

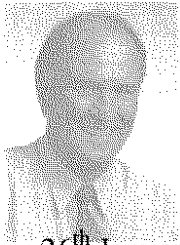
**Submission
to
the Senate Inquiry into the Regional Partnerships
Program**

from

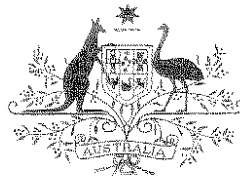
**Tony Windsor MP
Member for New England**

**National Centre for Mathematics, Information Technology
and Science Teaching at the University of New England
Armidale NSW.**

\$4.95 Million



TONY WINDSOR B.Ec. MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Shop 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Phone: 02 6761 3080

Toll Free: 1300 301 839

Fax: 02 6761 3380

e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au

Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

26th January 2005

Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Regional Partnerships Program funding for the National Centre for Mathematics, Information Technology and Science Teaching at the University of New England.

Please find attached my submission to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee for their Inquiry into the Regional Partnerships Program and Sustainable Regions Program regarding the above project funding.

The submission includes copies of media releases, newspaper articles, full page advertorial advertisements and website printouts dated 29th November 2004 and 24th January 2005 and emails to and from the University of New England.

I would like to state at the outset that I was and still am very much supportive of the UNE National Centre for Mathematics, Information Technology and Science Teaching. Support for the Centre was also gained from across the electorate of New England at the Vision New England Summit I convened in October 2003 with over 60 community groups endorsing its establishment, however I have real concerns about the politicisation of the funding process and the possible ramifications for other worthy projects in the future.

A media release dated 11th August 2004 from the University of New England, Chancellor, Mr John Cassidy states in point 2 that a breach of University protocol was committed 'unintentionally' and procedures have been reinforced to ensure that the University's integrity and reputation for political neutrality is never compromised.

Point 3 also indicates that the advertisement placed in those papers was meant to be a way of thanking the "Federal Government".

An issue associated with funding of another \$3.5m for the University of New England at approximately the same time as the announcement of the Maths and Science Centre announced by the Minister for Education, the Hon Brendan Nelson was 'hushed' up for reasons I am unable to fathom. Surely such distribution of public funds to a University rightly deserved acknowledgement and thanks as I did in my media release on July 27, 2004 and drew an urgent email from the UNE Vice Chancellor saying "... Special treatment by Government is not something we want to broadcast or discuss in public...."

The letter from the Minister does not indicate any 'special treatment' from the Minister that should not be recognised in the public domain and I was very grateful that the Minister had seen fit to recognise the UNE for the changes to budget management and recovering from serious financial difficulty and at the same time maintaining a broad disciplinary base.

This project was funded through the Regional Partnerships Program access to which is normally via a submission to the local Area Consultative Committee and progressed with a recommendation from the local Area Consultative Committee to in this case the Orange Office of Dotars and then onto the Minister's office.

In this instance, there does not appear to be any mention of the involvement of the New England North West Area Consultative Committee and yet it was mentioned on their website when viewed on November 29 2004, yet is not on the same website when viewed again on January 24, 2005.

I therefore draw the funding of the National Centre for Science, Information Technology and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia to the attention of the Senate Committee Inquiry under the terms of reference

- (a) decisions to fund or not fund particular projects,
- (b) the recommendations of area consultative committees,
- (c) the recommendations of departmental officers and recommendations from any other sources including other agencies or other levels of government
- (d) the nature and extent of the respective roles of the administering department, minister and parliamentary secretary, other ministers and parliamentary secretaries, other senators or members and their advisers and staff in the process of selection of successful applications;
- (e) the criteria used to take the decision to fund projects;
- (f) the transparency and accountability of the process and outcomes;
- (g) the mechanism for authorising the funding of projects;

As a follow up to my submission I would also seek the opportunity of appearing before the Senate Inquiry Committee at a mutually convenient time to make a verbal statement to the Committee and answer any questions arising.

Yours sincerely

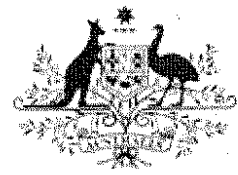
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Windsor".

Tony Windsor MP
Member for New England

MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon John Anderson MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Leader of The Nationals



26 June 2004
A69/2004

FUNDING FOR NATIONAL CENTRE OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING AT UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

The Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of The Nationals, John Anderson, has announced \$4.95 million of funding over three years for the establishment of a National Centre for Mathematics, Information Technology and Science Teaching at the University of New England, Armidale.

"As leader of The Nationals, I have long been concerned about the fact that primary and secondary students in country schools are falling behind in maths and science. It is a concern that was expressed clearly at The Nationals Federal Conference in October 2003.

"This funding will help the National Centre work to enhance the professional development of rural and regional based teachers of mathematics, science and information technology. In turn, this will have a positive flow-on for rural and regional students", Mr Anderson said.

"The National Centre will act as a central co-ordinating base for a network of tertiary centres which have responsibility for the professional development of teachers.

"The Centre will use the combined network of teachers to facilitate new approaches to the professional development of teachers in mathematics, science and information technology.

