



Department of Education,
Training and Youth Affairs

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e-news

e-news 19

on higher education

Informing the Higher Education Sector—September 2001

to exit ▲

navigating
e-news ►

previous issues
of e-news ▼

Postgraduate
Education
Loans Scheme
Introduced

Pre-seed Fund for
Universities and
Public Research
Agencies

Special Capital
Funding for 2004

ICT Centre of
Excellence

Publications
and Websites

navigating



getting around

The front page of *e-news on higher education* features a set of icons that take you to the articles inside. These icons are repeated at the bottom of every page, to guide you to other articles.

accessibility

A HTML 'text-only' copy of e-news has been posted onto our website.

www.detya.gov.au/highered/enews

pages

You can also navigate through the pages using the *forward* & *back* buttons on the right of the page.

to exit

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Use the keystrokes of 'Ctrl P' to launch a print window. Remember, you can print all of the pages or choose to print current page.

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e-news on higher education also has links to relevant websites. To access a website, simply click on the URL when the open hand cursor changes to a pointing hand.

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼

**Postgraduate
Education
Loans Scheme
Introduced**

**Pre-seed Fund for
Universities and
Public Research
Agencies**

**Special Capital
Funding for 2004**

**ICT Centre of
Excellence**

**Publications
and Websites**

Postgraduate Education Loans Scheme Introduced

The Postgraduate Education Loans Scheme (PELS) now has the legislative authority to enable it to commence from 1 January 2002, following the passage of the *Innovation and Education Legislation Amendment Bill (No.2) 2001* through Parliament on 30 August 2001. PELS was announced in January 2001 as part of the Government's *Backing Australia's Ability* policy.

PELS will provide loans to domestic fee-paying students enrolled in postgraduate non-research courses. Eligible students will be able to borrow up to the limit of the tuition fee for each semester for the duration of their postgraduate course. Unlike the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS), universities, rather than the Government, will set the tuition price of courses for which PELS loans are available and there will be no public subsidy for the costs of tuition. The repayment arrangements are similar to HECS.

Tuition fees and other self education expenses may be tax deductible if the student is employed and is undertaking studies relevant to his or her employment. However fees paid with a loan from PELS will not be tax deductible. PELS will also not cover accommodation or other living costs.

More information on PELS, including the student information booklet *PELS Your Questions Answered*, is available at www.hecs.gov.au/pels.htm. Hard copies of the information booklet, PELS information leaflet and PELS Loan Request forms will be distributed to universities in October 2001. PELS advertisements highlighting information sources will also appear in the major metropolitan newspapers during the next few weeks.

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼

**Postgraduate
Education
Loans Scheme
Introduced**

**Pre-seed Fund for
Universities and
Public Research
Agencies**

**Special Capital
Funding for 2004**

**ICT Centre of
Excellence**

**Publications
and Websites**

Pre-seed fund for universities and public research agencies

The Government recently announced the broad program design for the Pre-Seed Fund initiative that will help Australian universities and Commonwealth public research agencies to develop commercially promising research and development ideas.

The Pre-Seed Fund was announced as part of the Government's *Backing Australia's Ability* policy and is intended to give institutions a viable route to market for their products or processes by supporting pre-seed activities such as development of prototypes, field testing, trailing, market assessment and patenting. The Fund has been allocated up to \$79 million over five years.

It is envisaged that between four and six separate funds of between \$10 million and \$30 million each will be established. The funds will be managed by private companies with experience in the commercialisation of research and in venture capital investment at the pre-seed stage. It will be a condition that they are not majority owned or

controlled by universities or public research agencies, though preference will be given to fund managers that establish joint ventures with universities and public research agencies.

Fund managers will make investments in individual projects, typically in the range \$250 000 – \$300 000, with an upper limit of around \$1 million per project. Funds will be structured as 10 year closed end funds with the Commonwealth anticipating repayment of its capital to enable establishment of a revolving fund scheme similar to that which exists for the Innovation Investment Fund.

