expenditure. We strongly endorse target setting as a means to social, economic and cultural development for the nation,” Professor Gardner said.

“We now have before us an opportunity to seriously address the issue of access and participation rates. The ATN would urge government and policy makers to set a minimum target of 33 percent of our adult population with a higher education qualification and participation for disadvantaged groups to increase so that it is more in proportion to their representation in the population.

“We acknowledge that this will require a strong and long term commitment from all stakeholders – government, industry, the professions and universities - to achieve. And it will not be achieved without the structural reforms recommended by Bradley.”

“This Review and the way government and policy makers choose to respond will shape the future of our universities and Australia’s place at the international education table. With one in five Australian university students studying at an ATN university, and one in four international students at an ATN, we look forward to working with the Government, business and industry in laying the groundwork for the next two decades of higher education in Australia.”

### *Further Information:*

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