



OFFICE OF THE HON JULIA GILLARD MP
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Professor Sue Willis, President and
Professor Peter Renshaw, Treasurer/Secretary
Australian Council of Deans of Education
Faculty of Education
MONASH UNIVERSITY VIC 3800

1 JUN 2009

Dear Professor Willis and Professor Renshaw

Thank you for your letter of 9 April 2009 to the Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, concerning teacher education funding. The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

In response to the findings of the Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education, the Australian Government will make an unprecedented investment in our universities and tertiary education system to drive comprehensive reform across the post-compulsory education and training sector. Investing in higher education and innovation is a key part of the Government's Education Revolution and productivity reform agenda. This investment in higher education and innovation is an investment in the jobs of the future.

As announced in the 2009 Budget, the Government will change the way teaching courses are funded. The maximum student contribution for education units of study for students, who commence in 2010, will increase from the national priority band to Band 1 (currently \$4162 and \$5201 respectively) to better support universities to provide high quality teaching courses. This measure will deliver an estimated additional \$108 million over four years to universities.


To offset this additional cost for students, the Government's incentives for mathematics and science graduates will be extended to new teacher education graduates who go on to teach, to encourage more students into the teaching profession.

Funding for teacher education will be streamlined from 2010 by rolling funds currently delivered through the Improving the Practical Component of Teacher Education program to the Commonwealth Grants Scheme. This will increase the rate paid for Education and remove unnecessary and time-consuming reporting requirements.

Building a high quality teaching workforce will be fundamental to lifting student achievement in Australian schools. As you know, the Government is supporting universities to deliver high quality teacher education courses through the \$18.378 million *Improving the Practical Component of Teacher Education* program in 2009 and the \$550 million *Smarter Schools – Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership*.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Lampe', written in a cursive style.

Amanda Lampe
Chief of Staff