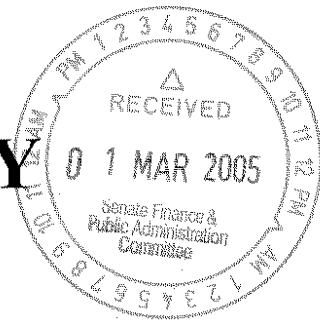




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24 February 2005

Please Reply to Tamworth Office

The Committee Secretary
Senate Finance & Public Administrative Committee
Department of The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

Re: Submission to the Senate Inquiry into The Regional Partnerships Program & Sustainable Regions Program

Re: Regional Partnerships Program funding for the National Centre for Science, Information and Communications Technology and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia at the University of New England

I, Trevor John Khan, of 16 The Mews, Tamworth, in the state of NSW, do present a submission to the Australian Senate Finance and Public Administration Reference Committees Inquiry into the Regional Partnerships Program.

I make this submission as the candidate for The Nationals for the seat of New England at the 2004 Federal election and as one of those who sought funding for the Centre. In making this submission it is acknowledged that whilst I was one of many who sought funding, some of the matters to which I refer are based upon advices and information supplied by others.

Yours faithfully
Trevor Khan

Accredited Specialist - Advocacy
direct email: tjkhan@eganmurphy.com.au

2 Receipt of this Submission

This Submission is made beyond the date for receipt of Submissions and arises following:

- (a) Statements made by Tony Windsor MP to various media outlets relating to the funding for the National Centre for Science, Information and Communications Technology and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia at the University of New England, which could be broadly described as his "cash for comment" allegations;
- (b) Statements made by Tony Windsor MP to the House on 29 November 2004 and 8 December 2004;
- (c) the Submission made by Tony Windsor MP, to this Inquiry; and
- (d) Tony Windsor MP's evidence before the Inquiry on 3 February 2005.

It is my submission that some of the comments, allegations and imputations made by Tony Windsor MP in the media, in the House and before the Inquiry contain unsubstantiated and unfounded attacks upon a number of persons, including:

- (a) the Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable John Anderson MP;
- (b) Senator Sandy Macdonald;
- (c) the Vice Chancellor of New England, Professor Ingrid Moses;
- (d) the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Health and Professional Studies at the University of New England, Professor Victor Minichiello;
- (e) the now Head of the National Centre for Science, Information and Communications Technology and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia, Professor John Pegg;
- (f) the Head of Science Education at the University of New England, Dr Deborah Panizzon;
- (g) The Nationals Candidate for New England at the 2004 Federal Election, Trevor Khan (that is the writer).

It is certainly conceded that of those the subject of innuendo and criticism, those least able to defend themselves are the academics and staff at the University of New England. Nevertheless I would argue that given the nature and extent of the allegations made, a fuller and more comprehensive explanation of events leading up to the announcement of funding would assist this Inquiry and also assist to clear the names of those adversely affected by Tony Windsor MP's allegations.

It is further argued that, upon a fuller examination of the true facts surrounding this issue, this Inquiry will be better able to determine the weight to be given to the various other serious allegations made by Tony Windsor MP.

3 The Windsor Allegations

Allegation 1

At the core of the allegations made by Tony Windsor MP is the assertion that most, if not all of the persons referred to above, were engaged in a (possibly criminal) conspiracy whereby Federal funding was made conditional upon favourable political comment.

By way of example, in his media release of 5 August 2004 he asks the question:

"Was the funding for the Centre contingent upon favourable partisan political comment from the University?"

Later in the same media release he states:

"This is about a deal cooked up between the National Party and gullible UNE staff who appear to have agreed to sing for their supper in this demeaning way."

These sorts of observations are continued in his submission to the Inquiry where Tony Windsor MP, states:

"The funding...of the National Centre for Maths & Science...is another example that was investigated by the University of New England Council and found to be at fault in the politicisation of the funding for the University by the National Party."

Whilst in the concluding remarks to his submission he asserts:

"The political preconditions placed...on some of the University of New England Staff relating to the Maths & Science Centre...is evidence of a pattern of behaviour...(which shows) there has been undue political interference in the process surrounding the regional Partnerships Program."