The program design announcement was made on 6 August by Senator, the Hon Nick Minchin, Minister for Industry, Science and Resources, whose portfolio is managing the initiative. The announcement is intended to allow potential fund managers to commence planning their applications. Full details of the program guidelines, the fund manager application process and selection criteria will be released shortly on www.innovation.gov.au/.

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼

**Postgraduate
Education
Loans Scheme
Introduced**

**Pre-seed Fund for
Universities and
Public Research
Agencies**

**Special Capital
Funding for 2004**

**ICT Centre of
Excellence**

**Publications
and Websites**

SPECIAL CAPITAL FUNDING FOR 2004

Universities have been allocated more than \$40 million for special capital and infrastructure projects beginning in 2004. The Government has already committed over \$120 million for capital projects for the 2001–2003 triennium, though the Capital Development Pool (CDP).

The CDP supports new campus developments in suburban growth areas and regional centres and innovative electronic infrastructure projects that lead to flexible, high quality services. While the fund is still available for traditional 'bricks and mortar' developments, the emphasis in recent years has been on flexible delivery of services. Recent CDP allocations have also reflected the Commonwealth's priorities in relation to regional Australia and areas of high population growth and historically low levels of tertiary participation.

The 2004 CDP projects are an interesting mix of campus upgrades and expansions, IT infrastructure (including broadband communication developments) and e-learning campuses. The institutions and projects to be funded in 2004 are listed below. Further details on the funded projects can be found in the Minister's 5 September Media Release available at www.detya.gov.au/ministers/kemp/sept01/k217_050901.htm.

Details of funding recipients are given on pages 6 and 7.

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



Capital Funding Allocations for 2004 by State and Recipient

Institution and Project	2004 \$m
New South Wales	
University of New England <i>Regional Access and ICT infrastructure</i>	2.100
University of New South Wales <i>"From linked classrooms to aglobal campus"</i>	0.805
The University of Sydney <i>Centre for Regional Education, Orange</i>	2.000
University of Western Sydney <i>Advanced Campus Network</i>	1.500
University of Wollongong <i>Flexible Delivery in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales</i>	2.000
<i>NSW Total</i>	8.405
South Australia	
Flinders University of South Australia <i>Lincoln Marine Science Centre</i>	1.000
University of Adelaide <i>Conservatorium of Music merger</i>	2.000
<i>SA Total</i>	3.000

Institution and Project	2004 \$m
Victoria	
Deakin University <i>Development of an e-campus</i>	1.000
Monash University <i>Centre for Multimedia at Berwick campus</i>	2.000
University of Ballarat <i>Camp Street Arts Precinct</i>	0.750
University of Melbourne <i>ICT Infrastructure for the Institute of Land and Food Resources</i>	3.000
Victoria University of Technology/ Swinburne University of Technology <i>ICT to assist with a common student and course administration system</i>	1.000
<i>Victoria Total</i>	7.750
Northern Territory	
Batchelor Institute of Tertiary Educ <i>Community Study Centre Program</i>	0.500
<i>Northern Territory Total</i>	0.500

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



Capital Funding Allocations for 2004 by State and Recipient (continued)

Institution and Project	2004 \$m
Queensland	
Central Queensland University <i>New building at Bundaberg campus</i>	1.000
James Cook University <i>Health Sciences and Science precinct at the Cairns campus</i>	3.000
Queensland University of Technology <i>ICT infrastructure for the Creative Industries Precinct</i>	1.000
Queensland University of Technology <i>Caboolture multi-partner campus</i>	2.000
University of Queensland <i>Stage 3, Ipswich campus</i>	2.500
University of Southern Queensland <i>Wide Bay development</i>	2.000
University of the Sunshine Coast <i>Stage 5 campus development an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Resources Building</i>	2.500
Queensland Total	14.000

