

Universities, Innovation and Education Revolution

May 2009

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Planting the seeds for future growth

Building a future through an education and innovation revolution

This Budget continues the Government's drive for a world-class education system and an innovative knowledge-based economy.

It builds on investments in early childhood, schools and vocational education and training and continues to support both public and private sector innovation.

This document summarises the Australian Government's response to the *Review of Australian Higher Education* and the *Review of the National Innovation System*.

It clearly outlines the Australian Government's aim to build a stronger, fairer and more productive Australia.

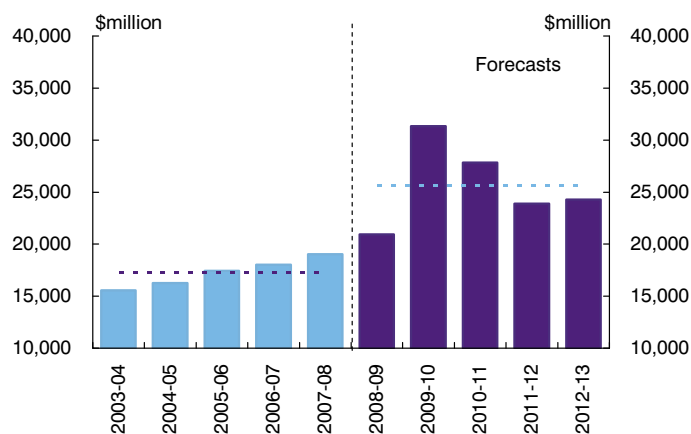
We need to invest in the building blocks of education and innovation so Australia is a world leader in the jobs of the future. This Government has increased education spending by around 50 per cent in real terms over the current five year period compared to the previous one. This funding includes significant investment in capital infrastructure for tertiary education and schools modernisation.

A focus on people, their skills and innovative potential

Investing in education and innovation to grow the knowledge economy

Fashioning sustainable infrastructure that adds lasting economic value

Education spending over time* (2008 dollars)



* Education sub-function totals, excluding student income support payments.

A knowledge driven economy



A vision for the future

Major reforms to higher education include:

- an uncapped demand-driven university system from 2012
- goals for attainment and low SES enrolment backed by funding
- a student income support system that is aligned with need
- improved indexation arrangements which better support the sector for the long-term across learning, teaching and research
- a new national regulator and quality assurance system, linked to performance funding.

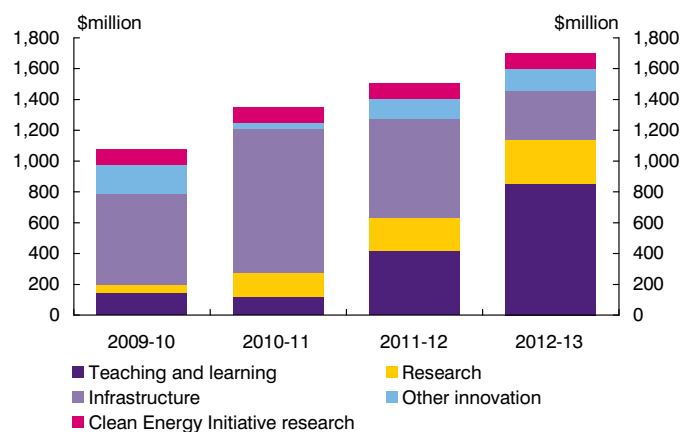
Major reforms to Australia's innovation and research systems include:

- shaping research and innovation policy through aspirations for 2020
- boosting research funding and encouraging research excellence
- supporting business and public sector innovation and collaboration.

Underpinning these reforms, the Government will invest in a range of education and research infrastructure projects which will build on the Government's significant investments in infrastructure in 2008 and 2009.

Measures to support our education and innovation systems are crucial to long-term growth, jobs and productivity. By investing now, the Government will prepare Australia for sustainable growth beyond the global financial crisis and help to create a stronger, fairer and more prosperous nation.

New higher education and innovation funding \$5.7 billion^(a)



(a) includes \$68 million in 2008-09 and \$25 million in 2013-14 for infrastructure.



A case for change

Landmark reforms

This Government recognises that a new approach is needed for higher education for the 21st century, one where students are of central importance.

The Government's higher education reforms introduce a new era of growth, quality, and sustainability for the sector.

These reforms will enhance the nation's teaching, learning and research effort, which in turn will position Australia to be at the forefront of the global recovery.

