

Speaking Notes

Nicholas Hunt, Chair, TDA National Scholarships Foundation

Friday 1st March 2013, Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney

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Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW

The Honourable Wayne Swan, Deputy Prime Minister & Treasurer

I also acknowledge that the Deputy Prime Minister is also representing Tertiary Education and Skills Minister, Honourable Chris Bowen this evening because of a commitment in his electorate

Commonwealth Ministers, the Honourable Stephen Conroy, Peter Garrett, Tanya Plibersek and Mark Butler,

NSW Deputy Opposition Leader the Honourable Linda Burney,

The Member for Chifley, Ed Husic, MP

Mrs Mary Young,

Our Industry Skill Council partners, TAFE colleagues Distinguished guests,

Ladies & gentlemen,

On behalf of the National Board of TAFE Directors Australia, and as Chair of the newly established TDA National Scholarships Foundation, welcome!

It is a tremendous pleasure to be here with so many dedicated and enthusiastic supporters for what I believe is a great moment in the evolution of educational philanthropy.

On the one hand we are seeing in a new era with the establishment of the TDA National Scholarships Foundation, at the same time as we are celebrating and giving new life to the much loved and revered Mick Young Scholarships.

The National Scholarships Foundation will be the vehicle for a new, broad-based approach as a national charity to assist students – and reward achievements – of those undertaking skills training around Australia.

There are a total of 61 TAFE Institutes in Australia -- across 1,300 campus locations in metropolitan regional and remote Australia, enrolling 1.7 million students a year, and delivering courses across a multitude of skills and disciplines.

This network public provider (TAFE) network has been a unique foundation for so much of Australia's skills development, and as it continues to evolve in this dynamic, highly-skilled economy of the 21st century, so do the needs of students.

The vocational education and training sector has not always been at the fore when we think about corporate philanthropy for education and skills development.

Rather it has been the schools and universities which have been more active in attracting support, but I hope that this initiative will help to redress that balance.

With the agreement between the Commonwealth, States and Territories of a National Partnership Agreement on Skills, and a new entitlement to training to be phased in between 2013-14, we will see many more students enrolling and seeking access to student loans and other means of financial support – across public and private institutes and colleges.

What we are celebrating tonight is a real maturing in the growth of educational philanthropy. We are proud that our TAFE Directors Australia has taken on this initiative, at this time, leveraging not merely our great public provider network but outreaching to the skills community, industry partners, and the wider business and local communities.

I want to express my sincere thanks to those who have been so generous in their support of tonight's event. I trust that as this program grows, many more will see the benefits of becoming involved in supporting the skills and training that are the heart of our economy and our community.

Already we see the diversity of organisations that are contributing - the businesses, the individuals, heads of key Commonwealth and state and territory vocational education agencies, the Industry Skills Councils, the industry associations, the TAFE Institutes, Group Training Australia, ACPET representing private colleges, the clubs and communities, media organisations and individuals – even some original Mick Young Scholars themselves – all joining here tonight to make a difference.

Over time we will seek to grow this and to reach many more individuals with scholarships in particular sectors, and ultimately look at special merit awards to help those undertaking studies, who may need a helping hand or continue with further studies due to a scholarship.

So let me turn to the Mick Young Scholarships, which have a very special place in what we are celebrating this evening.

There are very few individuals whose name and reputation resonates like that of Mick Young.

Mick's generosity and compassion gave rise to this idea, and led by his family, friends and colleagues, it has seen extraordinary results.

The Mick Young Scholarships have touched the lives of thousands of students, but they have also reached into the lives of their families and their communities. The impact they have had is truly extraordinary.

Mick started this, and we are taking it and elevating it to the next level.

I see the Mick Young Scholarships occupying a cherished place under the umbrella of the TDA National Scholarships Foundation, with a character and an identity that enables them to grow and prosper.

To Mary and Janine Young -- thank you for your support, and I look forward to working with you as we enter this new era.

Ray Wilson as the Chair of the Mick Young Trust – thank you for your support, it has been a smooth transition to the new Foundation.

Your Excellency -- it is a great pleasure having your company this evening here at this launch dinner hosted in Sydney, for this special piece of history. I think everyone here appreciates your own passion for the importance of education and the role it plays, so I thank you for your support and for helping to make this a special night.

To all our guests, let me thank you for being a part of this. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Please enjoy the evening.

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