

**LA TROBE UNIVERSITY**

**ACADEMIC BOARD**

**Report of the Vice-Chancellor  
18 March 2009**

**I. Government's Response to the Bradley Review**

As members will be aware, three significant Government responses to the Bradley Review have been made in the past two weeks, which can be summarized as follows:

- 40 percent of all 25-34 years to have a qualification at bachelor level or above by 2025;
- all Australian universities will be funded on the basis of student demand from 2012;
- a national regulatory and quality agency for higher education will be established to accredit providers and carry out audits of standards and performance amongst other responsibilities.

Specifically, in terms of research:

- the Government will expect universities to provide better, more meaningful data on research costs through activity-based reporting, and to meet specific performance targets to be developed in consultation with the sector;
- funding mechanisms and compacts will be used to encourage hubs and spokes arrangements that support collaboration between universities and build on research strengths;
- the Government's intention is to increase progressively the number of research groups performing at world-class levels, as measured by international performance benchmarks.

I will speak further on these announcements and their implications for the University and its planning processes.

**2. Finance and Resource Planning: Student Load**

I will provide a verbal update to Academic Board on both domestic student load and international student enrolments.

**3. Major Funding Proposals: Education Investment Fund**

A call for applications for Round 2 of the Education Investment Fund (EIF) was made on 17 February 2009 with a submission date of 2 March 2009.

The EIF is a Federal Government fund which has been established "to support the creation of world-leading, strategically focussed infrastructure in higher education institutions, research institutions and vocational education and training providers".

The University has submitted applications for two major infrastructure projects:

(a) **La Trobe Rural Health School**

The University was successful in attracting \$3.162 million from the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) through its Diversity and Structural Adjustment Fund (Diversity Fund) to establish the La Trobe Regional Health School based in Bendigo

This funding, which was announced in mid December 2008, will support the salaries of three professors and a Director for the School and administrative support for these positions as well as staff for an external relations unit to develop a clinical placement program.

The EIF submission for \$59.1 million is to secure capital funding to construct the facilities.

The School will introduce a world class, innovative networked model for health professional education across the University's campuses in Northern Victoria and will provide significant benefits to the academic and health communities as well as short-term economic value via the construction planned at both Bendigo Health Education and Research Precinct and at the Bendigo Campus of the University.

(b) **La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science (LIMS)**

The La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science will be the principal facility for molecular science, biotechnology and nanotechnology research, areas of research in which La Trobe University is in the top 100 Universities globally. The Institute will conduct world-class medical research in cancer and apoptosis, mitochondrial biology, malarial drug and vaccine development, immunology and biotechnology; train early and mid-career scientists in medical research and biotechnology; facilitate translation of this research into commercial outcomes; nurture the interest in science in pre-University students; and further develop international linkages, particularly in research higher-degree training.

The government funding sought for this project is \$64.1 million.

This was an extremely intensive exercise which was necessarily conducted in a very short time-frame. I should like to take this opportunity to commend the teamwork and shared ownership which was displayed across a number of areas, an approach which I hope might be translated to other projects.

**Professor Paul Johnson**  
Vice-Chancellor

16 March 2009