

## MEMORANDUM

**TO** THE SECRETARY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND  
INNOVATION

**FROM** PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH OPERATIONS)

**SUBJECT** RESPONSE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE FOR THE REVIEW OF RESEARCH  
TRAINING AND RESEARCH WORKFORCE ISSUES IN AUSTRALIA

**DATE** 22 MAY 2008                      **REF** 2008/1978

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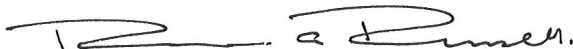
The University of Adelaide strongly supports the commentary made to The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry Science and Innovation review of Research Training and Research Workforce issues in Australia, by the Australian Council of Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies (DDOGS). This document accurately summarises the issues we face within our University.

South Australia has a small population base and under normal circumstances a research intensive university such as the University of Adelaide depends on a mix of national and international PhD student to help drive its research agenda. The present mining boom in the State, coupled to a high level of professional employment, has placed even greater emphasis on the contribution made by international research scholars. With graduates earning salaries of around \$100,000 pa it is almost impossible to recruit Australian PhD students in and around the fields of earth sciences and engineering. As the DDOGS' paper notes, we are in a globally competitive market buying brains and our future economic development depends on our ability to compete.

We would also draw to your attention growing concern over the need to encourage more medical graduates to undertake PhD degrees if we are to meet national and state needs for future generations of clinical researchers and clinical educators. Medical students already face 6-7 years of education to obtain a basic medical degree, and the prospect of a \$20,000 scholarship clearly offers little encouragement to undertake a further 3 years of research training. This is perhaps an extreme case of the problem raised in the DDOGS' paper but, never the less, warrants due consideration if we are to maintain a high quality health system into the latter part of this century.

The University of Adelaide recognises the value of your current enquiry and is committed to continuing its significant contribution to research education and training. It is equally committed to a continuing debate as to how best to ensure quality in our national endeavours in these fields.

Yours sincerely,



PROFESSOR RICHARD RUSSELL AM  
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Operations)