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## IRU STATEMENT 08/2016

### IRU supports focus on internships for researchers

Innovative Research Universities (IRU) supports the Coalition's \$31.2 million commitment in internships and post-school career advice for women and girls aiming to pursue a career in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

The IRU has consistently called for the need to improve opportunities for researchers to work in industry and for career paths that move between industry and other settings. Hence the focus on internships for female PhD researchers is commendable. IRU equally supports the goal of improving gender equity in STEM, in line with the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) programme.

"Such initiatives have the potential to enhance much-needed links between industry and researchers. We look forward to industry taking up the challenge to make this successful," said Professor John Dewar, Chair of the IRU group.

**END**

**For comment contact**

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