



## **SENATOR THE HON CHRIS EVANS**

Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research  
Leader of the Government in the Senate

## **DARREN CHEESEMAN MP**

Member for Corangamite

## **ANNA BURKE MP**

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Member for Chisholm

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Gillard Government funding opens the doors of Deakin University**

Deakin University will receive more than \$2 million to deliver programs targeting high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds in Victoria in an effort to encourage them to pursue a higher education.

Minister for Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans, has announced a \$67 million investment by the Gillard Government for 11 partnerships between universities, schools, state governments and TAFEs, designed to help more disadvantaged Australians go to university.

Deakin University will receive \$2.09 million under the Gillard Government program for its Access Express project – an initiative to target students in years 6 to 12 from low SES backgrounds from Geelong, Werribee and the Dandenong region of Victoria.

Member for Corangamite, Darren Cheeseman, said the initiative would deliver one program for parents and six programs for students to improve their aspirations for higher education and support to go to university.

“Through mentoring, tutoring, residential camps, master classes, visits to university, workshops and information sessions, students will be able to learn about what university life is like and will be supported to attend university,” Mr Cheeseman said.

Member for Chisholm, Anna Burke, said the initiative was a pilot that would expand on similar initiatives delivered by Deakin University and its partner schools.

“Students who have always wanted to go to university but didn’t think they could, will now be given the support they need to reach their goal,” Ms Burke said.

The Gillard Government is opening the doors to university and giving disadvantaged Australians the chance to get a university degree.

“We believe every Australian, no matter where they live, should be able to go to university if they have the ability,” Senator Evans said.

“This funding will mean universities, in partnership with TAFEs and schools, can do more with disadvantaged schools and communities, giving students the support they need to access a university education.

“This funding will give those Australians who have dreamt of going to university, but have traditionally felt locked out of the system, the chance to achieve that dream.”

Since 2009, the number of university enrolments by disadvantaged students has increased by 12.7 per cent.

By 2020, the Government is aiming to have 20 per cent of undergraduate enrolments from people from low socio-economic status backgrounds.

“To achieve this goal, more people need to be given the chance to go to university and this funding will help do this,” Senator Evans said.

The 11 programs will be funded over the next three years from the Australian Government’s Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program.

This funding is part of the more than \$12 billion invested in higher education by the Government in 2011. More than \$52 million will be provided to the tertiary sector in a second HEPPP Partnerships round expected to open in early 2012.

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