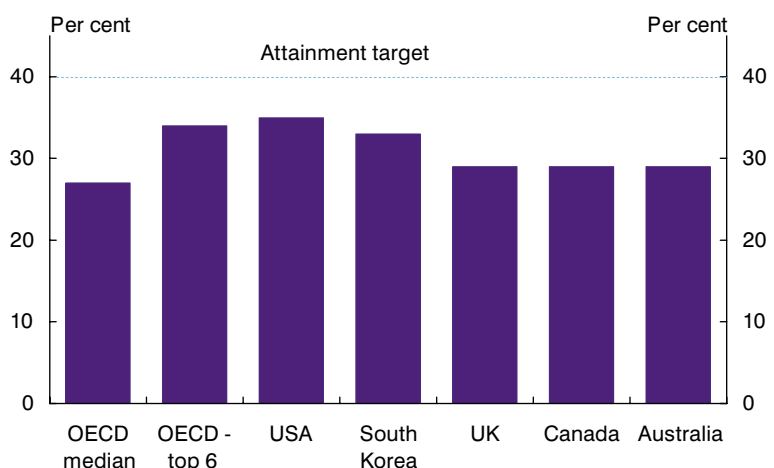
Importantly, the reforms provide the opportunity for all to access education based on merit, not ability to pay. Under the reforms, the Government will provide institutions with more flexibility to deliver for students, allowing an additional 50,000 students to attend university by 2013.

The new era of quality teaching and research will be strengthened by rigorous quality assurance, greater transparency of institutional performance and a strong emphasis on equity.

There is an international consensus that the reach, quality and performance of a nation's higher education system will be a key contributor to its economic progress.

That is why the Government has an ambition that 40 per cent of all 25 to 34 year olds attain a bachelor level qualification or above by 2025.

Bachelor level or above qualification of 25 to 34 year olds, 2006



A new system for the 21st century



Students in, politicians out

While the reforms of previous Labor Governments expanded participation in tertiary education, current rigidities limit the capacity of universities to respond to student preferences, causing some students to miss out.

The Government is committed to ensuring all Australians have an opportunity to participate in tertiary education, especially in these tough economic times. As part of this commitment, the Government will invest \$491 million over four years to uncap the number of public university places from 2012, allowing universities to offer a place to all eligible students.

Universities will be able to pursue diverse missions and better meet student choice, helping to create a higher skilled and more productive workforce.

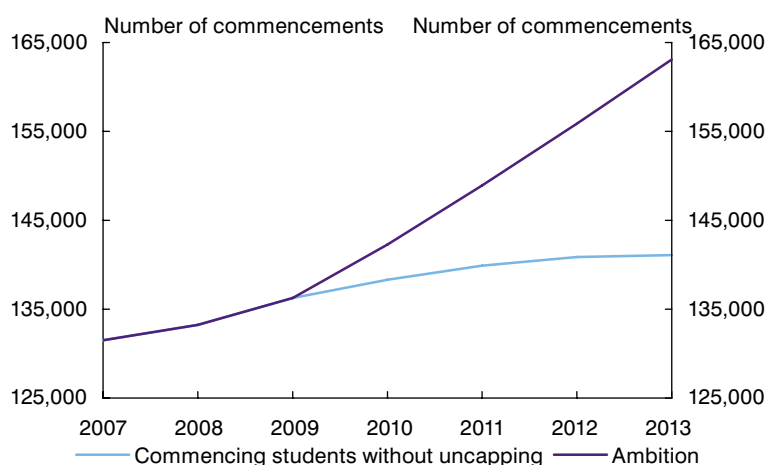
To allow institutions time to adjust, the Government will implement transitional arrangements for two years. For 2010 and 2011, the cap on over-enrolments will be relaxed from 5 per cent to 10 per cent, with the current funding floor maintained. Places will be fully uncapped from 2012.

The Government will also provide \$402 million* over four years to assist with structural adjustment, including \$200 million from the Education Investment Fund to support collaboration between universities and the vocational education and training sector.

Under a student focused system, universities will be able to offer a place to all eligible students.

This will result in an additional 50,000 new students by 2013 and help achieve the Government's ambition that 40 per cent of all 25 to 34 year olds attain a bachelor level qualification or above by 2025.

Uncapping places will increase commencements



*Includes \$64 million in offsetting savings from abolishing the Diversity and Structural Adjustment Fund



World class academic outcomes

The Government is introducing performance funding to drive innovative institution-led solutions to improve teaching quality, participation, student engagement and completion rates.

New quality and regulatory standards

The future of Australia's higher education system rests on its quality and reputation. The new funding model will be underpinned by a more robust quality assurance process.

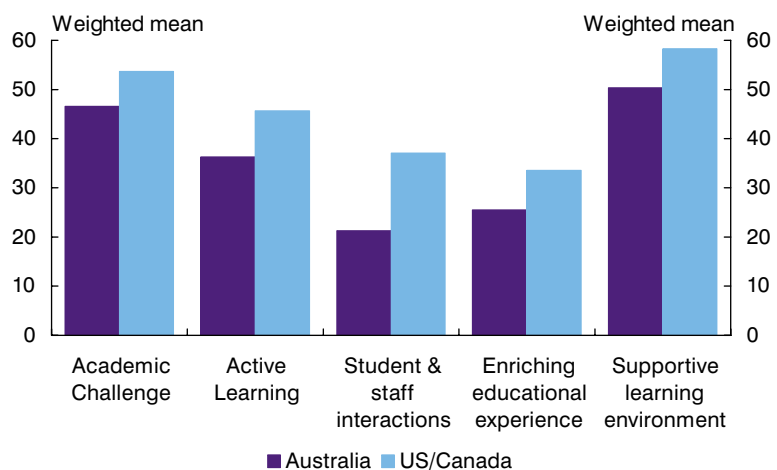
An independent national quality and regulatory agency, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), will be established to oversee the new framework for quality assurance and regulation. TEQSA will accredit providers, carry out audits of standards and performance, and streamline current regulatory arrangements and provide for national consistency.