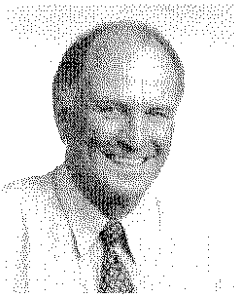
"It will use the latest distance education techniques - such as videoconferencing and web applications - to provide teachers in isolated areas with immediate access to expert advice.

"The National Centre will make a real contribution to improving the education and future security of regional and rural school children and communities.

"This is another example of The Nationals in Government working hard to represent regional and rural concerns at a national level," Mr Anderson said.

Media Contacts

Clare Siddins (Minister Anderson's Office)	0427 200 674
Professor John Pegg (University of New England)	02 6773 5070
Professor Victor Minichiello (University of New England)	0409 981 288



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Shop 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080
Toll Free: 1300 301 839
Fax: (02) 6761 3380
e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au
Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

27th June 2004

Windsor welcomes Maths & Science Centre for UNE

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has welcomed the announcement by the Federal Government to establish the National Centre for Mathematics, Information Technology and Science Teaching at the University of New England in Armidale at a cost \$4.95million over 3 years.

“The announcement of the National Centre for Mathematics, Information Technology and Science teaching is great news for the University of New England and those behind the push for its establishment.

I am very pleased that the Federal Government has responded to the lobbying by the University staff and the broader community to help address the needs of isolated teachers in rural areas of Australia.

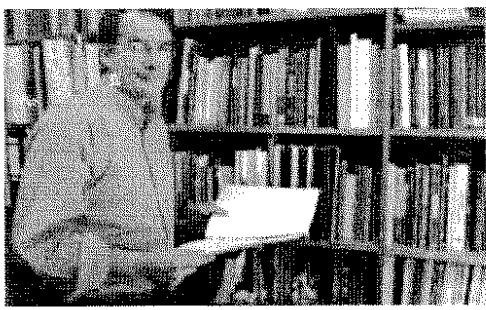
I particularly congratulate Professor Victor Minichiello, the Dean of the Education Health and Professional Studies, Professor Peter Flood, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Debra Panizzon, the Senior Science Education Lecturer for their efforts in bringing about this very valuable addition to the UNE,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor was also happy to see a step forward on another resolution made at the Vision New England Summit in October last year.

“The proposal for the Centre gained broad community support at the Vision New England Summit last year.

It was unanimously supported by the 67 community groups represented at the Summit which has further enhanced the understanding of the need for the Centre and I’m sure has gone a long way to reinforcing the University of New England’s case it was able to put to the Government,” Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 88 68



June 28, 2004

UNE Centre to help regional maths, science students

A new National Centre, launched today at the University of New England, will help to ensure that school students throughout regional Australia have every opportunity to excel in science and mathematics.

The launch of the Centre culminates five years of planning led by UNE's Professor John Pegg. The UNE team has worked closely with The Nationals, whose leader, the Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson, announced on Saturday a three-year Commonwealth Establishment Grant of \$4.95 million for the new Centre. The funds have been made available through the Government's "Regional Partnerships" program.

"The primary aim of the National Centre for Maths and Science is to improve the quality of rural and regional students' learning in mathematics, science, and information and communication technology," Professor Pegg said. "Data show that these students perform at a lower level than their counterparts in large cities. The Centre will address this disadvantage by encouraging and supporting the professional development of primary, secondary, and tertiary teachers of these subjects." Professor Pegg is to be the Director of the Centre, which starts its operations on July 1.

Professor Ingrid Moses, the Vice-Chancellor of UNE, finalised an agreement last week with the Commonwealth Government on the establishment of the Centre within UNE's Faculty of Education, Health and Professional Studies. Professor Moses has been instrumental in negotiating the project with the Commonwealth. At today's launch, in congratulating all involved, she thanked Professor Pegg for his commitment over the five years, and Professor Victor Minichiello (Dean of UNE's Faculty of Education, Health and Professional Studies) for his support of the project. "The commitment of our staff at UNE to teaching and teacher education is unparalleled," she said.

Professor Pegg explained that the Centre would build upon and extend the work of UNE's Centre for Cognition Research in Learning and Teaching. "The Government was seeking to build on an organisation that already had an impressive track record of research, and of completing large and difficult research consultancies," he said.

In making his announcement on Saturday, Mr Anderson said: "The National Centre will make a real contribution to improving the education and future security of regional and rural school children and communities."

Trevor Khan, The Nationals' candidate for the Federal seat of New England, and Jim Booth, Chief-of-Staff in the office of Senator Sandy Macdonald,

represented The Nationals at today's launch. Professor Minichiello said: "I want to express my appreciation to Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson and Senator Sandy Macdonald from The Nationals for helping to create a funding program that recognises the important contributions that rural institutions such as UNE can play in promoting innovative solutions to address complex challenges facing rural communities."

Media contact: Professor Victor Minichiello, Dean, Faculty of Education, Health and Professional Studies, UNE, Armidale (02) 6773 3952, Dr Debra Panizzon, School of Education, UNE, Armidale (02) 6773 5061, or Jim Scanlan, Public Relations, UNE, Armidale (02) 6773 3049.

For photographs, please contact Jim Scanlan on (02) 6773 3049.