Institution and Project	2004 \$m
Western Australia	
Curtin University of Technology <i>Margaret River Centre for Wine Excellence</i>	1.000
Edith Cowan University <i>Joondalup Science and Health Building</i>	2.000
University of Notre Dame, Australia and other post-secondary institutions <i>Multi-partner library and IT infrastructure at Broome</i>	0.700
Multi-partner <i>Geraldton Universities Centre</i>	1.000
WA Total	4.700
Tasmania	
University of Tasmania <i>Infrastructure to support online course delivery and e-learning centres</i>	1.000
Tasmania Total	1.000
Multi-state	
Australian Catholic University <i>Stage 2 Banyo campus and IT infrastructure developments across campuses</i>	1.800
Multi-State Total	1.800

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



ICT Centre of Excellence

The Commonwealth Government has released guidelines to assist organisations seeking to apply for the proposed Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Centre of Excellence.

The Centre will be a focus for world class research and development in Australia and will help to build Australia's international ICT reputation and profile. Funding of \$129.5 million over five years has been earmarked for the Centre as part of the \$2.9 billion *Backing Australia's Ability* policy.

The guidelines have been developed by the ICT Centre of Excellence Advisory Panel, Chaired by Norman McCann, Managing Director, Hewlett-Packard Australia Ltd. The panel received expert advice from a number of senior ICT researchers internationally.

Prospective host organisations are required to lodge a Notification of Intent Form by 16 November 2001, with applications to close on 11 January 2002. Copies of the application guidelines, Notification of Intent and application forms can be obtained from the ICT Centre of Excellence website at www.noie.gov.au/ictcentre.

Further information is also available from the 11 September Joint Media Release of Dr David Kemp, Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs and Senator Richard Alston, Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, which can be seen at www.detya.gov.au/ministers/kemp/sept01/kj212_110901.htm.

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼

**Postgraduate
Education
Loans Scheme
Introduced**

**Pre-seed Fund for
Universities and
Public Research
Agencies**

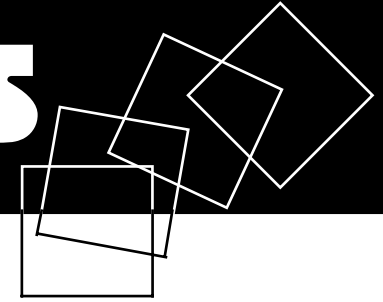
**Special Capital
Funding for 2004**

**ICT Centre of
Excellence**

**Publications
and Websites**

DETYA's publications

and websites



- to grab a copy 
- websites, links, favourites & updates 
- copyright & contact 
- more on e-news on higher education 

forward 

back 

back to cover 

print 

exit 

**Postgraduate
Education
Loans Scheme
Introduced**

**Pre-seed Fund for
Universities and
Public Research
Agencies**

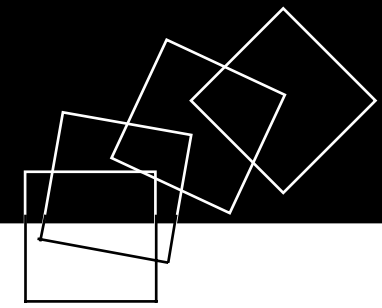
**Special Capital
Funding for 2004**

**ICT Centre of
Excellence**

**Publications
and Websites**

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and websites (continued)



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internet versions

Most of our publications—from October 1996 onward—are available in full on the DETYA website at:

www.detya.gov.au/highered/repts.htm

hard copies

Copies of most of our publications can be purchased from AusInfo's Government Information Bookshops. Locations and contact details for the AusInfo bookshops are available at:

www.finance.gov.au/infoaccess/infoaccess/ia_infoshops.htm

enquiries

General enquiries about publications can be emailed to:

highered@detya.gov.au

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websites

Main page for DETYA's Higher Education Division
www.detya.gov.au/highered

HECS—Higher Education Contribution Scheme
www.hecs.gov.au

Which Course? Which University?
www.detya.gov.au/tenfields

National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition
www.detya.gov.au/noosr

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

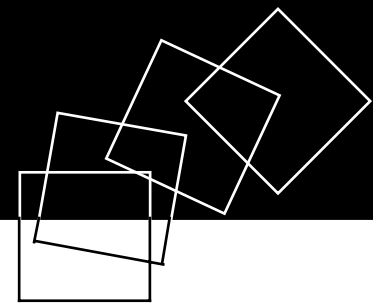
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exit ▼



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and websites (continued)



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Higher Education Links can help you access ...