Performance funding

Australia currently lags behind our competitors on a number of student satisfaction indicators and education outcomes. To improve standards and outcomes, the Government will invest \$206 million over two years to introduce performance funding from 2012.

The Government will set agreed performance outcomes across teaching quality, participation, student engagement and completion rates; with reward funding attached to the targets. TEQSA will provide an independent assessment of whether agreed performance targets have been met.

Australian Survey of Student Engagement 2007



Opportunities to achieve



Access to higher education

Equality of opportunity has always been a central Australian value. The Government is investing \$437 million over four years* to boost participation in higher education by people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Additional funding of about 2 per cent of teaching and learning grants will be provided in 2010, rising to around 4 per cent in 2012.

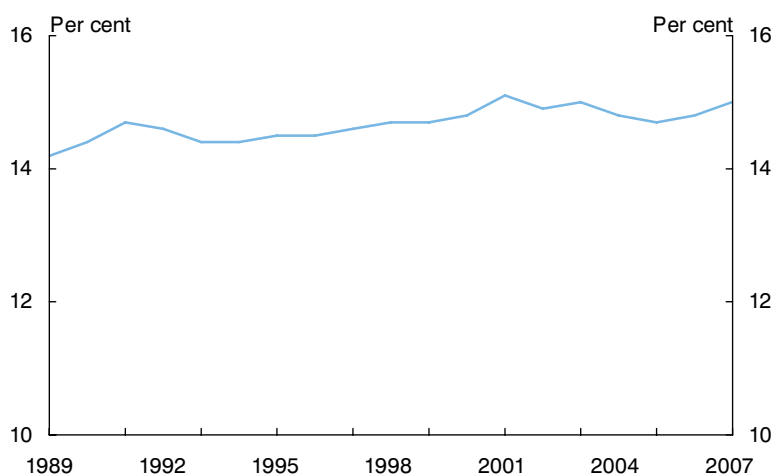
This will fund a two-pronged strategy to encourage universities to take a greater leadership role in providing higher education to all groups in society with the aim of lifting low socio economic status (SES) enrolments by 55,000 in 2020.

\$325 million will be invested in a new loading to reward institutions for attracting and retaining low SES students.

Universities will also be given \$108 million over four years to build long-term partnerships with schools and communities in disadvantaged areas to lift participation in higher education.

The Government's effort and funding aims to lift the aspirations of students who would previously never have considered university as an option.

Proportion of higher education students from low SES backgrounds



*Including \$4 million of departmental expenses, and offset by \$43 million of savings.

'The Government will pursue vigorously the ambition that by 2020, 20 per cent of higher education enrolments at undergraduate level should be of people from low socio economic backgrounds ... the additional low SES enrolments in 2020 required to meet our goal is approximately 55,000.'

The Hon. Julia Gillard, MP
Deputy Prime Minister



Making the system fairer

Support to study

Ben has always had an interest in sports and leading a healthy lifestyle and has decided to combine these interests by pursuing a career as a sports physiotherapist. Ben is dependent on his parents and, based on their income, qualifies for Youth Allowance.

As a university student receiving Youth Allowance he will receive the Student Start-up Scholarship, worth \$2,254 for each year of full-time study.

Ben is also aware that he can work part-time while studying to gain experience in his field, earning up to \$236 a fortnight in 2010 and \$400 a fortnight in 2011 before his payments are reduced. Ben is happy to have the opportunity to gain practical experience as he learns and hopes that this will improve his prospects after completing his degree.

Taking the tough decisions

In these difficult economic times, the Government understands the importance of supporting young people to enhance their skills for the future.

To support participation in higher education, particularly amongst low SES students, the Government will reform the student income support system to target greater assistance to those in need.

The Government is tightening the definition of independence to ensure that only students who have demonstrated genuine self support can qualify for Youth Allowance through workforce participation independence rules prior to turning 22 years of age.

From 1 January 2010, the workforce participation criteria will be limited to having worked full-time for at least 30 hours a week, for at least 18 months in the last 2 years. Students who have already met the workforce participation criteria, prior to 1 January 2010, will be unaffected. Other independence rules based on personal circumstances will not change.

The savings realised from tightening the workforce participation independence test will be reinvested to provide greater levels of support and more generous means testing arrangements for lower income students.



