ALTC responds to closure announcement

The Federal Government will force the Australian Learning and Teaching Council to cease operations at the end of 2011 leaving a gaping hole in the sector.

CEO, Dr Carol Nicoll responded to the Prime Minister’s announcement made earlier today.

“The ALTC represents the Australian Government’s commitment to enhancing the quality of learning and teaching in higher education through means other than regulation,” she said.

“Obviously we are deeply disappointed that the Government’s stated commitment to improving the student learning experience for Australian students is not matched by continuing funding.”

In the relatively short time since it began full operations in 2006, the ALTC’s programs have already had a measurable impact on the sector and garnered huge support amongst the higher education community.

“We are the champion of teaching and learning in the higher education sector. Without the ALTC, I am deeply concerned that important work in this area, that is central to the mission of every Australian higher education institution, will go unrecognised and unrewarded,” Dr Nicoll said.

The Chair of the ALTC Board, Professor John Hay AC, expressed his serious disappointment with the Government’s decision. He said it clearly contradicts earlier commitments to acknowledging the crucial importance of teaching excellence in higher education and rewarding the nationally and internationally recognised achievements of outstanding Australian university teachers.

“The Government has taken the easy option of abolishing the ALTC. The savings to the government will be less than $22 million per annum but the damage to the higher education sector and student outcomes will be far reaching,” he said.

Over the coming weeks ALTC will reveal the full consequences of the closure to its range of programs.
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Attached document: Impact of the ALTC, December 2010 [1]