



ACU NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

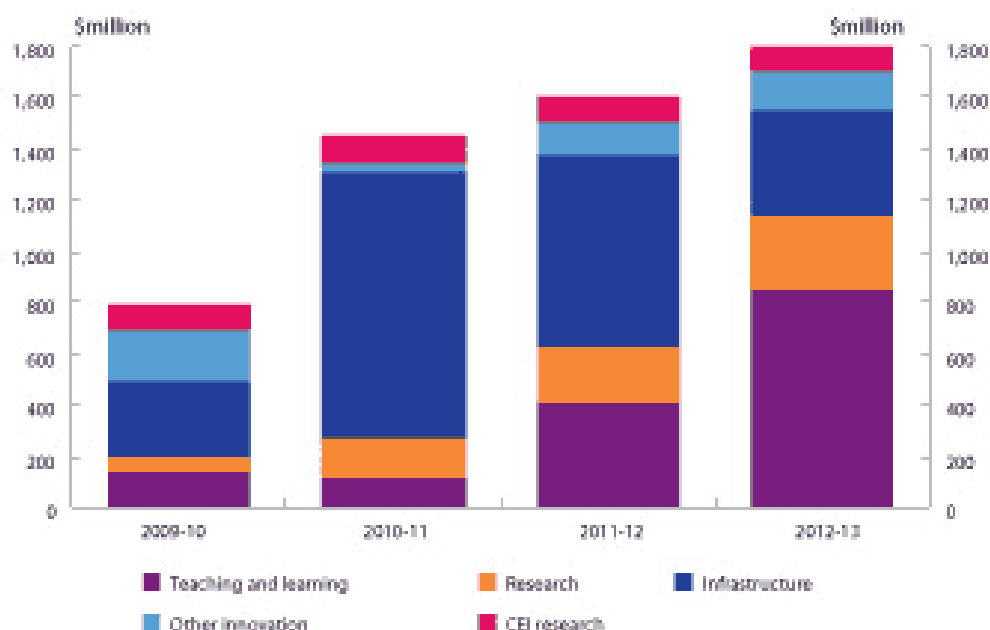
[www.acunsa.com.au/acunsa/welfare](http://www.acunsa.com.au/acunsa/welfare)

## Federal Budget Summary

*Detailed below are a summary of changes affecting students from the 2009-2010 Federal Budget.*

### University Funding

- Staggered uncapping of the number of HECS funded places, so that from 2012 there will be no caps in place (Budget Expenditure: \$491m).
- Performance-linked indexation model will deliver \$578m over 3 years, commencing in 2011, with the higher rate of indexation phased in.
- \$3 billion for infrastructure sourced from the Education Investment Fund (EIF).
- Additional \$512 million to universities for the indirect costs of research.



### Student Fees

- From 2010 Nursing and Teaching moved out of National Priority Student Contribution Band to Band One. This will increase their HECS debts from \$4162 to \$5201. However, their HECS repayments, if the graduate is substantially employed in industry, will be reduced for the first 260 weeks of employment.
- The government is allocating \$67.1 million over four years for SA-HELP loans scheme for students to be able to defer their Student and Amenities Fee payments of up to \$250 per annum.



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## Youth Allowance

- From 1 January 2010, the Parental Income Test (PIT) threshold for students applying for Youth Allowance (YA) or ABSTUDY will be increased from \$32,800 to \$42,559 per annum.
- Reduced age of independence to 22 years, with phased implementation of the measure so that the age of independence would be reduced to 24 years in 2010 years, 23 years in 2011 and 22 years in 2012.
- Stricter independence criteria: a minimum of 30 hours a week for at least 18 months in a two-year period to get Youth Allowance.
- Personal income threshold raised from \$236 to \$400 per fortnight.
- \$2,254 Start Up Scholarships will be available to all students receiving AUSTUDY, Youth Allowance and ABSUDY
- Relocation Scholarships for dependants on Youth Allowance and Abstudy who have to live away from home will provide \$4,000 in the first year at university and \$1,000 in each year thereafter and will be indexed.

## Equity

- \$437 million over 4 years to boost participation in higher education by students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- \$325 million will be invested in a new loading to reward institutions for attracting and retaining low SES students.

## New Parental Means Test Taper Rates

<b>Family Situation: no. of children on Youth Allowance</b>	<b>Current Arrangements</b>	<b>New Arrangements</b>
1 Child aged 18 at home	\$58,388	\$74,419
1 Child aged 18 away from home	\$71,532	\$90,974
2 children aged 18 and 20 at home	\$62,080	\$106,279
2 children 19 and 23 away from home	\$75,324	\$139,388

## New Quality Agency

Australian University Quality Agency (AUQA) will be abolished and replaced with a new independent national quality and regulatory agency, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA). TEQSA will oversee a new framework for quality assurance and regulation, accrediting providers and conduct audits of standards and performance.