Posted by Lydia Roberts at 03:48 PM

MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon John Anderson MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Leader of The Nationals



14 July 2004
A76/2004

EVIDENCE AGAINST INDEPENDENTS MOUNTS

The failure of independent MPs to work positively for their electorates has been spotlighted by a prominent Queenslander, the Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the The Nationals, John Anderson, said today.

"Don't take our word for it, have a look at what those on the ground are saying," Mr Anderson said, referring to a letter to the editor written by the Labor Mayor of Mount Isa, Ron McCullough (attached).

"In his letter, Cr McCullough has nailed the key issue on the head. As he says, 'confrontation and media headlines may be good for one's ego but are not good for constituents trying to get a fair hearing with the Government'.

"Increasingly, those who deal with government regularly or want more government services and support in their local areas are telling us the flirtation with an independent member of Parliament has failed them.

"It is obvious to all that this is the case in Kennedy, where the local MP has botched every attempt to help hard-pressed people and industries in his electorate with his scattergun approach to policy.

"Mr Katter's voting record in this term of Parliament suggests he just doesn't care. For an astonishing 52.2 percent of divisions - often the critical votes that determine Australia's future - Mr Katter has been absent from the House.

"The two other independents, Peter Andren and Tony Windsor from New South Wales, have been absent for more than a quarter of the divisions as well. Even when they are there, they tend to vote to obstruct the Government.

"I want to win these seats, and I make no apology for that. But the evidence is mounting that it is not just The Nationals who hold these views. I urge those in Kennedy, New England and Calare to ask themselves the question: what has an independent done for you?"

Mr Anderson is in Far North Queensland today, travelling through Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Townsville, Tully and Charters Towers. He will also be in Mackay and Rockhampton tomorrow.

Media Contacts

02 6277

Paul Chamberlin (Minister Anderson's Office)	7680
Clare Siddins (travelling with Mr Anderson) (Minister Anderson's Office)	0427 200 674

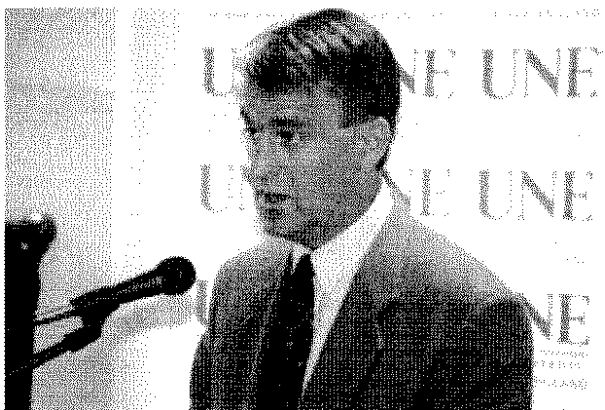
URL: http://www.ministers.dotars.gov.au/ja/releases/2004/July/a76_2004.htm

July 19, 2004

New national centre opens at UNE

Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson will officially open the new National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia (SIMERR) at the University of New England on Thursday, July 22.

Over the past year, staff at the UNE have been working closely with The Nationals in



refining a proposal for the centre and securing the appropriate funding.

In late June, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Regional Services John Anderson announced the proposal had gained funding of \$4.95 million for the establishment of the centre through the Australian Government's Regional Partnerships program.

Research work is already underway.

SIMERR is based in the Education building of UNE with Professor John Pegg taking up the position of the centre's Director. Regional hubs will then be developed in each State and Territory.

Professor Pegg said the main aim of the centre is to improve the quality of regional and rural students' learning.

"This can be done by encouraging and supporting the professional development of teachers in primary, secondary and tertiary education."

"There are a myriad of problems which face rural and regional teachers that city teachers don't have to worry about. Identifying these problems and developing solutions to address them is the main focus of this National centre."

"The idea of the research to be undertaken by the centre is to thrash out where and what are the problems in teaching maths and science in rural schools. These are complicated issues – are teachers getting enough support, are they staying in communities long enough, are parents recognising that maths and science subjects are important in their children's education?"

"Hopefully, by looking at these issues, we can develop some strategies which will ultimately result in improving the way our children are taught maths, science, and ICT subjects," Professor Pegg said.

Professor Victor Minichiello, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Health and Professional Studies, indicated that this was an exciting initiative because it reflected the confidence of the government in supporting rural communities to find solutions to solve some of the challenges they experience.

The Nationals have supported this proposal from its conception, with Senator Sandy Macdonald and Nationals New England Candidate Trevor Khan setting up meetings between Deputy Prime

Minister John Anderson and UNE staff.

Minister Anderson said The Nationals are committed to the improvement in education for rural and regional students.

"As leader of The Nationals, I have long been concerned about the fact that primary and secondary students in country schools are falling behind in maths and science. It is a concern that was expressed clearly at The Nationals Federal Conference in October 2003."

"The National Centre will make a real contribution to improving the education and future security of regional and rural school children and communities."

It is expected that results of the centre's initial research will be seen in mid-2005.

