

Climate fighters

A new state-of-the-art research centre is heading to La Trobe University.

The State Government will build the Biosciences Research Centre to advance genomic plant and animal science, focussing on threats such as climate change to Victoria's agricultural exports.

La Trobe vice-chancellor Professor Paul Johnson says, "researchers from La Trobe working in plant and animal sciences already collaborate most productively with their colleagues in the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, and co-location will further enhance science outcomes".

The government has allocated \$180 million to the project and La Trobe is looking to commit up to \$50 million to the partnership.

Students say VC pay rate is okay

Deborah Fewster

As the pay packets of Australia's university chiefs soar above the half-million-dollar mark, the National Union of Students calls for more tertiary education funding.

Student union president Michael Nguyen said the key issue the community should be talking about is the quality of what students are getting from universities.

"Rather than highlighting what vice chancellors' pay is, it's more useful to highlight that universities are under-funded. There's not enough to attract quality staff," Mr Nguyen said.

The National Tertiary Education Union which represents university and TAFE staff, was less circumspect.

Senior national industrial

officer, Ken McAlpine, was recently reported in *The Australian* saying increases in vice chancellors' remuneration had far outstripped the salaries of rank and file staff.

Yet "other staff ... generate the productivity in universities that [is] then used as the basis for the chief executive's pay rise," Mr McAlpine said.

The Australian's survey, taken from universities' 2006 annual reports, found the vice chancellor at Monash University received a package between \$680,000 and \$689,999.


Other vice chancellor earnings revealed were that of the University of Melbourne – \$610,000.

Deakin University was between \$560,000 and \$569,999, and La Trobe University between \$522,000 and \$531,999.

RMIT University was \$500,000

and Victoria University's vice chancellor earned between \$470,000 and \$479,000.

Swinburne University was between \$360,000 and \$369,999 and Ballarat between \$310,000 and \$319,999.

The standard package for vice chancellors comprises a base salary, plus super, a performance bonus, leave loading and a university vehicle. 

Pictured Monash VC Professor Richard Larkins



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