

Election battlelines are getting drawn

With a Federal Election around the corner and education issues expected to play a significant role, the battlelines are starting to be drawn.

The Howard Government will go into the contest brandishing its \$5 billion Higher Education Endowment Fund while the Opposition will point to its Education Revolution policy while attacking the Government over \$100,000 degrees.

The Minister for Education, Julie Bishop said after this year's budget the Australian Government has made an unprecedented investment for the future of universities by establishing the Higher Education Endowment Fund with an initial investment of \$5 billion from the 2006-07 Budget surplus.

"This investment will promote excellence,

quality, and specialisation in Australian universities for years to come, helping our institutions to become truly world-class," Bishop said.

"The Fund is expected to provide a dividend of around \$900 million over three years from 2008-09, which will be distributed to universities," she said.

Speaking earlier this year at the Labor Party Conference, shadow education minister Stephen Smith criticized the lack of investment in higher education.

"We must make educational investment. It's absolutely essential for our future prosperity, our competitiveness and our capacity to be a thoughtful nation," he said.

"We need to also make sure that those students who go to university are actually in a position to enjoy that experience,

both the academic and intellectual experience, but also the whole of life experience.

"HECS as it is now structured is a massive debt burden on the nation and also a significant debt burden on individual students. It is now operating as a disincentive for some students, particularly students from lower socio-economic or disadvantaged families, to actually take up the opportunity of going to university.

The National Tertiary Education Union supports the Federal Opposition position to phase out full fee university places for Australian students.

"The Union strongly supports Labor's commitment to scrap full fee paying places for Australian undergraduate students," NTEU president Dr Carolyn Allport said.

"We have major concerns about the sustainability of a system whose growth relies on students incurring substantial debt, up to and exceeding \$200,000 for medicine and dentistry at certain institutions."

"These high fees are beyond the reach of the vast majority of Australian students, as evidenced by the fact that only a very small proportion of domestic university students currently have opted to pay full fees."

"We also believe it is inequitable that someone on a lower entry score should be able to buy a place at an Australian university when someone else with a higher entry score misses out on a government supported place."

Umpiring AFL finals



As football players prepare for the AFL finals, umpire Scott Jeffery juggles his preparation with full-time work and part-time study at Swinburne.

Jeffery umpired the Geelong v Kangaroos game on Sunday at the MCG.

Originally from Tasmania, Jeffery moved to Melbourne to further his umpiring career in 1998 and enrolled in a Bachelor

of Business at Swinburne before putting his studies on hold to work full-time at an accounting firm.

Jeffery, who has since returned to complete his business degree part-time at Swinburne, has now umpired 125 senior AFL games, two finals and exhibition game in London last year.

The AFL umpire started his career in 1992, umpiring junior football.

Monash University Academy of Performing Arts

2008 Auditions

Graduate Theatre Ensemble
Artistic Director Peter Oyston



Enquiries:

Dr Fiona Gregory
Honours Coordinator
03 9905 9206 or
Fiona.Gregory@arts.monash.edu.au

A new one year Honours course in Drama at Monash University

The Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies and Monash University Academy of Performing Arts invite applications for its Graduate Theatre Ensemble. This is an intensive program of workshops and productions with professional teachers and directors for the study towards Honours, Masters or Graduate Diploma in Theatre. The Artistic Director of this new venture is Peter Oyston - until recently teacher and Director at RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) in London. Peter has been Director at Playbox and was the founding Dean of Drama at the VCA. His ambition is to create a one year academic performance course which will prepare students for a realistic threshold into the industry.

Applications close:

Friday 2 November 2007
For further information visit
www.arts.monash.edu.au/drama-theatre/
or www.monash.edu.au/monart/

MONASH University
Academy of Performing Arts

theatre

Don't just learn about competitive advantage. Get one.



With the introduction of the Melbourne Model in 2008, one of Australia's premier commerce degrees will become even better. The new cross-disciplinary approach means you'll develop managerial breadth and specialist knowledge, as well as teamwork and problem-solving skills - the attributes you'll need to lead.

To find out more, join us at a New Generation Bachelor of Commerce information session, Wednesday 19 September at 6pm, Level 1, 161 Barry Street, Carlton (cnr Grattan Street). Enquiries: Tel. 03 8344 1922 or email bcom-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au www.bcom.unimelb.edu.au

dream large



Bachelor of Commerce