

DIVERSE COUNSEL FOR UNIVERSITIES ACCORD

WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2022

With the announcement of the Ministerial Reference Group, Education Minister Jason Clare has put together the final piece in place for the Accord to proceed at pace. The Ministerial Reference Group ensures that all higher education stakeholders will have a voice and be the source of advice for Minister Clare and for the Eminent Panel during its deliberations.

Mr Luke Sheehy, Executive Director of the Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN), looks forward to contributing through this process as a member of the Ministerial Reference Group.

Mr Sheehy said, “I look forward to working constructively with my sectoral colleagues to ensure this review is as important to the sector as the Bradley and Dawkins reviews were in their era.”

“It is clear from these announcements, Minister Clare intends on this being big ticket reform, very much in the Labor tradition.”

“It demonstrates that ATN is a trusted voice to the Albanese Government with the inclusion of additional ATN experts in the National Centre for the Student of Equity in Higher Education based at Curtin University, Professor Lester Rigney from University of South Australia and The Hon Professor Verity Firth from University of Technology Sydney.”

“The diversity and breadth of the members supports the comprehensive and holistic approach needed to properly address universities’ core activities of domestic and international education, research and innovation, and industry and community engagement.”

Mr Sheehy said, “It is important to highlight that student voices have been placed at the centre of this process, another testament to the scale and scope of this review.”

The Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) was established in 1999 and brings together Australia’s six real world universities focused on enterprise, impact and finding solutions to issues facing our rapidly changing economy and society. Our member universities are Curtin University, Deakin University, RMIT University, The University of Newcastle, University of South Australia, and University of Technology Sydney. Our universities produce Australia’s most job-ready graduates and undertake world-class research with real-world impact. Through our innovation we are proud disruptors challenging the status quo. ATN universities provide world-class education to almost 310,000 students and teach 20 per cent of domestic higher education students and 19 per cent of international students. We are the fastest-growing university grouping in terms of domestic students. Together, we are proud of who we include, not exclude, with a strong commitment of equity, excellence, and social justice. ATN is one of Australia’s leading university peak bodies with a track record of advocating and shaping positive policy outcomes with all levels of government.

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