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Universities seek renewed focus

The Innovative Research Universities (IRU) congratulates Senator Kim Carr on his re-appointment as Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and appointment to his new role as Minister for Higher Education.

Senator Carr's appointment allows the Government to review decisions over the past year to reduce substantially investment in universities and in support for students of limited means. These put at risk the success of the Government's reforms to date.

"Senator Carr, with his commitment to higher education in Australia, is well aware of the benefits that universities bring to individuals, communities and the nation" said Professor Barney Glover, Vice-Chancellor Charles Darwin University and Chair, IRU.

"We need the Government to re-focus on the value from universities, to develop a way ahead that supports universities in their critical role of creating new knowledge and developing a capable and skilled Australian people" he said.

"Senator Carr points to the volatile global economy as a major challenge for Australia. Universities of the IRU are leaders in universities' work with the countries of Asia, where continued effort will help harness Australian innovation and knowledge to that of the major economies developing in the region," Professor Glover concluded.

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