The allegation made by the Honourable Member for New England relies upon a mixture of known facts, a good deal of speculation, a not so healthy dose of cynicism and perhaps a pinch of opportunism.

One of the known facts upon which Tony Windsor MP seeks to build his case is that various staff and academics at the University of New England made favourable comment, following the granting of funding, about The Nationals and some of its members including the Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. John Anderson MP, Senator Sandy Macdonald and myself.

It is also known that the University of New England contributed towards the cost of an advertorial relating to the Centre on 23 and 24 July 2004.

By this submission, I seek to provide the Committee an outline of the attempts made to obtain funding for the Centre by the University of New England and thereby demonstrate that the conclusions and assertions made by Tony Windsor MP are without proper foundation.

Allegation 2

The Honourable Member has complained to the Inquiry that he was "cut out" from the funding process.

It will be seen from this submission that Tony Windsor's allegation must be based upon assumption that actions taken by him justified his inclusion.

It will also be demonstrated by the matters that I lay before the Inquiry that initial approaches were made to Tony Windsor MP by UNE staff. Even when discussions had taken place involving Senator Sandy Macdonald and the Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable John Anderson MP, the UNE staff were still prepared to engage Tony Windsor MP through the Vision New England Summit.

In short, at no time was Tony Windsor MP prevented from taking up the issue with the UNE staff or members of the government, if that was his desire.

Allegation 3

The next matter raised, by Tony Windsor MP is the assertion that “there was a deliberate attempt by the National Party to ‘keep the Liberals out’ even though the Centre is under (Education) Minister’s jurisdiction”.

By this submission it will be demonstrated that the funding of this project through The Regional Partnership’s Program was as a result of the inability of the University of New England to source the funding through other means.

Allegation 4

Whilst perhaps more appropriately seen as arising from questions asked in the course of this Inquiry it appears the final matter requiring attention is the speed or otherwise with which this grant was handled.

It is my submission that, when viewed against the attempts by the staff of the University of New England to obtain funding for the Centre, and their considerable communications with members of the Government over a long period, no criticism can be made of the Government for the manner in which the application for funding was finally handled.

4 The Long and Winding Road to Funding – a Potted History

I attach a Chronology I have prepared setting out the attempts to obtain funding, and other relevant matters relating to the funding of the Centre. The information contained in this chronology has been obtained at various times and from various sources.

Some of the information was known to me, because of my personal involvement in discussions. Some of the information was provided to me in late 2003 and during the course of the 2004 by Senator Sandy Macdonald, from staff in the office of Senator Sandy Macdonald, and from Professor Victor Minichiello or from Professor Pegg.

Of more recent times additional information, and particularly precise dates, have been provided to me, at my request, by staff within the office of Senator Sandy Macdonald.

This Inquiry will see from an examination of the Chronology that staff at the University of New England first approached Tony Windsor MP seeking support for the establishment of the Centre in September 2002.

It will be seen that, notwithstanding the approaches made by Professor Pegg and Professor Rod Gerber in September 2002, no substantive action was apparently taken by Tony Windsor MP until the convening of the Vision New England Summit, in October 2003.

The Committee will observe that my chronology of events runs contrary to the evidence of Tony Windsor MP who appears to argue that his involvement commenced with The Vision

New England Summit which took place in October 2003 (some eleven months after Professor Pegg would say his initial approaches were made).

It will be seen nevertheless that prior to the holding of the Vision New England Summit, a number of steps had been taken by UNE in an effort to progress funding.

Firstly the staff of the University of New England had met with Mr Peter Bailey, the then State Candidate for the seat of Northern Tablelands for The Nationals, and Senator Sandy MacDonald.

Thereafter the establishment of the Centre had been promoted by The Nationals to the stage where the matter was put to the Federal conference of the Party. Indeed the Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable John Anderson MP, spoke on the matter in his keynote speech at the Federal Conference.

It will be seen that a media release was issued by the Deputy Prime Minister on the need for better maths and science training and thereafter an article appeared in Tamworth's Northern Daily Leader Newspaper entitled "*Nationals Plan Centre for Mathematics & IT at UNE*".

