

Press Release: Australian Council of Deans of Education prepares the Victorian launch of *New Learning: A Charter for Australian Education*

The Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE) is advocating an ambitious plan for the future of Australian education during the 2001 federal election.

The ACDE is the national organisation of the deans of faculties of education and heads of schools of education in Australian universities.

The ACDE is holding a Victorian launch of *New Learning: A Charter for Australian Education*, on Monday 15 October at 9.30 a.m. The launch will feature a presentation from the President of the ACDE, Professor Mary Kalantzis, and will outline the Council's comprehensive plan for the nation.

New Learning is about turning words into action, slogans into policies, and rhetoric into reality. It is about delivering a knowledge nation in form as well as name.

Supported by over 60 graphs and tables, *New Learning* provides a direction for all sectors in Australian education based around eight propositions. The Charter analyses every sector from preschool to adult and community education, and compares them with our overseas competitors. The results are alarming. We are the worst in the OECD at funding preschool education, and among the worst at funding education overall.

New Learning also addresses topical areas such as teacher shortages, continuing the ACDE commitment to greater teacher numbers and better conditions and remuneration. Similarly, it tackles the private/public divide, arguing that the current debate over elite private schools is symptomatic of a wider problem of federal/state bickering, which engulfs every education sector.

New Learning argues that we are seen as an old economy largely because we are an old economy, and that there is an urgent need to gear up for the future. Reconceptualising the school, harnessing technology as both a message and a medium, and developing a 'new basics' are all part of the ACDE blueprint to prepare Australia for the knowledge economy.

The launch will be held at **Storey Hall, RMIT, Swanston St, Melbourne, from 9.30 a.m. on Monday 15 October**. The ACDE welcomes politicians, media, education leaders and all concerned citizens to attend.

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