

MEDIA RELEASE

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Completing Bradley: setting teaching funding and student charges

The Innovative Research Universities (IRU) looks forward to working with the review of university base funding levels.

“The review is an essential step to complete the Bradley review of Higher Education.” said IRU Chair, Professor Sandra Harding.

“Bradley gave us the broad structure for funding, quality and accountability. She also proposed a significant increase in base funding for universities, some of which the Government provided.

“The review will provide the basis for setting the level of funding for the future and go to the complex issues of how to distribute available funding to best support teaching and learning.

“These are key decisions for the Government to ensure that the new higher education arrangements will operate well when fully implemented from 2012” Professor Harding said.

“The review will also look at the student contribution arrangements. We need to ensure that they are fair for all students while retaining the cap on the charge payable. Universities should compete for students based on the teaching and learning they will provide, not the charge they will levy.” Professor Harding added.

In contrast to recent statements from some universities the IRU does not consider it is a time to revisit the issues of the broad design of the system. That is what Denise Bradley and her colleagues did. We now need to complete the detailed work to bring their vision to reality.

As part of the implementation process the Government has also released details of the funding compacts and the performance criteria for additional teaching and learning funding, The IRU remains committed to working with the Government to ensure the effective implementation of its reforms.

Contact

Professor Sandra Harding
Chair, IRU
ph 07 4781 4165 or 0408 332 519

Mr Conor King
Interim Director, IRU
m 0434 601 691