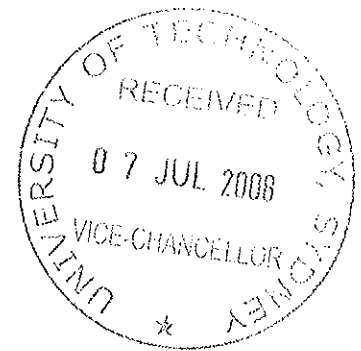




Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations



Professor Ross Milbourne
Vice-Chancellor and President
University of Technology, Sydney
PO Box 123
BROADWAY NSW 2007

Dear Professor Milbourne

I am writing to seek your views on the impact of three programs, the Workplace Productivity Program, the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund and the Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund, for an assessment that the Department is undertaking.

The purpose of the assessment is to determine whether the programs have achieved their objectives. The findings of this review will be provided as background information to the Bradley Review of Higher Education.

Attached are specific questions which you may wish to address in your response. You may also wish to contribute more general views.

I am aware of the number of requests for input from the sector to various reviews and consultation processes this year, and would be very grateful for any input you may wish to provide on these programs. Please provide any comments via email to: HEinput@deewr.gov.au by COB Friday, 25 July 2008. Should you have any queries, please contact the relevant program director:

Workplace Productivity Program:	Deborah Mackay	(02) 6219 3562
Learning and Teaching Performance Fund:	Julie Birmingham	(02) 6219 3545
Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund:	Melissa Pollard	(02) 6219 3560

Alternatively, please contact me directly if you wish.

In the next few days, we will forward this letter to the individuals we have dealt with directly with respect to each of the programs.

Yours sincerely

Dr Caroline Perkins
Acting Group Manager
Higher Education Group

1 July 2008

Workplace Productivity Program (WPP)

The objective of the WPP is to encourage higher education providers to undertake projects to reform the efficiency, productivity and performance of their institutions, strengthen their capability to manage and implement workplace change and contribute to the diversity of the higher education sector.

1. What improvements have been made to the efficiency, productivity and/or performance of your university as a result of WPP funding, particularly with respect to the following:
 - human resources management
 - professional development
 - financial arrangements
 - operational arrangements
2. Have any of your WPP projects contributed to greater diversification of the sector?
3. Is there a need for more funding for the purpose of improved productivity and efficiency and if so, why?
4. If so, why should the Government provide more funding for this purpose (as opposed to funding being provided from other sources)?

Learning and Teaching Performance Fund (LTPF)

The LTPF rewards universities for excellence in learning and teaching for undergraduate students.

Implicitly, the objectives of the LTPF are:

- to drive all universities to strive for the highest levels of quality in learning and teaching;
- to redress the balance between research and teaching and learning in terms of their contribution to Australia's knowledge systems, i.e. to improve how learning and teaching are valued in our universities; and
- to improve the information available to students, staff and the general public about universities' learning and teaching policies and practices.

We would be grateful to receive your views on the LTPF, including in response to the following questions:

1. Has your university implemented any changes to its learning and teaching frameworks, strategies, policies and practices as a result of the LTPF?
2. Do you believe that the LTPF influenced how learning and teaching are valued:
(a) in individual universities?
(b) in the sector as a whole?
3. To what extent has the LTPF improved the information available to students, staff and the general public about universities' learning and teaching policies and practices?
4. How has your university made use of any LTPF funding it has received?
5. In your view, what scope is there to improve either the operation of the LTPF (including methodology and timing) or its policy objectives?

Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund (CASR)

The objective of CASR was to achieve better higher education outcomes in teaching, learning, research and innovation by promoting structural reform and collaboration in the higher education sector:

- (a) among universities;
- (b) between universities and other education and training providers;
- (c) between universities and business and industry; and
- (d) between universities and their regional or local communities, and other organisations including local and state or territory governments.

From 1 January 2008 CASR was subsumed by the new Diversity and Structural Adjustment Fund which has as its objective the promotion of structural reform by eligible higher education providers that supports greater specialisation among providers, more diversity in the higher education sector and better responsiveness to labour markets operating in the local or national interest.

We are interested in gaining your views on the success of CASR.

- 1) In your opinion, did CASR achieve its objective of promoting better higher education outcomes in teaching, learning, research and innovation by:
 - a) promoting structural reform?
 - b) increasing collaboration:
 - i) among universities?
 - ii) between universities and other organisations/community groups?
- 2) In light of the Diversity and Structural Adjustment Fund, is there an ongoing need for a program such as CASR to promote collaboration and if so, why?
- 3) If so, why should the Government provide funding for this purpose (as opposed to funding being provided from other sources)?