Posted by Lydia Roberts at 03:38 PM

MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon John Anderson MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Leader of The Nationals



22 July 2004
A83/2004

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF NATIONAL MATHS AND SCIENCE CENTRE

The National Centre for Science, Information and Communications Technology and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia was officially launched at the University of New England in Armidale today.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of The Nationals, John Anderson, officially launched the new centre saying it will dramatically improve the delivery of science, information and communications and mathematics education to students in rural and regional Australia.

"The Centre will work to enhance the professional development of rural and regionally based teachers of mathematics, science and information technology. In turn, this will have a positive flow-on for rural and regional students", Mr Anderson said.

"The Centre will use the latest distance education techniques - such as videoconferencing and web applications - to provide teachers in isolated areas with immediate access to expert advice.

"A combined network of teachers will be used to facilitate new approaches to the professional development of teachers in all three fields.

"The National Centre will make a real contribution to improving the education and future security of regional and rural school children and communities.

"As leader of The Nationals, I have long been concerned about the fact that primary and secondary students in country schools are falling behind in maths and science. That is why the Australian Government has committed \$4.95 million over three years towards the Centre."

Mr Anderson said analysis of the 2003 HSC results revealed that 90% of the top HSC achievers in mathematics and science subjects were city students - with rural students accounting for just 10% of the top honours in four maths and science subjects.

"Students with a strong understanding of maths and science have enormous personal opportunities. It is vital that rural and regional students are not disadvantaged in these fields," Mr Anderson said.

"The support network provided by the Centre will be crucial in reversing current trends and ensuring educational outcomes in mathematics and science improve in rural and regional areas," Mr Anderson said.

Media Contacts

Clare Siddins (Minister Anderson's Office)

0427 200 674

URL: http://www.ministers.dotars.gov.au/ja/releases/2004/July/a83_2004.htm

The Nationals deliver on rural education

Friday, July 23, 2004

[Email this page](#) [Back](#)
[Printer Friendly Version](#)

The Nationals have today delivered to the New England community with the official opening of The National Centre for Science, Information Communications Technology and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia (SIMERR).

The Nationals Candidate for New England Trevor Khan said the establishment of this centre, based at the University of New England in Armidale, demonstrated The Nationals commitment to improving education for students in rural and regional Australia.

"The Nationals are delivering for this electorate. If it were not for the dedication and lobbying by Senator Sandy Macdonald, this funding would not have been secured under John Anderson's Regional Partnerships program," Mr Khan said.

"The Nationals don't need to surveys or forums, we just deliver the projects needed in the communities. New England needs a Federal Member who can make the difference," he said.

SIMERR aims to address the apparent under-performance by rural and regional students in the maths and science areas when compared to city students. The Centre will undertake research into why this is the case and will develop strategies to combat the problems.

"We must try and keep our students in local schools instead of them being sent to city boarding schools," Mr Khan said.

"Similarly, teachers must also be encouraged to remain in country communities so our children receive top-quality education, especially in maths and science subjects," he said.

"I have managed to assist in the securing of funding for this project – just imagine what I could achieve if elected to Federal Parliament," Mr Khan said.

Narrowing the learning gap

FULL PAGE PAID FOR BY UNE - AD AT BOTTOM DONE BY UNE - TOP HALF WRITTEN BY NATIONALS

ARE your children under-performing?

Research undertaken by the University of New England has found that rural and regional students are under-performing in the maths and science areas when compared to city students.

When comparing the 2003 HSC results, rural and regional students feature less frequently than city students in the 'top achievers' category of maths and science subjects.

The National Centre for Science, Information Communications Technology and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia (SIMERR), based at Armidale's University of New England will attempt to find out why this is the case.

The findings have also concerned The Nationals Candidate for New England Trevor Khan, who has supported the proposal of the centre, along with Senator Sandy Macdonald and Nationals Leader John Anderson.

A study by Dr Terry Lyon of the UNE has found that in 2003, rural and regional students accounted for 27 per cent of those who sat the HSC, but only 10 per cent of country students received top-band results in science.

In comparison, the remaining 73 per cent of students from schools in metro-

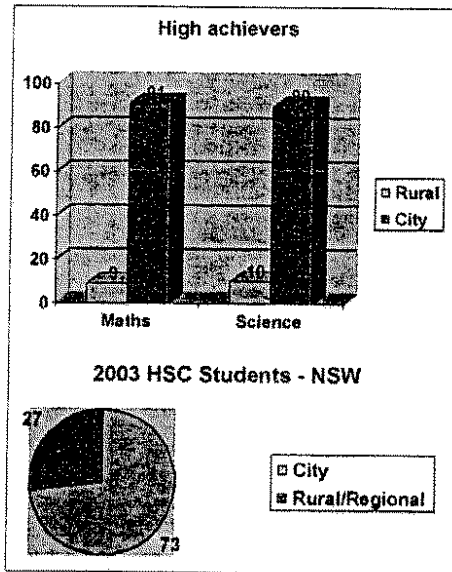
politan areas including Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle made up 90 per cent of high achievers in science subjects. This result is also seen in mathematics.

While SIMERR will look into why this trend is occurring, director of the new centre, Professor John Pegg offers his opinion that teachers in rural and regional schools aren't offered the same professional development opportunities as city teachers.

