



# Australian Council of Deans of ICT

ACS (ACDICT), P.O. Box Q534, QVB, Sydney NSW 1230  
[www.acdict.edu.au](http://www.acdict.edu.au)

The Funding Policy Unit  
Higher Education Group  
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations  
Loc: C50MA9  
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16 December 2011

[cgs@deewr.gov.au](mailto:cgs@deewr.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Review of Commonwealth Supported Postgraduate (CSP) Student Places**

I am writing on behalf of the Australian Council of Deans of Information and Communications Technology (ACDICT) which is the academic peak body for ICT in the university sector.

Your consultation document has provided several options for the distribution of funding with pros and cons for each. We recognise that individual universities will respond to these options according to their own profile and strategy. While this variation may need to be accommodated, we support transparent and equitable approaches to the distribution of CSP for postgraduate coursework programs.

To support this, we would like to propose set of aspirational principles which could be used to guide future funding allocation of non-research Commonwealth supported postgraduate places in ICT. These principles could also be applicable to Government FEE-HELP loans at the postgraduate level.

It is important to note that professional entry postgraduate awards in ICT have an established track record as a pathway for domestic students both into the ICT professions and ICT-skilled practitioners in other professions.

The purpose of using the following principles is to facilitate government, industry and universities working together for efficient outcomes beneficial to the students, society and the economy. In particular, these outcomes need to address looming critical workforce shortfalls.

1. Each university determines the availability of student places in disciplines (a) according to the strength of each discipline in the institution and (b) in response to principles 2–4.
2. Universities liaise with local industries to monitor the ICT skills that are in demand and offer relevant programs.
3. The government monitors national demand and provides information on skills shortages to inform university decisions.
4. Industry provides information to government and universities on current skills shortages and anticipated future skill requirements.
5. Industry and universities work together to maximise the professional practice experience for students.
6. Professional accreditation bodies (Australian Computer Society and Engineers Australia) ensure courses/programs follow principles 1–5.
7. Prospective students are provided with information on skills in demand by industry.



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The application of these principles should maximise student employability and provide industry with skilled staff as required, and government funding would be directed where it is needed most to provide maximum benefit.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Janet Verbyla'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Professor Janet Verbyla  
President, ACDICT

December 2011