

New Managed Growth Funding and Needs-Based Funding: Implementation consultation 9 August 2024

The Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN Universities) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Managed Growth Funding (MGF) and Needs-Based Funding (NBF).

The implementation of the Universities Accord has often been described as a generational change in the higher education sector and, although ATN has welcomed and supported the goals of the Accord, we are concerned about how these goals will be operationalised through changes to both governance – creation of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) – and funding.

ATN supports:

- The commitment to long-term and sustainable growth in the tertiary sector.
- Recognising universities' existing success meeting student demand.
- Resourcing models which enable institutions to meet local, State, and national needs.
- Development of coherent NBF approaches which enable every student to succeed.

The proposed changes are trying to achieve too much, too quickly. Changing the regulatory environment, introducing MGF and NBF – all while drastically reducing international student enrolments and introducing future caps – have significant consequences for the sector's ability to deliver high quality education and innovative research to meet Australians' needs.

ATN recommends that:

1. Government focuses on the establishment of the ATEC first, including appointing Commissioners with significant experience working in the higher education sector.
2. ATEC works in partnership with the sector to develop, and phase, the implementation of the Universities Accord reforms.
3. An independent, and appropriately resourced, ATEC be given the opportunity to implement stable transition arrangements across 2025 and 2026 with a plan for more substantial change from 2027.

ATN Universities welcomes the opportunity to work with ATEC to co-create workable solutions that deliver the Government's policy intent, both in transition from the current funding model and in the longer term.

Dr Ant Bagshaw, Executive Director
Australian Technology Network of Universities
info@atn.edu.au

info@atn.edu.au
www.atn.edu.au
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