By the time of the Federal Conference it will be seen that further meetings had also taken place involving Senator Sandy Macdonald and the Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. John Anderson MP, The Minister for Science, The Hon. Peter McGauran, and a representative from the office of the Minister for Education, a Dr Thomas Barlow.

The assertion made, therefore, by Tony Windsor MP that he was in some way responsible for initiating support for the Maths and Science Centre is simply not supported by the evidence.

It is conceded that at the Vision New England Summit a resolution was passed supporting the establishment of the Centre. Unfortunately it is my position, supported by assertions from the staff at the University of New England, that although armed with the apparent support of various community groups, Tony Windsor MP failed to take any further significant (indeed it would seem any) steps in support of the Centre until funding announcements were made in June 2004 (some seven or eight months later).

This conclusion is supported, perhaps inadvertently, by statements made by Tony Windsor MP himself, to this Inquiry, on 3 February 2005.

I refer the Inquiry to pages 13 and 14 of the Transcript of evidence given before the Inquiry on 3 February 2005. It will be seen, beginning at about point 5 on page 13, that Senator Carr asks a number of questions relating to the Centre.

At approximately point 8 on page 13, Senator Carr asks a question of Tony Windsor MP regarding why the Centre was not funded through the Education Department.

The answer that Tony Windsor MP gives (which he says is of a conversation) "in a semi private environment" indicates that the Federal Minister for Education, the Honourable Brendan Nelson MP, was (he would seem to say) ignorant of the issue of the funding for the Centre).

Three things can be said of this.

Firstly, you will see from the chronology that discussions did indeed take place involving officers of the Minister's Department on more than one occasion. It is submitted that the history of communication with the office of the Minister for Education demonstrates that at no time did the Deputy Prime Minister, or for that matter anyone else seek to "keep the Liberals out".

Secondly, the history of communications between the University and the office of the Minister for Education may throw into doubt the evidence given by Tony Windsor MP of his conversation with the Minister.

Thirdly, if indeed Tony Windsor MP is to assert that he has been denied, in some way, credit for having assisted in the obtaining of funding for the Centre, then one must ask (rhetorically) why it would seem he was only approaching the Minister for Education about the Centre after funding had been announced, and almost 2 years after he was first approached by staff from the University of New England?

It is appropriate for me to observe that, contrary to the assertions of Tony Windsor MP at no stage was funding conditional upon favourable comment. Not only is there no evidence of such collusion, but also specific denials have been made by members of the Government, myself and also the University academics. I am prepared to swear on oath to this assertion if the Committee seeks to question me on this issue.

Whilst Tony Windsor MP has referred to the resolutions of the University Council, nowhere do these resolutions support the allegations of collusion made by Tony Windsor MP. Indeed, to the contrary, it is submitted the Council and the Vice Chancellor Ingrid Moses found that no such collusion had taken place.

Further, an examination of the Chronology will be sufficient; it is submitted, for the Inquiry to conclude that the subsequent favourable comment arose because of the efforts of those who pressed for funding for the University. The absence of favourable comment about Tony Windsor MP reflects his lack of positive interaction with the UNE on this subject.

5 Conclusion

It is submitted that if the Committee examines the Chronology the appropriate conclusion to draw is that over a considerable period of time efforts were made by a large number of people to achieve funding for the Centre.

It will also be seen that those people were largely members of The Nationals and that in those circumstances it is not unusual at all that staff at the University of New England were prepared to acknowledge the assistance they had received.

It is acknowledged that, with respect to the advertorial that appeared in the Armidale Express on 23 July 2004 and the Northern Daily Leader on 24 July 2004 the Council of the University of New England found a technical breach of the University protocols had been committed.

That said, and notwithstanding the inference the Member for New England might seek to apply to the decision of the University Council, there was no finding that:

- (a) the provision of funding for the Centre was conditional upon favourable comment; and
- (b) any member of the UNE staff had been pressured into paying for the advertorial

I invite the Committee, when considering this Submission, to take account of the matters that are raised and in that context consider the assertions and allegations made by Tony Windsor MP on a variety of issues in his evidence to the Inquiry.

I submit that if one considers the totality of the Honourable Member's evidence in the context of his evidence on the Centre, then one must conclude that the Honourable Member is prone to jump to conclusions, notwithstanding the absence of any evidence.

