

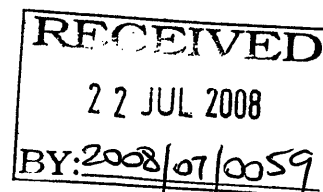
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University of  
Western Sydney  
Bringing knowledge to life

15<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Secretariat  
Review of Australian Higher Education  
GPO Box 9880  
Canberra ACT 2601



Dear Sir/Madame

Australia has a proud history as an educator of its people and many migrants of the immediate postwar period dedicated their lives to educating their children, the benefits of which we see today in our leaders of industry, politicians, public servants, scientists, engineers, community leaders, academics, entrepreneurs and many others.

Much of this education was traditionally provided by the older universities which are well established, have built a strong reputation for excellence, and through this and their alumni and both public and private funding, have built substantial reserves over many years which support them today.

It is vital that the tradition of higher education is available to Australia's existing and newest citizens and less advantaged, but no less intelligent, people. With this in mind, I refer particularly to the vast population of greater western Sydney and the people served by the University of Western Sydney.

This relatively new University serves a vast area, with six campuses, distributed over 200 square kilometres, in western Sydney, one of the fastest growing population areas, a very diversified population and mixed demography. People are keen to improve their position in life, full of energy and dedicated to the betterment of their children and future generations.

It is vitally important that UWS is well funded in its still establishing years whilst it builds its reputation for excellence, develops viable links with industry and the community, builds its national and international position, establishes an alumni

which recontributes to UWS as these students become leaders of industry and society, and continues to supports its communities.

**No business or institution can build and grow successfully without sufficient funding.**

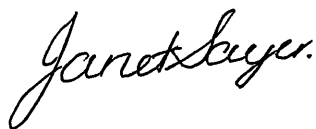
**It is imperative that the government provide adequate funding to UWS.**

Some key recommendations I would propose are:

1. overall funding for the university sector must increase for Australia to become a knowledge nation and for the economy and society to prosper,
2. a new funding model must support the newer universities such as UWS recognizing the historic advantages some universities have in their financial position;
3. multi campus universities like UWS need to have additional funding to recognise that their important access and outreach (through campuses spread around the region) comes at an additional cost in terms of buildings, libraries and infrastructure for each campus;
4. funding must encourage and reward efforts to improve participation by disadvantaged groups – low SES, indigenous and mature age students, for example;
5. funding should encourage and support community engagement and work to improve aspirations and ability of school students to attend university

If not, Sydney, Australia's biggest city, will have a divided population, divided by wealth, health and education, and an underclass which will lead to devastating problems of crime, poor health and skills shortage.

Sincerely



Janet Sayer  
Chairman  
UWS Conference and Residential Colleges Limited.