

# DOING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR AUSTRALIA

The Howard Government



## INVESTING IN WORLD CLASS UNIVERSITIES

Recognising that Australia's university sector needed a long term plan for sustainable funding and to ensure it met the needs of students, the Howard Government instituted a comprehensive reform package in 2003 – *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future*, which is investing \$11 billion into the sector over this decade.

A further \$1.9 billion package of measures – *Realising Our Potential* – was implemented in the 2007/08 Budget and includes: more funding for key disciplines in areas of skills needs; more flexibility for universities to manage student numbers and course mixes; assistance for universities to diversify and specialise; and additional Commonwealth scholarships.

The Howard Government has taken a major step to making Australian Universities truly world class, with the establishment of a new, ongoing \$6 billion Higher Education Endowment Fund, providing long-term funding for strategic capital works and research facility projects.

The number of students attending universities has increased significantly:

The Australian Government is funding an additional 50,000 Australian Government supported places between 2004 and 2011. Next year, there could well be more Australian Government supported places than eligible students to fill them.

The Howard Government has progressively increased the repayment threshold applying to all Higher Education Loan Repayment (HELP) loans, so that students don't need to begin repaying any of their HELP loans until they start earning above \$39,825.

Following the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism in 2005, students are no longer compelled to pay Compulsory Up-front Student Union Fees.

	1995	2006	Increase
Total Students	604,176	984,146	63%
Postgraduate Students	124,125	270,449	118%
Students from Low Socio-Economic Background	83,399	102,383	23%
Rural Students	102,362	120,392	15%
Students with a Disability	11,656	27,947	137%
Indigenous Students	6,805	8,854	30%



For more information about our achievements and plans for the future

