

Built on bright ideas

STATISTICS AND POLICY POSITION SUMMARY

As the coming years present us with enormous challenge and opportunity, our universities are committed to taking them on, in partnership with the nation, for the benefit of every Australian. Let's keep building Australia on bright ideas.

Australia's universities contributed

\$41 billion

to our GDP in 2018 and supported

259,100

jobs.

For every

\$1

invested in research,

\$5

comes back to the economy.

For every

\$1

invested in education,

\$4

comes back to the economy.

International education is our

No. 1

services export, contributing over

\$19 billion

in 2018 alone.

The steps we need to take

Access to university education

Support every Australian who wants to study with a place at university so we keep up with the economy's growing demand for skilled people and gear the country for a strong future.

- Working in partnership, universities and government can give all Australians a genuine opportunity to choose a university education.
- Expand the number of fully-funded places to meet the growing need for skilled graduates and prepare for the expected boom in the number of young adults looking to enter university by 2024-25.
- Expand uncapped places to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, regardless of their postcode.

Research sustainability

Maintain Australia's place as a top research nation so all Australians can reap the benefits of bright ideas and breakthroughs.

- The research system needs sustainable, increased and predictable long-term investment.
- Investment should match the OECD average of 2.4 per cent of GDP and grow commensurately with GDP.

Research commercialisation

Incentives for proactive, long-term collaboration with universities can help business invest in bringing Australia's brightest ideas to the world.

- Stimulate commercialisation of research with direct incentives for business to back university ideas.
- Include demand-side programs like technology vouchers and the scaling up of the Business Research Innovation Initiative.

Life-long learning

New skills help Australians stay ahead in a changing world. Microcredentials equip people with skills for the future.

- Provide flexible access for learners to access higher education as they need it, when they need it.
- Expand FEE-HELP to microcredentials and shorter courses to ensure that Australians can up-skill and re-skill as they need to.

Global connections

Connecting our university students and researchers to the world – and warmly welcoming the world's brightest in return – will cement Australia's place in the global exchange of knowledge and ideas.

- Establish clear plans that put Australia's international education and research back on the world stage.
- Support universities in encouraging international students and researchers to, once again, make Australia their destination of choice.