Providing assistance where needed



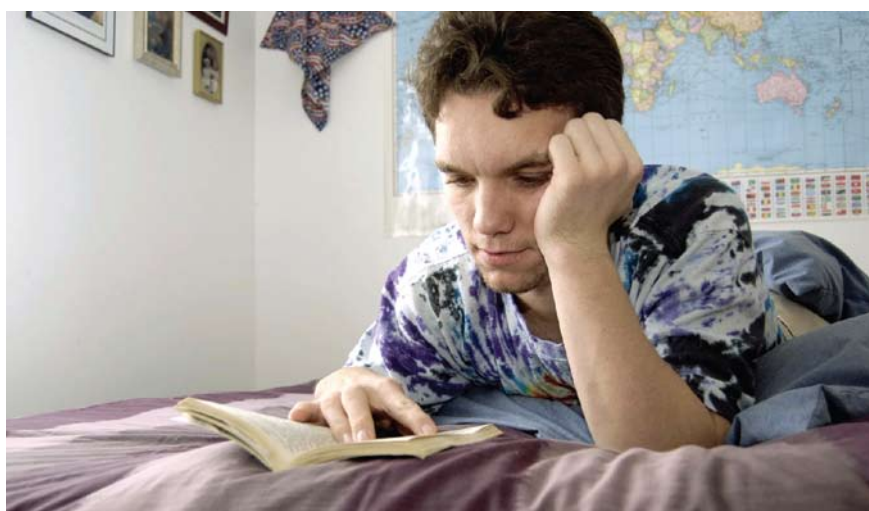
Reforms to student income support

The first phase of reforms will be implemented on 1 January 2010 including:

- lifting the Parental Income Test for Youth Allowance (currently \$32,800) to align it with the FTB Part A income test (currently \$42,559), benefiting around 102,000 students
- a new Student Start-up Scholarship, worth \$2,254 p.a. for all students on income support at university, benefiting around 146,000 students
- a new Relocation Scholarship, worth \$4,000 in the first year and \$1,000 in each year afterwards, for eligible university students who have to move away from the family home to do their course
- exempting equity and merit-based Scholarships from means testing for the purposes of student income support.

Other reforms will be progressively implemented by 2012 including:

- increasing the Personal Income Test threshold from \$236 to \$400 from 2011, allowing around 62,000 students to earn more without losing benefits
- reducing the age of independence from 25 to 22 years, by 2012
- extending income support to all eligible students undertaking course work Masters programs.



Support to study

Steph's parents earn a combined income of \$40,000 a year. With the support of her teachers, she was able to overcome the barrier of limited resources in the home to achieve the school results she needed to study engineering.

Because her parents earn more than \$32,800 a year, she was previously unable to receive the full rate of Youth Allowance. This made it difficult for Steph's parents to support her at home when her expenses increased as a result of her study commitments, meaning that Steph had to cut back on her study commitments to increase her part-time working hours.

Now that the Parental Income Test threshold has been raised to over \$42,000, as a full-time student Steph will qualify for the full amount of Youth Allowance.



Investing for the future

The Government is boosting funding to the sector to ensure universities can improve the quality of teaching, learning and research.

Boosting funding to help Australia compete

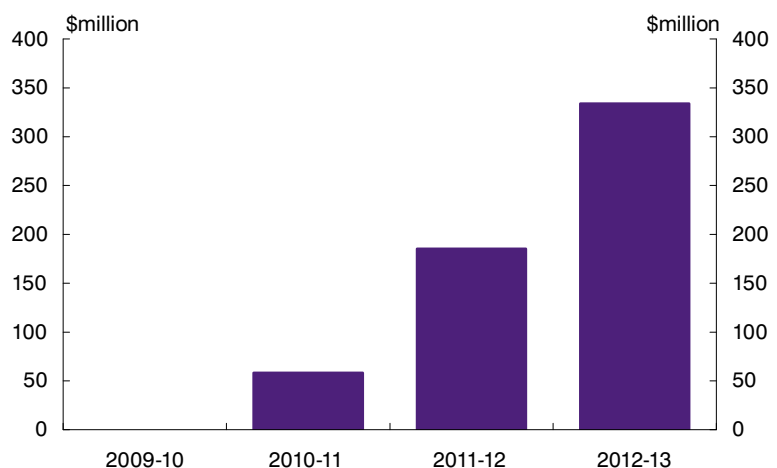
Australia has been a leader in higher education.

But, with our international competitors boosting their resourcing of higher education, Australia must plant the seeds today to maintain our position in the future. That is why the Government is investing \$578 million over three years to increase the rate of indexation for higher education funding.

The higher rate of indexation will be phased in. For 2011, higher education providers will receive funding equivalent to the new indexation arrangements being applied to teaching and learning funding, conditional upon institutions agreeing to performance targets. From 2012, the new indexation rate will be applied to all funding components without condition.

These changes will improve funding across learning, teaching and research, reduce pressure to cross-subsidise courses, and improve quality. This will improve the student experience and help Australia compete in an increasingly international market for higher education.

Higher indexation will boost funding over time



Innovating for growth



Enhancing future productive capacity

Innovation is a key determinant of productivity, economic growth, and higher living standards over the long run. The Government aims to foster a culture of innovation in business, government and education to create sustainable, high skill jobs that deliver economic growth and prosperity.

Positioning Australia to take advantage of the recovery

Innovation is critical to Australia's ability to confront both current and emerging economic, social and environmental challenges. By supporting innovation, the Government will prepare Australia for sustainable economic growth beyond the global financial crisis.

