

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 10th July 2014

IRU WELCOMES THE HON. CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION TO IRU SENIOR STAFF FORUM IN ADELAIDE TODAY

Innovation and Economic Transformation:

Engage With The Potential of The New

Innovative Research Universities (IRU) welcomed The Hon. Christopher Pyne MP, Minister for Education, to the IRU Senior Staff Forum in Adelaide today.

Taking as his theme, the previous IRU comment that, “The challenge for Universities is to engage with the potential of the new, not work out ways to operate as if nothing were changing,” Mr Pyne outlined the rationale for the Government’s proposed reforms to higher education before engaging with senior IRU staff about aspects of his package.

The IRU will continue to engage with the Government and with the other parties and individual representatives in the Parliament on the detail of the package, working to ensure the best outcome for students, universities and Australians.

The particular issues raised by the IRU with Mr Pyne included:

- the adverse impact of the changes to the annual index for outstanding student debts on many students;
- the importance of driving the Commonwealth Scholarship scheme by the students for whom it is created. Students should make the best choice of university based on their educational preferences, with similar access to scholarship support regardless of which university they choose;
- the problem for universities in giving good information to students considering enrolment in 2015 when all planning is contingent on the final package of changes the Parliament approves; and
- the importance of ensuring that funding changes do not drive down the extent of research in universities.

IRU submissions on proposed Higher Education Reforms to date can be found at the links below.

[The Higher Education reforms: issues and areas for change](#)

[Budget 2014: Issues Directly Effecting Students and University Research Funding](#)

[Recovering the Lost Government Subsidy from Students](#)

[The Red Tape Returns: HE Reforms Create a Three Year Plan For Participation](#)

[Using Eligible Students to Drive the Scholarship Fund](#)

[TEQSA Issues - Pages From Education and Employment Legislation Committee 2014.06.06](#) **END**