I am, of course, happy to appear before the Inquiry to address this, and any other matters, the Committee members may wish to put to me.

Yours faithfully
Trevor Khan

Accredited Specialist - Advocacy
direct email: tjkhan@eganmurphy.com.au

**The National Centre of Science, Information and
Communication Technology and Mathematics Education for
Rural and Regional Australia**

- 19 October 2001** **Trevor Khan writes to Tony Windsor** congratulating him on his decision to stand at the upcoming Federal election and encouraging him to take up the issue of increased funding for regional universities.
- 10 Nov. 2001** **Tony Windsor MP** is elected the Federal Member for New England.
- 11 January 2002** **Trevor Khan writes to Richard Torbay MLA, Member for Northern Tablelands**, regarding the absence of any response from **Tony Windsor MP** regarding regional universities.
- 20 Feb. 2002** Letter from **Tony Windsor MP** apologising for his delay in responding, thanking Trevor Khan for his kind wishes and advising he has written to the **Minister for Education, The Hon. Brendan Nelson MP**.
- 23 April 2002** Lengthy letter from **Brendan Nelson MP** to **Tony Windsor MP** responding to Trevor Khan's letter of 10 October 2001.
- 6 May 2002** Letter received by Tony Windsor MP's office forwarded to Trevor Khan under a with compliment's slip.
- 22 Sept 2002** **Professor John Pegg**, Director of the Centre for Cognition Research in Learning and Teaching (CRILT) at the University of New England (UNE), forwards a submission to the **Member for New England, Tony Windsor MP** seeking support for the establishment of a National Centre for Mathematics, Science and Education at the UNE.
- The forwarding of the submission follows a meeting between **Tony Windsor MP**, **Professor Pegg** and the then **Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Rod Gerber**.
- Note: Professor Pegg** asserts that neither he nor **Professor Rod Gerber** received any response to the submission from Mr Windsor's office.
- March 2003** A meeting is organised and attended by Nationals state candidate, **Mr Peter Bailey** in the lead up to the NSW State election. Peter Bailey has been previously approached over the issue by a lecturer at the UNE, and Chairman of The Nationals New England Electorate Council, **Mr Bryan Pape**.

At the meeting **Senator Sandy Macdonald** meets with the UNE Dean of the Faculty of Education, Health and Professional Studies, **Professor Victor Minichiello**, along with Head of the School of Education, **Associate Professor Tom Maxwell**; Director of the Centre for Cognition Research in Learning and Teaching, **Professor John Pegg**, and the Head of Science Education at UNE, **Dr Debra Panizzon at UNE**. The meeting allows the UNE representatives to present the proposal for the establishment and funding of a National Centre for Mathematics, Science and Education and follows the apparent failure by the local member **Tony Windsor MP** to progress the issue following the meeting and submission made by Professor John Pegg the previous September.

14 May 2003 Four '**International Centres of Excellence**' announced for the Education (DEST) portfolio in the Federal Budget.

21 May 2003 Following the budget announcement a further meeting involving **Professor Victor Minichiello**, **Professor John Pegg**, **Dr. Debra Panizzon** and **Associate Professor Tom Maxwell** is held in **Senator Sandy Macdonald's** Tamworth office to discuss alternatives for the funding of the National Centre for Mathematics, Science and Education. It is agreed that approaches should first be made to the Education Minister **The Hon. Brendan Nelson MP** to determine whether the "**International Centres of Excellence Program**" could be used to establish the Centre. Discussion does take place at this meeting about the possibility of accessing funding through the Regional Partnerships programme however this is seen as a "fall back" position.

It is agreed that **Professor John Pegg** is to prepare a proposal which is then to be forwarded to **Senator Sandy Macdonald** who will then approach The Hon. Brendan Nelson's office.

26 May 2003 A written proposal is sent to **Senator Sandy Macdonald** by **Professor John Pegg** outlining the UNE's long history in maths and science education and raises questions relating to the establishment of an International Centre of Excellence.

Senator Sandy Macdonald forwards the Proposal together with questions raised by **Professor John Pegg** to **The Education Minister, The Hon. Brendan Nelson MP**.