"Teachers, especially in the maths and science subjects, really need to be up-to-date when it comes to subject knowledge. Teachers in rural and regional areas often feel professionally isolated and need additional support to extend their knowledge in their subject areas in order to teach those subjects better."

"We're not saying that country students aren't as smart as city students, but clearly, the statistics are saying that regional students should have more high achievers in maths and science," Professor Pegg said.

The national centre's agenda will focus on five central programs; research; pre-service education; in-service (professional development) education;



• Of all students that sit the HSC in NSW, 27 per cent are from rural and regional areas. Of the results in the top band (6) in the areas of maths and science, only 9 per cent are from regional and rural NSW in maths and only 10 per cent in science. The project is funded by the government to find out why and fix it.

overseas support; and community initiatives.

It's hoped that initiatives will be developed which will offer teachers professional development programs which are better suited to

rural and regional teachers, addressing many of the problems that country teachers face.

It's then expected that this will lead to a greater retention of quality maths and sci-

ence teachers in regional communities.

Professor Pegg said that traditional rural industries are also becoming more technologically advanced, presenting a greater need to regional students to possess better skills in maths and science.

"In the future, rural and regional communities will need more and more people competent in science and technology," he said.

The Nationals are also hoping that the development of this national centre will eventually result in more students being educated in their home towns, rather than in city boarding schools.

The Nationals New England Candidate Trevor Khan is concerned that too many high-achievers from the country are being placed in city schools.

"Every dollar spent by a local parent educating a child at a city school is one dollar less spent in rural and regional Australia. If State and Federal Governments are forced to provide more funds for our local schools, then this will reduce the flow of children from the regions to the cities by making our schools more attractive."

"I want to see The Nationals encourage excellence in our schools. I want

every parent to see their first option for the education of their children as being a school in rural or regional Australia. Additionally, I want city parents to be encouraged to send their child to a school in regional Australia, so that we get the benefit of their education dollar."

Every child that leaves regional Australia to study in the city is:

- One less child in our classrooms;

- A diminution of talent and competition in the classroom; and,

- A reduction in the numbers of teachers employed and courses available to remaining students.

"The Nationals have supported SIMERR's establishment because we are committed to improving the education opportunities for rural and regional students," Mr Khan said.

"This is one way The Nationals can make a difference in New England and beyond," he said.

The University of New England, through SIMERR, now has the chance to undertake research and develop initiatives which will have enormous ramifications for regional students across Australia.



Undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Education - specialising in Science, ICT and Mathematics Education

The University of New England has a strong tradition of high academic standards and student satisfaction. In recognition of excellence in science, information and communication technology, and mathematics education, the Commonwealth Government has funded a National Centre in this field at UNE.

Enhance your career by studying at UNE. Our undergraduate and postgraduate programs are at the forefront of innovative developments in Education - designed to meet the preparation and career-long professional development needs of teachers throughout Australia.

For undergraduate study, ask about Bachelor degrees including combined degrees. Ask about our Certificate and Diploma courses to reach degree level.

For postgraduate study, ask about Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Masters and Doctoral research programs.

- Bachelor of Education
- Graduate Certificates in Behaviour Management, Education Studies including Middle Years Schooling, Gifted and Talented Education, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

- Master of Education coursework programs e.g. Arts Education, Information and Communication Technology Education, Intercultural Education, Mathematics Education, Science Education, Web Mediated Learning
- Master of Education (Honours) in all selected specialisations
- Doctor of Education (EdD)
- PhD

Applications close 30 November 2004

For further information and application forms:

Email: studentcentre@une.edu.au

Fax: 02 6773 4400

Phone: 02 6773 4444

National Centre for Science, ICT and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia

contact: Ms Liz Sozou 02 6773 5067

<http://fehps.une.edu.au>



UNE - rated the maximum ★★★★★ for Educational Experience and Staff Qualifications in the Good Universities Guide 2004.

Page 44/6 - 04047

DELIVERED

**KHAN
CAN...**

The Nationals congratulate the University of New England on the opening of the

\$5 million National Science, IT & Maths Centre

“It is only The Nationals, as part of a Coalition Government who can deliver projects such as this. This is the largest, non-roads project funded by the Australian Government in this electorate since the last Federal election.”

Trevor Khan, The Nationals Candidate for New England

“This project was developed by the University of New England with The Nationals because we both have a demonstrated joint commitment to improve the support provided to rural based school students who represent our future. The Nationals and UNE have been able to develop a most innovative program.”

Professor John Pegg, Director Centre for Cognition Research in Learning and Teaching, UNE

“The Nationals were able to deliver the results we need. In my view, this program will make a real difference to ensuring that rural students will be well equipped to secure a bright future.”

Professor Victor Mirzichello, Dean, Faculty of Education, Health and Professional Studies, UNE

THE NATIONALS

KHAN... Can make the difference

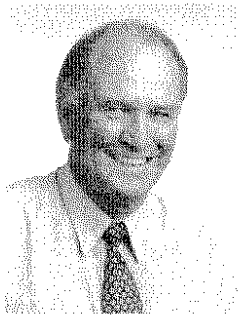
**KHAN
HAS...**

KHAN

WILL...



