

ALP Researchers in Business Policy Welcome - ATN

The ATN says an ALP plan to invest in an industry placement scheme for Australia's researchers will go a long way to ensuring the nation continues to build better economic and social outcomes for Australia.

ATN Director Vicki Thomson says the ALP's 'Researchers in Business' policy, which will see \$10 million invested to support the placement of researchers from universities into business will be a critical component in ensuring Australia continues to build its national intellectual capacity.

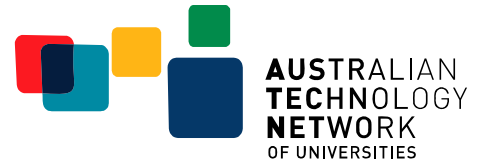
"Providing better support for our researchers to interface with business and industry is an essential element in that capacity building if Australia is to remain competitive on the global research stage and achieve a goal of being in the world's top 10-university systems," Ms Thomson said.

"Industry also has a major role to play in fuelling that education and research agenda and we support the view that Australia can improve its economic performance and secure its future prosperity by skilling a more creative workforce and facilitating more innovation in the Australian economy."

In a recently released discussion paper, the ATN proposed an industry supported PhD Placement programme to ensure that, by working in partnership with industry, we can enhance Australian research capability/capacity in areas of national priority and enhance the 'connectivity' between industry and university research via research students.

The ALP proposal mirrors, in part, the key elements of the ATN scheme which is aimed at enhancing Australia's research capability/capacity in areas of national priority and promoting the value add available to industry through employment of doctoral graduates

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with leading edge capabilities," Ms Thomson said.

The ALP has also repeated its intention to scrap the RQF and redirect funding to encourage 'genuine industry collaboration in research.' "The ATN strongly believes that an Australian research funding model must evaluate and fund research excellence or quality and impact, wherever it occurs. Researchers in the ATN undertake a combination of basic and user-inspired applied research, which is vital for national competitiveness. Continuing to fund this research is critical for the national innovation agenda, both at an economic and social level."

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