



AUSTRALIAN
ASSOCIATION
FOR RESEARCH
IN EDUCATION

Incorporated in South Australia

**AARE is an association of individuals interested in or active in education research.
General correspondence should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary.**

The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

28 January 2010

Dear Prime Minister Gillard,

I am writing on behalf of the Australian Association for Educational Research (AARE) to express deep concern about your decision to abolish the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC).

AARE recognises the importance of re-building the areas that have been affected by the recent floods but using this as an opportunity to close the ALTC is short-sighted and likely to be counter-productive.

In its very short history, ALTC has played an extraordinarily beneficial role in advancing Australian higher education. No similar organisation has attracted such widespread support in the university sector – at both grassroots and senior management levels.

ALTC has emerged as a champion for collective action on the improvement of learning and teaching in higher education. It is contributing to the development of teaching methods and learning environments that support a wider range of student learning needs. In so doing, it helps meet the government's agenda to develop an inclusive, world-class university system.

AARE has over 1000 members, mostly from universities around Australia and overseas, and is the nation's largest member-run organisation concerned with improving education (at all levels) through the application of research-based evidence.

To ignore the wealth of evidence that the ALTC is making an outstanding contribution to improving the quality of teaching and learning in the university sector is a mistake. Closing the ALTC will not save money but simply transfer costs and kill off beneficial activity. Closing the ALTC will send a loud, negative message at home and to Australia's large international student market that the Labor government is not interested in investing in the quality of Australian higher education.

We urge you to reconsider this decision.

Sincerely

Professor Christine Halse
President (on behalf of the AARE Executive)

For a list of current officers of the association please visit www.aare.edu.au

AARE Office Services: One Geils Court, Deakin West, ACT 2600
Telephone: + 61 (02) 6285 8328 Email: aare@aare.edu.au Website: www.aare.edu.au
ABN 27 453 170 042