

ATN'S DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY OPEN TO THOUSANDS MORE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER

The Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) will play a pivotal part in providing opportunity of world-class education for thousands more students in 2023 – many of whom will be the first in their family to attend university.

Education Minister, Jason Clare, has today reconfirmed the Federal Government's commitment to greater equity being delivered in higher education. ATN Executive Director, Luke Sheehy, applauded the move, agreeing that it will be one of the most pressing matters facing universities next year and beyond.

"The promise by the Minister that equity will take centre-stage is in lockstep with ATN universities, that we must always find ways of providing increased opportunity for more students from diverse backgrounds to undertake study in their preferred area, and help make them job ready," Mr Sheehy said.

"Ensuring all Australians, regardless of background or circumstance, can access education is a core issue for ATN. Our universities are passionate about access and equity in Australia's education system – they are critically important to drive opportunity and fairness in our society.

"The Government demonstrated its great commitment to the cause by allocating 20,000 extra places to universities.

"With more than 22 per cent of all new places delivered to our ATN universities, we will be at the forefront of meeting the national skills challenge and have proved to be the most inclusive in the country, providing access to education to those who have often been overlooked."

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The Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) was established in 1999 and brings together Australia's six 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 to 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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