

## **Media Alert - Friday 25 February 2011** Embargo until 1am AEDST 28 February 2011

### **Business community and universities unite to boost graduate skills and employability.**

ACCI and IRU's groundbreaking project designed to encourage businesses to engage with universities, and provide industry relevant experiences for students, will be launched by Senator Chris Evans on Monday 28 February from 9.30am at Parliament House, Canberra.

Senator Evans will address the IRU Vice-Chancellors, Senior ACCI Executives, project group members from the IRU member universities and representatives from the State and Territory Chambers and industry associations involved in the project.

Working together ACCI and IRU have developed a suite of seven case studies from a range of businesses across Australia, which informs employers about the possibilities and benefits of providing work integrated learning placements for students.

Professor Ian O'Connor, Chair IRU, Vice-Chancellor and President – Griffith University and Ms Mary Hicks, Director Employment Education and Training – ACCI, will briefly discuss the project prior to Senator Evans officially launching the case studies.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), is Australia's largest and most representative business and industry organisation. [www.acci.asn.au](http://www.acci.asn.au)

Innovative Research Universities (IRU) is a network of seven comprehensive high quality universities covering all mainland States and the Northern Territory.  
<http://www.iru.edu.au/our-activities/projects.aspx>

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