

**28 FEBRUARY 2013**

## **RUN WELCOMES OPPOSITION COMMITMENT TO UNIVERSITY SECTOR**

In a speech to the Universities Australia conference the leader of the Opposition, Tony Abbott, recognised the importance of universities to the whole nation.

The Chair of RUN, Professor David Battersby, welcomed the speech and the Opposition's commitment to the university sector.

"Mr Abbott recognised the importance of stability in higher education policy and the need for consultation in the formation and implementation of new initiatives. RUN welcomes this announcement, and will fully engage in any consultative processes the Coalition may implement," Professor Battersby said.

"Some of RUN's universities pioneered distance education and are leaders in online delivery. We are keen to work with the review panel which has been established by the Opposition to consider ways that online education can be enhanced. Regional universities can bring to the table our wealth of experience and knowledge in this area, and our experience in higher education delivery to a diverse student body.

"Traditional education delivery also has an ongoing role in higher education which should be recognised and encouraged.

"RUN also welcomes the commitment of the Opposition to rolling back red tape and not imposing an excessive regulatory burden on the sector."

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