



## FUNDING TO SUPPORT LOW SES PARTICIPATION TARGETS

The Rudd Government will provide a total of \$433\* million in funding over four years to support low socio-economic status (SES) participation targets.

In 2010 the funding will be about 2 per cent of teaching and learning grants, and will increase to about 3 per cent in 2011. By 2012, equity funding will be brought broadly into line with the recommendation of the Bradley Review to increase it to 4 per cent of teaching and learning grants.

In consultation with the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council (IHEAC), the Government will support a review of the effectiveness of measures which are designed to improve the participation of Indigenous students in higher education.

In addition to these measures, better targeting of income support combined with new education Start-up and Relocation Scholarships will give students in need improved financial assistance to help them pursue higher education studies.

### Achieving greater participation

In order to achieve greater national productivity as well as encourage social cohesion, Australia must break down the barriers that have led to an ongoing under-representation in higher education of students from low socio-economic status (SES) backgrounds.

Currently students from affluent backgrounds are three times more likely to attend university than students from low SES backgrounds.

The measure will improve the aspiration of students to participate in higher education with positive flow-on effects for both the student and their family, such as improved employment, economic and social outcomes.

Funding will be provided to help universities develop partnerships and programs with schools and vocational education and training providers. It will encourage stronger links between schools and universities, offer students new experiences, and help teachers raise the aspirations of their students. These new programs could include scholarships, mentoring of teachers and students, curriculum and teaching support, or hands-on activities by university staff in schools.

Universities will also be offered a clear financial incentive to expand the enrolment of low SES students. Additional funding will be provided as a loading to universities related to the number of the low SES students they enrol. This will help universities provide intensive support to disadvantaged students and improve retention and completion rates.

The initiative will contribute towards the participation ambitions set by the Government: that by 2025, 40 per cent of 25 to 34 year olds attain a qualification at bachelor level or above; and, by 2020, 20 per cent of higher education enrolments at undergraduate level should be people from low SES backgrounds.

\* Figure does not include departmental costs

## What will this measure deliver?

This increased level of funding will deliver:

- A new partnership program worth \$108 million over four years to link universities with schools and vocational education and training providers. This will promote leading practice, increase the aspirations of students and contribute to higher rates of education attainment of low SES, Indigenous, regional and remote students.
- A student-related loading, worth \$325 million over four years—including \$43 million from the Higher Education Equity Support Program. This loading will be based on the numbers of low SES students enrolled in institutions.

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## Next steps

Consultation will be undertaken with the sector in the context of drafting guidelines for the measures.

