IRU backs HEPPP

The Innovative Research Universities points to the achievement of the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Programme in making student-centred funding work. In its response to the inquiry into the programme’s future the IRU advocates continuing targeted HEPP funding and creating a loading attached to the Commonwealth Grant Scheme, “to reward enrolment of a diverse student population broadly matching that of Australia.”

“HEPP is an important part of the suite of funding to encourage universities to educate Australians from all backgrounds, “ the IRU states.

And before the government considers further cuts for HEPPP it should demonstrate that it has other ideas on how to meet the programme’s objectives. “There is little in the evaluation process to support discussion about whether other options would be a more effective use of the remaining funding.”

The IRU also questions why the review wants universities to submit data when a solid base already exists in work by La Trobe’s Andrew Harvey, which shows HEPPP “activities work in general.” However IRU does see a use for the new data collection, just not one that suits the review’s objectives. The submission suggests releasing all collected data from the middle two quartiles to demonstrate changes in participation.