



**Australian Government**

**Department of Education,  
Science and Training**

# **Tomorrow's Universities: The need for change in Australia**

**Business/Higher Education Round Table & *Campus Review* Summit**

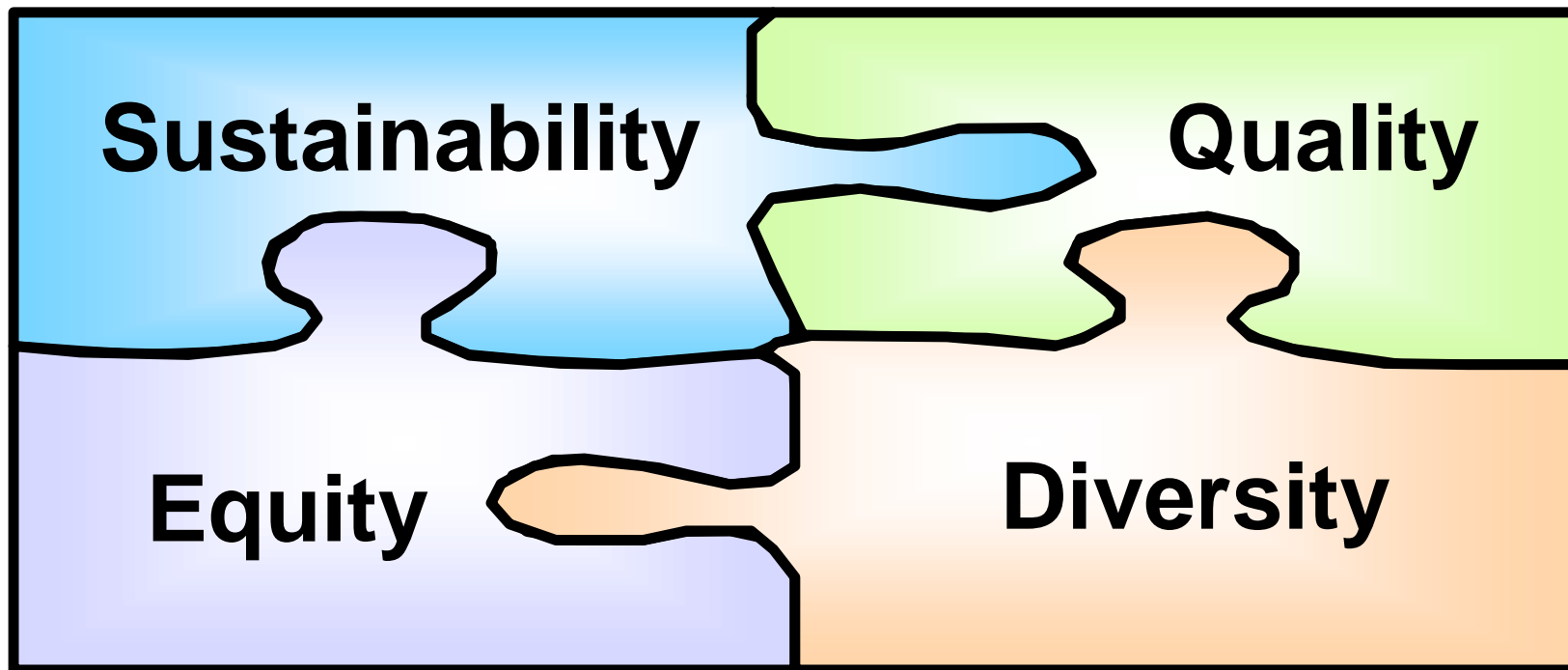
**Grahame Cook**

**Deputy Secretary, DEST**



# Tomorrow's Universities: The need for change in Australia

*Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future: 4 Key Principles*



# The need for change

- Changing climate of demand (domestic and international)
- Increased international competitiveness
- Changes to international models of higher education
- Australian Government policy initiatives driving change in Australian higher education – Research Quality Framework, Learning and Teaching Performance Fund, FEE-HELP, National priority places, including for eligible private providers
- Skills shortages in key areas



# Tomorrow's Universities

- The one-size-fits-all concept no longer produces optimal outcomes
- More strategic positioning and increasingly diverse:
  - Course offerings
  - Course structures
  - Delivery of courses



# Melbourne University Proposal

- Melbourne University have proposed a model where:
  - professional programmes will be offered largely at graduate level
  - undergraduate programmes will offer a more general education and a range of well-defined pathways into graduate study
- Implementation would mean:
  - major changes to Australia's higher education sector by 2015
  - changes in the way Commonwealth funding may need to be provided



# Diversity & strategic positioning

- Delivery of courses:
  - Meet the needs of a diverse student body
    - Evenings
    - Weekends
    - Distance education
    - Online education



# What is the Government doing?

- National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes
- Bologna consultation
- Allocation of places and Funding Agreement negotiations
- Research Quality Framework
- Learning and Teaching Performance Fund



# National Protocols

- Nationally agreed principles between federal and state governments to ensure common criteria and processes for the establishment and recognition of universities.
- New framework is being put in place to increase the diversity in our higher education system.



# The Bologna Process

- A reform process through which most of Europe (45 countries) is working towards greater consistency, portability and quality in higher education.



# Bologna Process – Key elements

- Key elements include:
  - a degree system based on two main cycles - Bachelor/Masters with doctoral studies as the third cycle
  - establishment of a common system of credits
  - removing obstacles to the mobility of students, teachers and researchers
  - implementing a system of comparable degrees (Diploma Supplement)
  - promoting quality assurance systems



# Bologna Issues

- We have a window of opportunity to discuss opportunities, challenges and develop responses.
- Key questions for us over the coming months include:
  - what are the risks of ignoring these developments?
  - what are the costs to institutions of moving towards compatibility?
  - would compatibility deliver real benefits for Australian students?



# International Students

- International Education Forum, Brisbane, April 2006
- China and India as competitors
- 344,815 international students in Australia
  - 47.5% in higher education
  - 19.2% in vocational and technical education
  - 18.8% in ELICOS
  - 7.5% in Schools
  - 7.0% in other courses (i.e. exchange)



# Allocation of Commonwealth supported places and Funding Agreement negotiations

- New places:
  - Over 39,000 new places by 2009
  - 4,420 new places in 2007
  - Additional 400 medical places available, to commence by 2009
- 2007 Funding Agreement negotiations:
  - Some universities experiencing unfilled places for first time
  - The Department is open to proposals for new models such as the University of Melbourne model



# Research Quality Framework

- RQF will measure the quality of research in universities and Publicly Funded Research Agencies
- Will assess the quality and broader impact of research
- Separate reporting of quality and impact ratings



# Learning and Teaching Performance Fund

- In 2006 14 universities shared \$AU54 million
- This funding was allocated on the basis of a two stage process:
  - Stage 1 – appropriate teaching and learning policies and processes (eligibility for further participation)
  - Stage 2 – quantitative performance indicator model
- Funding of around \$AU82 million is available for 2007



# Red Tape

- AVCC Report
- Banks Report
- Minister committed to working with the sector



# Tomorrow's Universities: The need for change in Australia

- Changing demand from the domestic market
- Global competition
- Need for diversity and strategic positioning of the sector





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# Thank you

**Grahame Cook  
Deputy Secretary  
Department of Education, Science and Training**