- Australian State and Territory Education Departments
- Australian Education Organisations
- Australian Universities
- Australian Universities - Admissions Centres
- Careers Information
- MCEETYA
- Overseas Universities and Organisations
- Research Organisations

www.detya.gov.au/highered/links.htm

favourites

- *Atlas of Higher Education: A community focus*
www.detya.gov.au/uniatlas
- e-news on higher education
www.detya.gov.au/highered/enews
- *Backing Australia's Ability*
www.innovation.gov.au/iap
- *Staff 2000, Selected Higher Education Statistics*
www.detya.gov.au/highered/statpubs.htm

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼



**Postgraduate
Education
Loans Scheme
Introduced**



**Pre-seed Fund for
Universities and
Public Research
Agencies**



**Special Capital
Funding for 2004**



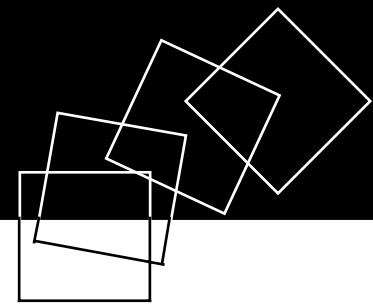
**ICT Centre of
Excellence**



**Publications
and Websites**

DETYA's publications

and websites (continued)



websites, links, favourites & updates (continued)

updates

DETYA's website has new information posted to it on a regular basis. You can keep up with changes via the free Site Change Subscription Service (SCSS). This Service notifies subscribers of significant updates and additions to DETYA websites.

how it works

Interested parties need to register to the subscription service. Registration involves providing your email address and selecting the parts of DETYA's website you wish to be notified about.

what it does

Once registered, subscribers will be sent a weekly email (usually on Monday evenings) with a brief description of any changes and the address for such pages.

At www.detya.gov.au select *Site Change Subscription Service*

forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

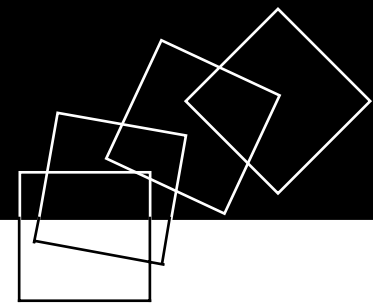
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forward ►

back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼

**Postgraduate
Education
Loans Scheme
Introduced**

**Pre-seed Fund for
Universities and
Public Research
Agencies**

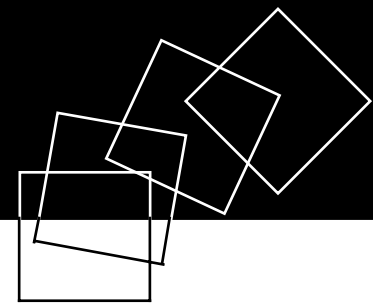
**Special Capital
Funding for 2004**

**ICT Centre of
Excellence**

**Publications
and Websites**

DETYA's publications

and websites (continued)



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- ▶ previous issues of e-news on *Higher Education*
www.detya.gov.au/highered/enews
- ▶ index
www.detya.gov.au/highered/enews/indexenews.htm
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back ◀

back to cover ▲

print ▼

exit ▼

**Postgraduate
Education
Loans Scheme
Introduced**

**Pre-seed Fund for
Universities and
Public Research
Agencies**

**Special Capital
Funding for 2004**

**ICT Centre of
Excellence**

**Publications
and Websites**