Trevor Khan



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Shop 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080

Toll Free: 1300 301 839

Fax: (02) 6761 3380

e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au

Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

27 July 2004

Windsor welcomes Minister's extra \$3.5m grant to UNE

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has welcomed the announcement by Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Brendan Nelson of an extra \$3.5m for the University of New England.

"The extra \$3.5m grant to the University of New England is great news and I sincerely thank Brendan Nelson for his objective viewing of the UNE's situation.

I met with Minister Nelson back in April to put the case for the UNE to be given extra funding based on the strong efforts and successes made by the UNE Board in recovering from a serious financial situation and changes to the course profile offered by the University that have created a negative impact on grant funding.

The hearing I was given by the Minister was very positive which I reported back to the UNE Vice Chancellor Ingrid Moses before the UNE Board meeting in April.

Minister Nelson's granting of these extra funds recognises and rewards the efforts of all involved with the UNE," Mr Windsor said.

Whilst this announcement for the University of New England is very welcome, Mr Windsor is still concerned about future funding for Australian Universities and in particular the ability of Universities to keep up with cost increases.

"University funding still faces the problem of not being indexed to any recognised economic indicator like the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and therefore will be subject to outside cost increases with no automatic measure to keep up with them.

I will continue to press the Minister for indexation of funding for Universities to better equip them to continue to deliver the highest quality higher education to the community," Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080



File For Finance

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING
THE HON DR BRENDAN NELSON MP

Professor Ingrid Moses
Vice-Chancellor
University of New England
ARMIDALE NSW 2351

20 JUL 2004

Ingrid
Dear Professor Moses

I refer to your letters written to me this year concerning UNE's financial situation. In those letters you requested that UNE's previous advances be converted into "compensation" for the changed funding formula under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*. In considering your request, I've been advised that it is not possible under the legislation to do this. Special purpose grants under section 20A of the Act must be repaid within three years, and there is no provision for Ministerial discretion on this.

However, I appreciate, as the AUQA recognised, that UNE has made changes to budget management over the past few years which have helped it to recover from serious financial difficulty and at the same time maintain a broad disciplinary base. With this background, and having considered UNE's educational profile, I have made a determination to increase the operating grant to UNE by \$3.5 million this year. This will be gazetted as a Ministerial determination on the operating grants for 2004. The amount of \$3.5 million will be paid as an increase on the regular operating grant payments made to the UNE this year. While the current advances to the University will have to be repaid according to the legislation, this additional \$3.5 million will not.

I wish you well in your efforts to pursue the best interests of your University.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Nelson
BRENDAN NELSON

I hope this helps - Congratulations on your leadership of UNE.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES INDEXATION OF FUNDING INTO FUTURE

Penrose, Melissa (T. Windsor, MP)

From: Helen Arthurson [harthur2@metz.une.edu.au]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2004 8:20 AM
Subject: Fwd: Urgent message

X-Sender: imoses@pobox.une.edu.au
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 5.2.0.9
Date: Wed, 28 Jul 2004 13:41:39 +1000
To: harthur2@metz.une.edu.au
From: Professor Ingrid Moses <imoses@pobox.une.edu.au>
Subject: Urgent message

Dear Council members,

the news that UNE received an additional \$ 3.5 million from the government should be treated with utmost discretion by Council members. I have already received requests by the media to talk about it. Special treatment by government is not something we want to broadcast or discuss in public. I provided copies of the Minister's letter to members of Finance Committee and during the Confidential Session of Council. Please do not pass it on.

Yours sincerely,

Ingrid

Professor Ingrid Moses
Vice-Chancellor and President, University of New England, Armidale, NSW, 2351,
Australia
President, International Association of University Presidents (IAUP)
Phone: + 61 2 6773 2004; Fax: + 61 2 6773 3710
Email: imoses@metz.une.edu.au; Web Address: <http://www.une.edu.au/>

DISCLAIMER: This email (and any files transmitted with it) is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you have received this email in error, please delete it and notify the originator of the message. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender, with authority, states them to be the views of the University of New England. Whilst all care is taken, it is the recipient's responsibility to ensure that any attachments are scanned for viruses prior to use.

Helen Arthurson
Head, Office of the Secretariat, and Secretary to Council
University of New England, Armidale NSW 2351
Ph (02) 6773 3416; Fax (02) 6773 3731

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain privileged or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient you must not use, disclose, copy or distribute this communication. If you have received this message in error please delete the email and notify the sender.

Penrose, Melissa (T. Windsor, MP)

From: Helen Arthurson [harthur2@metz.une.edu.au]
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2004 9:29 AM
Subject: Confidential - FW: For distribution to all UNE Council Members

Dear University Council members,

Tony Windsor has requested that I forward the following plus attachments to you.
The attached documents will be included in the Confidential Business Papers for the Council meeting on 9 August 2004.

Helen

From: "Megan Le Lievre" <mlelievr@pobox.une.edu.au>
To: <harthur2@pobox.une.edu.au>
Subject: FW: For distribution to all UNE Council Members
Date: Thu, 29 Jul 2004 08:51:55 +1000
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook, Build 10.0.4024
Importance: Normal

Megan Le Lievre

Administrative Assistant
Office of the Secretariat
University of New England
Armidale NSW 2351
Ph: (02) 6773 3752
Fax: (02) 6773 3731
<http://www.une.edu.au/offsect/>

This email is intended for the addressee named and may contain privileged information or confidential information or both. If you are not the intended recipient please delete and notify sender by reply email immediately.