Supporting innovation in critical areas

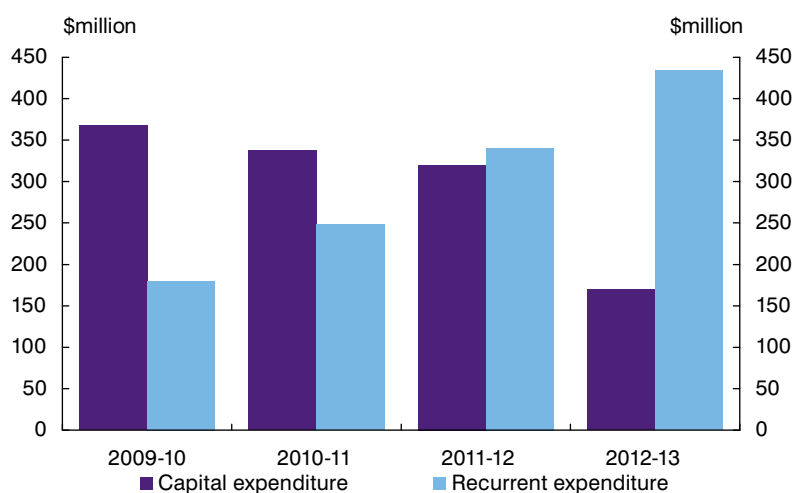
The Government will inject an additional \$2.4 billion to support the core components of our innovation system:

- the research of our universities and public research agencies
- product and process innovations by business
- collaboration between private and public sector researchers.

This comprises both one-off capital infrastructure and ongoing expenditure.

Investing in innovation will provide Australia with the flexibility to take full advantage of future growth opportunities.

Breakdown of new spending on science and innovation*



*\$28 million of new infrastructure spending in 2008-09 not shown



A case for change

‘The status quo is not enough to meet the challenges of the 21st century.’

Senator the Hon. Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

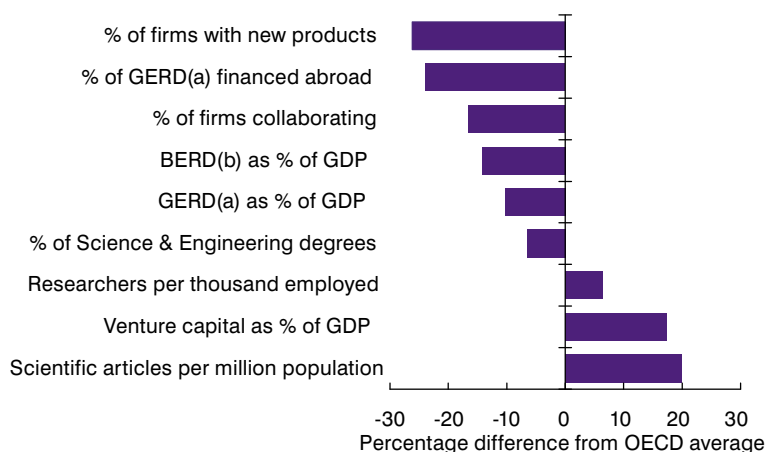
Supporting our innovation potential

Our innovation system has worked well enough, often enough, to show us what success looks like. Products of the system earning returns for Australia internationally include Google Maps, Biota’s flu treatment (Relenza), CSIRO’s polymer bank notes, CSL’s anti-cancer vaccine (Gardasil), and Cross Market Surveillance Service’s stock market fraud detection system.

But we need the system to work better if we are to strengthen established industries and jobs, move into emerging high value-added industries, and boost long-term productivity. As the OECD recently noted, countries with strong innovation policies are more likely to come out of the global financial crisis in better shape than countries with no clear commitment to continuous improvement.

The Review of the National Innovation System made recommendations to improve our innovation system, including investing in research infrastructure, boosting research funding and improving business innovation and collaboration. The Government has responded to the key directions of the Review with a comprehensive package of measures to support innovation.

Australia’s performance compared to the OECD average



(a)GERD is gross domestic expenditure on research and development.

(b)BERD is business enterprise expenditure on research and development.

Furthering our research excellence



Support for essential research costs

A world-class research system will boost productivity by helping Australia to create knowledge and adopt ideas from the rest of the world. With this in mind, the Government will provide an additional \$512 million to universities for the indirect costs of research, progressively increasing funding to around 50 per cent of the direct costs. The Government will also provide \$52 million to help small and regional universities build collaborative research networks and adapt to a more performance-focused research environment.