- 1 July 2003** **Professor John Pegg** attends a briefing on the four proposed Centres of Excellence. Following this briefing (and as suggested by **Dr Thomas Barlow** from the office of the Minister for Education, in a response to the earlier letter from Senator Sandy Macdonald) the UNE determines the university needs a major university to collaborate with on this proposal. It is explained that the Centres of Excellence Program will be awarded to a metropolitan university because of the perceived advantage these universities have in catering to the international market.
- Ultimately, UNE did not win one of these four centres.
- 26 July 2003** At a meeting in Armidale, **The National Party's New England Electorate Council** endorses a motion to be put to the Party's October Federal Conference for the formation of a National Maths, Science and Education Centre at UNE.
- 23 August 2003** **The National's NSW Central Executive** meet to refine those motions to be put to the Federal Conference in October. The UNE proposal is endorsed to go forward to the conference in Canberra.
- 29 August 2003** **Professor John Pegg** and **Dr Debra Panizzon** meet in the Commonwealth Offices in Sydney with Minister Brendan Nelson's Science Adviser, **Dr Thomas Barlow** to discuss the funding and establishment of a National Maths, Science and Education Centre at UNE. No commitment for funding is received from the office of the Education Minister. One suggestion made to UNE staff was to meet with **Science Minister, The Hon. Peter McGauran MP**.
- 26 Sept. 2003** **The Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. John Anderson MP**, meets with **Professor Victor Minichiello** and **Professor John Pegg**, together with **Dr. Debra Panizzon** and **Associate Professor Tom Maxwell** at UNE to discuss the Proposal. The Deputy Prime Minister is presented with evidence demonstrating the poorer performance of children in rural and regional areas in the fields of maths, science and IT.
- 1 October 2003** **The Federal Minister for Science, The Hon. Peter McGauran MP**, visits UNE to open CRC for Poultry Research and meets with **Professor Victor Minichiello** and **Professor John Pegg**. The establishment of the National Maths and Science Centre is discussed.
- 11 October 2003** **The Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. John Anderson MP**, in his keynote speech to The Nationals Federal Conference calls for '**Better Maths and Science Training**'

The Nationals Federal Conference passes as Motion 14
– That a National Research Centre of Mathematics, Information Technology and Science Teaching be established at UNE.

- 12 October 2003** A **media release** is issued from the office of the Deputy Prime Minister calling for better maths and science training.
- 13 October 2003** **Professor Victor Minichiello** sends three motions to be included in the forthcoming **Vision New England Summit** organised by the Member for New England, **Tony Windsor MP**. These motions encompassed extra funding for rural nursing teaching; establishment of a Centre for Mathematics, IT and Science Education; and establishment of a chair in the prevention of rural youth suicide.
- 14 October 2003** **The Northern Daily Leader** front page headline reads 'It all adds up – Nationals plan Centre for Mathematics and IT at UNE.'
- 25 October 2003** **The Vision New England Summit** is held in Armidale. The motions submitted by Victor Minichiello are carried as part of 'Resolution 4' at the Summit.

Note:- Professor Victor Minichiello and Professor John Pegg assert that following the passing of the resolution at the Vision New England Summit no further contact was made by **Tony Windsor MP** or his office. Neither **Professor Victor Minichiello** or **Professor John Pegg** are aware of any steps taken by **Tony Windsor MP** to advance the proposal for funding.

- December 2003** **Trevor Khan**, anticipated to be a Nationals pre-selection candidate for the Federal Seat of New England attends a series of briefings organised by **Senator Sandy Macdonald** to bring him up to date on issues and projects affecting the New England region. Amongst the projects discussed was the Maths and Science Centre.
- 25 Feb. 2004** Nationals pre-selection candidate, **Trevor Khan** and another candidate **Sonia Levitt**, meet at UNE Open Day with **Professor John Pegg** and **Dr Debra Panizzon** to learn more about the Proposal. Both candidates commit to support the proposal and press for funding.
- 2 March 2004** A budget is finalised by **Professor John Pegg** for the Maths and Science Centre proposal. This budget is forwarded to **Senator Sandy Macdonald** who then on-forwards the budget to the office of **The Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. John Anderson MP**. Prior to the acceptance of the final proposal, **Professor John Pegg**

prepared a number of budget updates which were finally accepted on 21 June.

