



MEDIA RELEASE

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TAFE DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA 2007 NATIONAL CONVENTION

PM's VISION FOR LINKAGES BETWEEN UNIVERSITY AND TAFE

The Prime Minister, John Howard, today advocated greater linkages between courses, campuses and skills of TAFE Institutes and universities.

Mr Howard supported a model which would have closer linkages between universities and TAFEs, sitting "side by side" in the delivery of seamless educational and training outcomes.

In a message to the TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) 2007 National Convention, Mr Howard recognised the important role of TDA in providing strategic leadership in forging new self-governance of TAFE Institutes.

"I see a future where vocational and university campuses could sit side by side, with flexibility for students to move between them to access the mix of courses and skills that they need," the Prime Minister said.

"But state governments must also do more to unshackle the TAFE sector so it can provide the flexible and responsive solutions that employers and workers need."

Mr Howard's message follows calls by the Minister for Vocational and Further Education, Andrew Robb, for TAFE Institutes to have greater autonomy and self-governance.

TDA Chief Executive, Martin Riordan, welcomed the Prime Minister's message and said: "Balancing tertiary education will be a big election issue, and challenge for an incoming government to make skills an equal career choice.

A copy of the Prime Minister's message to the TDA Convention is available on the TDA website at www.tda.edu.au

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