Improving research quality

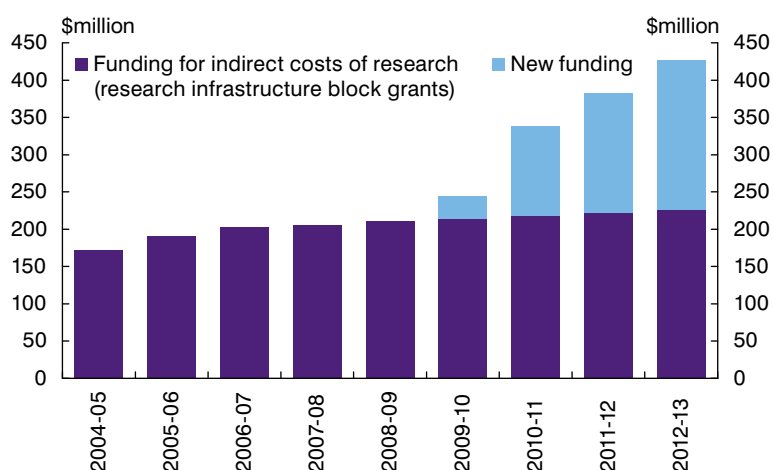
The Government will provide \$35.8 million to improve the measurement of research standards through Excellence in Research Australia. This will improve accountability and encourage researchers to strive for excellence.

Support for researchers

To support and attract top-quality researchers, the Government will increase the Australian Postgraduate Award stipend from \$20,427 in 2009 to \$22,500 in 2010 at a cost of \$51.7 million. It will also establish a three-year post-doctoral fellowship program which will offer 100 places in targeted research fields to early-career scientists, at a cost of \$27.2 million. This will build on the Future Fellowships established for mid-career researchers.

Fostering high-quality research will contribute to innovation and productivity improvements and place Australia at the cutting edge of world research.

Additional funding for the indirect costs of research





Infrastructure for the 21st century

Infrastructure is crucial for furthering research and education in Australia. The Government's \$3 billion investment will focus on priorities identified in the 2008 Strategic Roadmap for Australian Research Infrastructure.

Building world-class facilities

In recognition of the importance of infrastructure to Australia's universities and public research agencies, the Government will provide \$3 billion from the Education Investment Fund (EIF) to fund priority infrastructure projects.

This builds on the significant capital investment already made, including \$500 million for the Better Universities Renewal Fund in the 2008-09 Budget, \$1 billion in the 2008 Nation Building Package for vocational education and universities and \$580 million for the first EIF funding round.

The new funding includes \$1.8 billion for 53 immediate-start projects that have been identified as vital to furthering education outcomes in Australia or building our research capability.

Investment in ready-to-go infrastructure is not only critical to increasing our future productivity but reflects that innovation and education are integral parts of the Government's response to the global financial crisis.

The new funding also includes \$750 million for future EIF funding rounds including \$500 million for a third round and \$250 million to be partnered with up to \$400 million allocated under the Clean Energy Initiative to form a \$650 million Sustainability Round.

Summary of education and research infrastructure funding (\$m)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Total
Existing funding							
2008-09 Budget(a)	500	-	-	-	-	-	500
2008 NBP(b)	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
EIF Round 1	-	38	195	175	149	23	580
Sub Total	500	38	1,195	175	149	23	2,080
New funding							
EIF Round 2	-	40	387	327	161	20	934
EIF Super Science	-	28	208	258	237	170	901
CEI Research	-	-	100	100	100	100	400
EIF Future Rounds(c)	-	-	-	350	250	125	750
Sub Total		68	695	1,035	748	415	2,960
TOTAL	500	106	1,890	1,210	897	438	5,040

a) Better Universities Renewal Fund.

b) 2008 Nation Building Package.

c) Includes \$25 million in 2013-14.



Tomorrow's technologies today

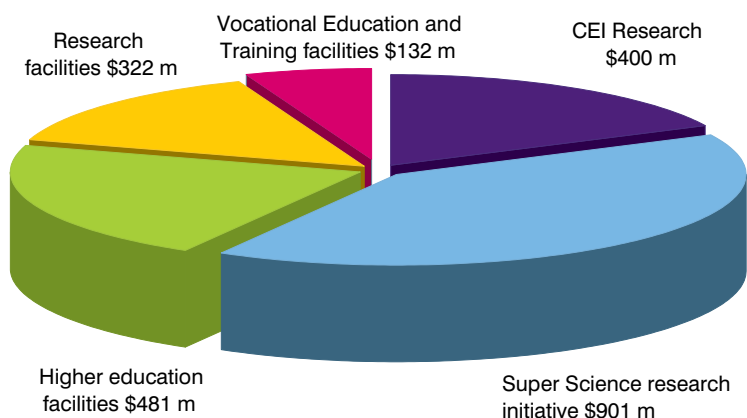
Fostering the ideas of tomorrow requires investing now in the infrastructure that will facilitate world-class research and education. Shovel ready infrastructure projects will be supported through two key packages totalling \$1.8 billion: a \$934 million second EIF funding round, which will deliver 31 higher education, VET and research projects; and \$901 million for the Government's Super Science Initiative, which will focus on building Australia's core research strengths.

The second EIF funding round will support projects like the Science and Technology Precinct at the Queensland University of Technology and the Institute for Molecular Science at La Trobe university. These projects will form part of the 21st century infrastructure crucial to our future growth.

The Super Science initiative will build Australia's capacity in key areas including space science and astronomy, marine and climate science, and future industries. Funding will invest in items such as a centre for Square Kilometre Array Science, an integrated marine observing system, and collaborative infrastructure networks for health research.