- 9 March 2004** Nationals pre-selection candidate, **Trevor Khan** meets with **Professor Victor Minichiello** and **Professor John Pegg** to further discuss the rationale for the Centre and pressing for funding. **Trevor Khan** commits to pressing **Senator Sandy Macdonald** and **Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. John Anderson MP** to progress funding for the project.
- 24 March 2004** **Sydney Morning Herald** front page 'Trusty old brains a secret of school success.' Article by Linda Doherty following interview with Professor **John Pegg**.
- 4 May 2004** **The Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. John Anderson MP** attends the UNE to officially open the new Student Administration Centre and briefly meets with UNE Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Ingrid Moses, Professor Victor Minichiello** and **Professor John Pegg** to discuss possible funding for the Maths and Science Centre. Discussions also take place between **Trevor Khan** and **Professors Victor Minichiello** and **John Pegg**. **Trevor Khan** urges the UNE staff to keep pressing the Deputy Prime Minister for funding commitment.
- 11 May 2004** **Tony Windsor MP** issues a media release entitled: "'Labor" Budget from Coalition Government points to early Election Winners – Families, Carers, Mothers and Elderly". In the media release he notes "Positive announcements for New England", including: "**Regional Partnerships Program** has had an increase in funding of \$77.6 million over the next 4 years with \$14.4 million this year that should see the National Equine & Livestock Centre in Tamworth get funding support and also the Glen Severn Learning Centre in Glenn Innes receive funding too."
- Note:** The media release fails to make any reference to funding for the Maths and Science Centre notwithstanding the resolutions passed at **The Vision New England Summit** which had occurred approximately seven months earlier.
- 12 May 2004** **Tony Windsor MP** issues a media release calling on Federal Funding for the Glen Innes Learning Centre.
- 21 May 2004** **Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. John Anderson MP**, speaks at a 'Budget Briefing Luncheon' in Armidale and afterwards has discussions with **Professor Victor Minichiello, Dr. Debra Panizzon** and **Professor John Pegg** where he commits to supporting the Centre. He points out that a further meeting had to be arranged with the Minister for Education, Dr Brendan Nelson's office.

- 26 May 2004** The Vice Chancellor of the University of New England, **Professor Ingrid Moses**, **Professor Victor Minichiello**, **Professor John Pegg**, together with **Dr Debra Panizzon** meet with the **The Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. John Anderson MP** in Canberra. The Deputy Prime Minister confirms that the Regional Partnership Program could be used to fund the Centre if funding cannot be obtained through the office of the Minister for Education. The impression is left with the UNE staff that The Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. John Anderson's preference appears to be that funding be obtained through DEST.
- 27 May 2004** Following requests made by **The Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. John Anderson MP**, a meeting takes place between **Professor Minichiello, Professor John Pegg**, **Dr Debra Panizzon** and officials from the **Department of Education, Science and Training** to discuss how to integrate the activities of the Centre with DEST programs. The meeting fails to result in any funding commitment from DEST. The impression is left with UNE staff that DEST funding will not be forthcoming.
- 31 May 2004** **Trevor Khan** arranges a meeting between **Senator Ron Boswell** and UNE staff during the Senators visit to the region. The meeting takes place at the UNE and involves **Senator Ron Boswell**, Nationals candidate **Trevor Khan** and Professors **Victor Minichiello** and **John Pegg**. Those present discuss the rationale behind the National Maths and Science Centre and the UNE staff's frustration in accessing funding. Also discussed was support for the establishment of a Chair of Rural Youth Suicide, as well as the need for funding of a feasibility study into the establishment of a School of Rural Medicine at a regional university.
- 2 June 2004** At the request of Trevor Khan, **Senator Boswell** writes to **Ministers Nelson, Abbott and Anderson** to promote the three proposals.
- 26 June 2004** Deputy Prime Minister, **John Anderson**, speaking at **The Nationals NSW Annual Conference** in Dubbo announces \$4.95m 'Funding for National Centre of Mathematics and Science Teaching at the University of New England.'
- This was followed by a media release from Mr Anderson and two days later by a release from Nationals candidate, Trevor Khan, welcoming the announcement.
- 27 June 2004** **Tony Windsor MP** issues a media release welcoming the funding saying "the proposal for the Centre gained broad

community support at the Vision New England Summit last year”.