-----Original Message-----

From: York, Sandy (T. Windsor, MP) [mailto:sandy.york@aph.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2004 3:16 PM
To: mlelievr@pobox.une.edu.au
Subject: For distribution to all UNE Council Members

<<NDL.pdf>> <<Arthurson.doc>>

Megan,

Could you please distribute the above letter and PDF file to all members of the UNE Council.

Thanks for your assistance

Regards

Sandy York
Electorate officer
Tony Windsor MP

Member for New England
Tel: 6761 3080 Fax: 6761 3380

Helen Arthurson
Head, Office of the Secretariat, and Secretary to Council
University of New England, Armidale NSW 2351
Ph (02) 6773 3416; Fax (02) 6773 3731

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain privileged or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient you must not use, disclose, copy or distribute this communication. If you have received this message in error please delete the email and notify the sender.

Narrowing the learning gap

ARE your children under-performing?

Research undertaken by the University of New England has found that rural and regional students are under-performing in the maths and science areas when compared to city students.

When comparing the 2003 HSC results, rural and regional students feature less frequently than city students in the 'top achievers' category of maths and science subjects.

The National Centre for Science, Information Communications Technology and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia (SIMERR), based at Armidale's University of New England will attempt to find out why this is the case.

The findings have also concerned The Nationals Candidate for New England Trevor Khan, who has supported the proposal of the centre, along with Senator Sandy Macdonald and Nationals Leader John Anderson.

A study by Dr Terry Lyon of the UNE has found that in 2003, rural and regional students accounted for 27 per cent of those who sat the HSC, but only 10 per cent of country students received top-band results in science.

In comparison, the remaining 73 per cent of students from schools in metro-

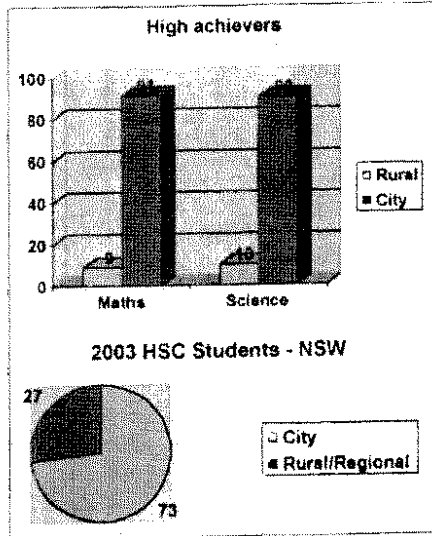
politan areas including Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle made up 90 per cent of high achievers in science subjects. This result is also seen in mathematics.

While SIMERR will look into why this trend is occurring, director of the new centre, Professor John Pegg offers his opinion that teachers in rural and regional schools aren't offered the same professional development opportunities as city teachers.

"Teachers, especially in the maths and science subjects, really need to be up-to-date when it comes to subject knowledge. Teachers in rural and regional areas often feel professionally isolated and need additional support to extend their knowledge in their subject areas in order to teach those subjects better."

"We're not saying that country students aren't as smart as city students, but clearly, the statistics are saying that regional students should have more high achievers in maths and science," Professor Pegg said.

The national centre's agenda will focus on five central programs; research; pre-service education; in-service (professional development) education;



• Of all students that sit the HSC in NSW, 27 per cent are from rural and regional areas. Of the results in the top band (6) in the areas of maths and science, only 9 per cent are from regional and rural NSW in maths and only 10 per cent in science. The project is funded by the government to find out why and fix it.

overseas support; and community initiatives.

It's hoped that initiatives will be developed which will offer teachers professional development programs which are better suited to

rural and regional teachers, addressing many of the problems that country teachers face.

It's then expected that this will lead to a greater retention of quality maths and sci-

ence teachers in regional communities.

Professor Pegg said that traditional rural industries are also becoming more technologically advanced, presenting a greater need to regional students to possess better skills in maths and science.

"In the future, rural and regional communities will need more and more people competent in science and technology," he said.

The Nationals are also hoping that the development of this national centre will eventually result in more students being educated in their home towns, rather than in city boarding schools.

The Nationals New England Candidate Trevor Khan is concerned that too many high-achievers from the country are being placed in city schools.

"Every dollar spent by a local parent educating a child at a city school is one dollar less spent in rural and regional Australia. If State and Federal Governments are forced to provide more funds for our local schools, then this will reduce the flow of children from the regions to the cities by making our schools more attractive."

"I want to see The Nationals encourage excellence in our schools. I want

every parent to see their first option for the education of their children as being a school in rural or regional Australia. Additionally, I want city parents to be encouraged to send their child to a school in regional Australia, so that we get the benefit of their education dollar."

Every child that leaves regional Australia to study in the city is:

- One less child in our classrooms;
- A diminution of talent and competition in the classroom; and,
- A reduction in the numbers of teachers employed and courses available to remaining students.

"The Nationals have supported SIMERR's establishment because we are committed to improving the education opportunities for rural and regional students," Mr Khan said.

