

the council of Australia's university presidents

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AVCC appreciates Labor pledge for more teaching positions

Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) CEO John Mullarvey today expressed AVCC support for Labor's proposals for the creation of an additional 4,600 new full and part-time teaching places by 2008.

"Any additional funding that can be provided to the higher education sector for important positions such as teaching, is welcomed by the AVCC," Mr Mullarvey said.

"We are also optimistic about pledges by Labor to create an additional 500 full-time HECS-funded post graduate teaching places in areas of specialisation and professional development from 2005.

"Like so many other professions, additional funding is crucial to ensure the future of teaching within Australia and thereby the best educational opportunities for our children.

"The AVCC last week expressed its confidence in Labor's announcement that it would cut HECS by 30 percent for maths and science courses and would oppose real interest rate student loans. An overall increase in funding for teaching of \$161.3 million, as promised by Labor today, would be a significant boost for the profession.

"However, until we see the package in its entirety, and we can be assured other parts of the sector will not be disadvantaged, the AVCC cannot fully articulate the benefits or otherwise of Labor's proposals."

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