

18 July 2016

IRU STATEMENT 09/2016

Let's focus on achievable, useful changes

Innovative Research Universities (IRU) congratulates the Liberal National Coalition on its return to government following the 2016 election.

IRU looks forward to continuing to work with Senator Simon Birmingham, whose reappointment will allow continuity in developing a revised Government approach to supporting an effective Australian university system that meets the needs of all Australians for well-educated graduates and valuable research.

We also welcome the newcomers to the Industry, Innovation and Science portfolio namely Minister Greg Hunt and Assistant Minister Craig Laundy as well as Senator Nigel Scullion who retains the Ministry for Indigenous Affairs.

The next three years will continue to be challenging.

The Government's fiscal challenge remains clear. Expenditure on universities and students will be examined as much as other areas. However, without the necessary resources from Government, students and business, universities will struggle to continue to deliver excellence in teaching and learning and research. A major cut to funding is not a useful way ahead.

We need to concentrate on achievable, useful changes that improve how universities operate, and step back from articulating major reform packages that cause much debate but little change.

For this to occur, all sides of the Parliament need to focus on constructive consideration of potential changes.

END

For comment contact

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