

## **TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of concerned citizens draws to the attention of the House that Australia's universities have the common responsibility of delivering world class scholarship, teaching, research, research training and community service. Each university has a unique mission which aims to meet the needs of the communities it serves. For more than a decade, however, Australia's universities have experienced significant under-investment and de-stabilisation while still being expected to continue to fulfill their responsibilities.

We, the undersigned, hereby show our support for the "Our Universities Matter" campaign to ensure Australia's international reputation for world-class universities is maintained, and call upon the Federal Government to:

1. Improve Commonwealth funding to reflect the real costs of delivering internationally competitive research and education, as well as allowing each institution to follow its own particular mission.
2. Make access to higher education more equitable and affordable and improve student services at our universities.
3. Provide legislative protection for the distinctive characteristics of our universities, especially academic freedom and institutional autonomy.