Funding for our future industries includes \$35 million for the University of Queensland for terrestrial ecosystems research. This research will enhance measurement networks across six states to provide consistent observations of water, heat and CO₂. This will help assess the impact on ecosystems of grazing, weeds, soil erosion, salinity and climate change.

Supporting immediate-start research, VET and higher education projects





Encouraging business innovation

Competition

The primary role of Government in fostering business innovation is through policies that encourage competition. The Government is continually improving the effectiveness of market regulations and is lowering barriers to overseas goods and services, including through planned phased tariff reductions.

Supporting business innovation

By 2020, the Government aspires to a 25 per cent increase in the proportion of businesses engaging in innovation. To achieve this, the Government will provide \$196.1 million to establish a Commonwealth Commercialisation Institute which will bring together research, business and finance in the Australian economy.

The Government will also replace the current research and development (R&D) tax concessions with an expanded R&D tax credit that improves support for smaller firms in tax loss; establish an Innovation Investment Follow-on Fund to support start-up companies in the wake of the global financial crisis; and provide additional funding to the textiles, clothing and footwear and automotive industries to ensure future sustainability.

R&D tax credit

Aspiring Researchers Pty Ltd has an annual turnover of \$10 million but is in a tax loss situation.

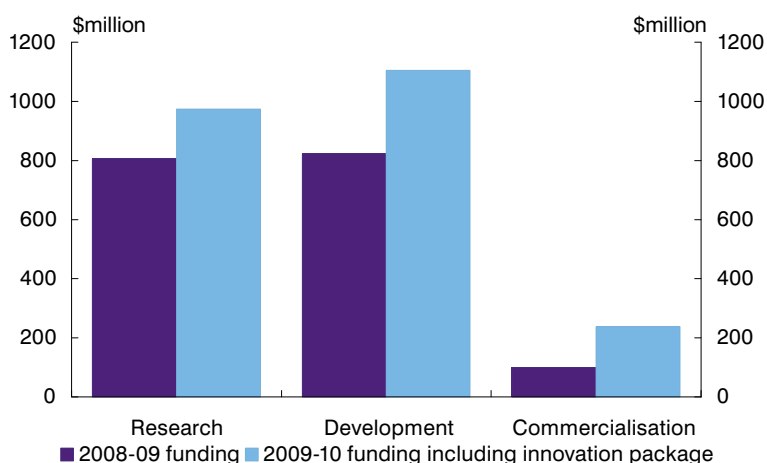
The company spends \$1 million on eligible research and development (R&D) in 2010-11.

Previously, Aspiring Researchers Pty Ltd would only have been able to claim the 125 per cent R&D Tax Concession on its expenditure, allowing it to add \$375,000 to its tax loss.

Under the new R&D Tax Credit, Aspiring Researchers Pty Ltd will be able to receive a refund of \$450,000 immediately.

The net tax benefit to the company under the R&D Tax Credit is \$150,000 — twice the \$75,000 benefit under the current concession.

Increasing funding across the business innovation chain



Boosting research collaboration

Benefits of collaboration

The Government recognises the importance of interaction and collaboration in the innovation system, both to the generation and diffusion of knowledge and to its successful application for the benefit of the Australian economy and society. We are below the OECD average on this indicator.

Business collaboration with the research sector

Increasing collaboration will translate into new jobs and new economic opportunities for Australia. By 2020, the Government seeks to double the level of collaboration between Australian businesses, universities, and publicly funded research agencies.

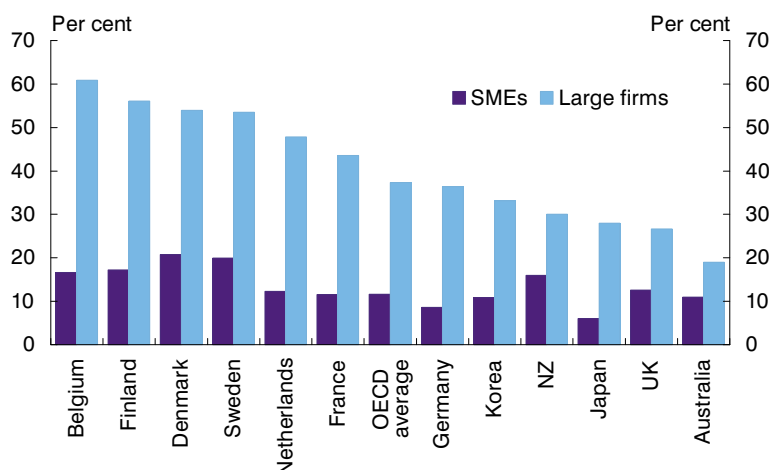
Measures to facilitate collaboration

The Government is seeking to increase collaboration between researchers and industry through measures such as: the Joint Research Engagement scheme, which will encourage universities to reach out to industry; investments in shared strategic research infrastructure; improvements to the Cooperative Research Centres program; and Enterprise Connect's Researchers in Business program.



Collaboration has helped translate research into reality across a range of fields. Hearing devices developed by the Cochlear Cooperative Research Centre and its partners have been implanted into over 35,000 patients worldwide and have resulted in 600 Australian jobs.

