

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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UTAS welcomes Higher Education review

The University of Tasmania Vice Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew today welcomed the recommendations of the Australian Government's Review of Australian Higher Education.

Prof Le Grew said key recommendations of the review, including increasing the number of Australians with degrees, improving access to universities from lower socioeconomic and regional areas and increasing funding for teaching and research, are positive initiatives.

"These recommendations will lead to a stronger university sector that can continue to build Australia's economic, social and cultural capital," he said.

"Internationally it has been recognised that having a more educated population is a key economic driver.

"The Report has identified some key targets highlighting the significant contribution of higher education to the economy of Australia and that will undoubtedly have benefits for Tasmania as well."

UTAS is also well placed to adopt the proposed voucher system, where funding follows students rather than the institution.

"This system of funding means that universities will need to provide innovative and distinctive programs and increasingly flexible learning environments - UTAS is certainly already providing these pathways," he said.

Prof Le Grew said that UTAS is looking at the opportunities presented by the State Government's 'Tasmania Tomorrow' policy, which aims to increase the post-Year 10 retention rate in the State, and encourage students into post-secondary education and training.

"Many of the reforms will strengthen the already solid reputation of UTAS as a leading higher education institution in Australia," he said.

"I am confident that UTAS has a strong place in the Review's future landscape."

Prof Le Grew said UTAS will submit a formal response to the Review shortly.

For interviews, please contact the Media Office on 62262124.

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