- 28 June 2004** The announcement of funding for the Maths and Science Centre, and the commencement of construction work in offices recently vacated by the UNE Student Administration section is marked in a simple ceremony at the UNE.
- 6 July 2004** A staff member from the office of Senator Sandy Macdonald suggests to **Professor Victor Minichiello** that the university take part in a paid advertorial promoting the Maths and Science Centre. The proposal follows an article in the UNE's Smith's Weekly that acknowledged the contribution made by The Nationals in obtaining funding for the Centre and favourable comment at the announcement of funding on 28 June 2004..
- Mid to Late July 2004** **Trevor Khan** becomes aware of the advertorial proposal.
- 22 July 2004** **The National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia** is officially opened by the **Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson MP. Tony Windsor MP** and **Richard Torbay MLA** are invited by the UNE to attend the opening however both decline.
- July 24 2004** A two-page advertorial is printed in Northern Daily Leader (the previous day in the Armidale Express) containing two advertisements, one paid for by The Nationals and the other by UNE. Editorial was submitted for consideration by Regional Publishers to include on the top of those two pages. The graphs appeared on one page and a photo of Professor Pegg, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ingrid Moses, and the Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson MP, appeared on the other.
- 30 July 2004** **Professor Victor Minichiello** is approached by **Rosemary Mort** from **Richard Torbay's** office about the advertisement and any possible endorsement of Nationals candidate, Trevor Khan.
- 5 August 2004** Tony Windsor makes **“Cash for Comment”** allegations, in part, that UNE only received money for National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia if UNE staff made positive comment about The Nationals.
- 6 August 2004** **The Vice Chancellor of the UNE, Ingrid Moses**, rejects any suggestion that funding for the National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology and

Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia was conditional on the provision of favourable comment of The Nationals.

- 9 August 2004** UNE Council meets in Sydney. Present are **Tony Windsor MP** and **Richard Torbay MLA** as members of the University Council who engage in heated debate over the allegations. The University Council releases a statement which says a 'breach of protocol occurred by the University contributing funding to the advertorial'. No adverse finding was made supporting the allegation made by Tony Windsor MP that the funding of the Centre was conditional on the provision of favourable comment of The Nationals.
- 20 September 04** **Tony Windsor MP** raises allegations in the media about allegedly being bribed to leave Federal Parliament. In some media interviews the 'UNE cash for comment' issue was raised as 'another example' of government influence.
- 9 October 2004** **Tony Windsor MP** re-elected to the Federal Parliament with a substantially increased majority.
- 17 November 04** **Tony Windsor MP** reveals names in adjournment debate.
- 18 November 04** **Tony Windsor MP** again speaks (about Greg Maguire).
- 29 November 04** **Tony Windsor MP** claimed to have been misrepresented in an alleged conversation with John Anderson in the House. In a grievance debate, **Tony Windsor MP** calls for a Senate Inquiry into the allegations he had previously raised. In conclusion he gained leave to *"table the cash for comment documents in relation to the University of New England and the preconditions that were placed on the announcement of that funding and subsequent political ramifications associated with the UNE."*
- 8 December 04** **Tony Windsor MP** spoke in the debate about Dissent in the Ruling from the Speaker, again mentioning the National Party, his bribery allegations and his call for a Senate Inquiry, saying in part: *"blatant abuse of the political powers of a senator – in this case, Senator Macdonald. In this case pressure was applied to staff at the University of New England not only to make sure their local member was never mentioned – even though their local member was the one who brought 67 other community groups together to support their attempts to gain a very worthy maths and science centre – and was removed from the proposal altogether but also to demand that the university pay for political funding that was scripted in one Senator Macdonald's office."*

31 Jan. 2005 **Submission of Tony Windsor MP** lodged with the Senate Enquiry into the regional Partnerships Programme.

3 Feb. 2005 Evidence given by **Tony Windsor MP** on the **National Maths, Science and IT Centre**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tony Windsor', written in a cursive style. The signature starts with a large, sweeping loop on the left, followed by several sharp, upward-pointing strokes, and ends with a long, horizontal tail that tapers to the right.