"This is one way The Nationals can make a difference in New England and beyond," he said.

The University of New England, through SIMERR, now has the chance to undertake research and develop initiatives which will have enormous ramifications for regional students across Australia.



Undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Education - specialising in Science, ICT and Mathematics Education

The University of New England has a strong tradition of high academic standards and student satisfaction. In recognition of excellence in science, information and communication technology, and mathematics education, the Commonwealth Government has funded a National Centre in this field at UNE.

Enhance your career by studying at UNE. Our undergraduate and postgraduate programs are at the forefront of innovative developments in Education - designed to meet the preparation and career-long professional development needs of teachers throughout Australia.

For undergraduate study, ask about Bachelor degrees including combined degrees. Ask about our Certificate and Diploma courses to reach degree level.

For postgraduate study, ask about Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Masters and Doctoral research programs.

- Bachelor of Education
- Graduate Certificates in Behaviour Management, Education Studies including Middle Years Schooling, Gifted and Talented Education, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

- Master of Education coursework programs e.g. Arts Education, Information and Communication Technology Education, Intercultural Education, Mathematics Education, Science Education, Web Mediated Learning
- Master of Education (Honours) in all selected specialisations
- Doctor of Education (EdD)
- PhD

Applications close 30 November 2004

For further information and application forms:

Email: studentcentre@une.edu.au

Fax: 02 6773 4400

Phone: 02 6773 4444

National Centre for Science, ICT and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia contact: Ms Liz Sozou 02 6773 5067

<http://fehps.une.edu.au>



UNE - rated the maximum ★★★★★ for Educational Experience and Staff Qualifications in the Good Universities Guide 2004.

Phone: 02673 4400

Options for better learning

RESEARCH and planning into how children in rural and regional schools can achieve better learning outcomes in maths and science subjects has begun with the official opening of the National Centre for Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia (SIMERR) at the University of New England.

Research by UNE's Professor John Pegg has found that regional students are disadvantaged in maths and science subjects and are getting poorer results in school than their city cousins.

Over the past year, staff at the UNE have been working closely with The Nationals in refining the proposal for the centre and securing the appropriate funding.

In late June, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Regional Services John Anderson announced the

proposal had gained funding of \$4.95 million for the establishment of the centre through the Australian Government's Regional Partnerships program.

This centre has now been officially opened by Mr Anderson, with research work already underway.

SIMERR is based in the Education building of UNE with Professor John Pegg taking up the position of the centre's director. Regional hubs will then be developed in each State and Territory.

Professor Pegg said the main aim of the centre is to improve the quality of regional and rural students' learning.

"This can be done by encouraging and supporting the professional development of teachers in primary, secondary and tertiary education.

There are a myriad of problems which face rural and regional teachers that city teachers don't have to worry about. Identifying



Professor John Pegg, Professor Ingrid Moses and Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson.

these problems and developing solutions to address them is the main focus of this national centre.

"The idea of the research to be undertaken by the centre is to thrash out where and what are the problems in teaching maths and science in rural schools. These are complicated issues - are teachers getting enough support, are they staying in communities long enough, are parents recognising that maths and science subjects are important in their children's education?"

"Hopefully, by looking at these issues, we can develop some strategies which will ultimately result in improving the way our children are taught maths, science and ICT subjects," Professor Pegg said.

Professor Victor Minichiello, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Health and Professional Studies, indicated that this was an exciting initiative because it reflected the confidence of the government in supporting rural communities to find solutions to solve some of

the challenges they experience.

The Nationals have supported this proposal from its conception, with Senator Sandy Macdonald and Nationals New England candidate Trevor Khan setting up meetings between Mr Anderson and UNE staff.

Mr Anderson said The Nationals were committed to the improvement in education for rural and regional students.

"As leader of The Nationals, I have long been concerned about the fact

that primary and secondary students in country schools are falling behind in maths and science. It is a concern that was expressed clearly at The Nationals Federal Conference in October last year.

"The national centre will make a real contribution to improving the education and future security of regional and rural school children and communities."

It is expected that results of the centre's initial research will be seen in mid-2005.

Advertisement

DELIVERED

The Nationals congratulate the University of New England on the opening of the **\$5 million National Science, IT & Maths Centre**

"It is only The Nationals, as part of a Coalition Government who can deliver projects such as this. This is the largest, non-roads project funded by the Australian Government in this electorate since the last Federal election."

Trevor Khan, The Nationals Candidate for New England

"This project was developed by the University of New England with The Nationals because we both have a demonstrated joint commitment to improve the support provided to rural based school students who represent our future. The Nationals and UNE have been able to develop a most innovative program."

Professor John Pegg, Director Centre for Cognition Research in Learning and Teaching, UNE

"The Nationals were able to deliver the results we need. In my view, this program will make a real difference to ensuring that rural students will be well equipped to secure a bright future."

Professor Victor Minichiello, Dean, Faculty of Education, Health and Professional Studies, UNE

THE NATIONALS

KHAN...Can make the difference

Authorised by Bryan Page, 26 Verma Ct, Armidale 2350

KHAN CAN...

KHAN HAS...

KHAN WILL...



Trevor Khan