Firms collaborating on innovation activities, 2002-04¹



1. Or nearest available year.



Enabling innovation

Investing in enabling technologies can help industries develop and safely use discoveries like stain removing enzymes in laundry detergents, plastic products based on corn starch, and tiny particles to purify water and enhance skin protection capabilities of cosmetics.

Investing in enabling technologies

Enabling technologies like nanotechnology and biotechnology have applications across a wide range of fields, requiring national coordination to ensure an environment where these technologies can flourish. Through funding of \$38.2 million, the Government will establish a coordinating office to ensure public information, health and safety concerns are addressed and to build nanometrology infrastructure, expertise and capabilities.

The Government will also provide \$8 million to build a European Molecular Biology Laboratory complex at Monash University to support international engagement on biomolecular research.

Supporting research through ICT

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is a pervasive and transforming technology for all industries and will continue to be an important driver of innovation across the economy. The Government will support ICT research through \$185.5 million in funding for National ICT Australia, the largest organisation in Australia dedicated to ICT research and commercialisation. Funding for ICT research is complementary to the \$43 billion investment in the National Broadband Network.

Everyday products benefiting from enabling technologies



Summary of measures

	2009-10 (\$m)	2010-11 (\$m)	2011-12 (\$m)	2012-13 (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Education, Employment and Workplace Relations					
Demand-driven funding for higher education	36.4	74.3	116.8	263.1	490.6
National quality and regulatory agency for higher education — establishment	10.0	14.3	15.3	21.2	60.8
Funding for institutional performance targets	0.0	0.0	68.7	137.7	206.4
Conditional funding and revised indexation arrangements	0.0	58.3	172.7	294.9	525.9
Structural Adjustment Fund	50.5	70.7	56.0	25.0	202.1
EIF Round 2 ^{^*}	227.2	247.6	78.2	19.5	612.5
Support to increase participation of students from low socio-economic status backgrounds	29.4	85.8	144.7	176.9	436.9
Increase in the maximum annual student contribution amount for education and nursing	3.1	6.5	10.3	13.0	32.9
HELP repayment reduction for education and nursing graduates	0.8	4.2	27.0	50.6	82.6
Remove the loan fee on OS HELP loans	1.8	4.7	5.2	5.8	17.5
Student income support	78.7	-62.6	-46.7	22.6	-8.1
Learning and Teaching Performance Fund — redirect funding	-38.1	-77.1	-95.0	-113.3	-323.6
Workplace Productivity program	-0.9	-15.7	-30.4	-31.0	-78.0
Australian Universities Quality Agency — redirection of funding	0.0	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3	-3.9
Redirect funds to establish the Structural Adjustment Fund	-19.9	-28.4	-15.9	0.0	-64.2
Higher Education Equity Support program — redirect funding	-6.0	-12.2	-12.4	-12.7	-43.3
Education Total	373.0	369.1	493.2	872.0	2147.1
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research					
Excellence in Research for Australia	14.2	9.8	5.7	6.1	35.8
Sustainable Research Excellence in Universities	30.5	120.5	160.5	200.5	512.0
Joint Research Engagement program	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduate research — student support	5.5	12.3	13.5	20.4	51.7
Collaborative research networks	0.0	10.0	21.0	21.0	52.0
Conditional funding and revised indexation arrangements	0.0	0.0	12.7	38.9	51.6
EIF Round 2 [^]	159.6	79.2	82.8	0.0	321.6
Super Science initiative ^{^*}	208.0	258.0	237.0	170.0	901.0
Super Science running costs	0.4	0.4	2.6	2.6	6.0
Anglo-Australian Observatory — new governance arrangements	4.1	10.4	10.5	11.4	36.5
Anglo-Australian Observatory — offsetting savings	0.0	-5.1	-5.3	-5.2	-15.6
European Molecular Biology Laboratory partner facility	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	8.0
Replacement of Australia's Marine National Facility	6.8	5.7	7.3	9.8	29.6
Australian Space Science program	6.4	12.9	14.1	15.1	48.6
Super Science Fellowships	2.6	7.3	9.8	7.5	27.2
National Enabling Technologies Strategy	11.3	9.0	9.0	8.8	38.2
Questacon — continuation of the National Science Outreach program	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	7.6
Commonwealth Commercialisation Institute	20.6	38.5	58.9	78.1	196.1
Research and Development Tax Credit — transitional measure	120.0	-55.0	0.0	0.0	65.0
Research and Development Tax Credit — Innovation and ATO departmental costs	5.1	8.9	12.3	11.9	38.2
Support for Industry Service Organisations program	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	14.7
Innovation Total	602.7	530.4	660.0	604.5	2425.8
EIF future rounds ^{^**}	0.0	350.0	250.0	125.0	750.0
Clean Energy Initiative [^]	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	400.0
Total	1075.7	1349.5	1503.2	1701.5	5722.9

A positive sign indicates a reduction in the fiscal balance.

[^] Funding is provided from the Education Investment Fund

* Includes funding in 2008-09

** Includes funding in 2013-14

