



## **Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee**

*the council of Australia's university presidents*

(ACN 008 502 930 - ABN 53 008 502 930)

### **AVCC Policy on Education for Sustainable Development**

The United Nations General Assembly has established 2005-2014 as the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainability (UN DESD). The goals of UN DESD are to provide every person with the chance to benefit from educational opportunities and to learn the lifestyles, behaviours and values necessary to create a sustainable future.

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) declares a commitment to Education for Sustainable Development, and acknowledges the leading role played by universities in furthering the goals of the UN DESD. By 2020, the university sector in Australia will be playing a key role in promoting sustainability in the community through research and building capacity to achieve change for sustainability. Universities will demonstrate through their campus management and administrative practices how sustainability can be implemented and how it can result in economic, social and environmental benefits.

The AVCC will strive to ensure that Higher Education in Australia is acknowledged as a major driver to society's efforts to achieve sustainability. This will be achieved through the skills and knowledge of its staff and students and through its engagement with communities. The AVCC will further promote sustainability by supporting its members and through the creation of strategic linkages with government.

In the knowledge economy the AVCC, the council of Australia's University Presidents, will take a leadership role in the articulation, promotion and the building of a consensus of values, attitudes and lifestyles for sustainability.

The AVCC encourages its members to:

- create an appropriate institutional culture of sustainable development through benchmarking and the sharing of good practice;
- build capacity in the community by educating the next generation of professionals and leaders to become fully aware of sustainability:
  - for students, consider embedding elements of sustainability at appropriate levels in academic programs;
  - for staff, consider implementing Professional Development programs on sustainability themes;
- have a clearly enunciated policy on sustainable development for all capital works, including the building of new as well as the refurbishment of existing infrastructure;
- engage with schools, industry and communities in partnership and projects which promote sustainable development; and
- undertake research which will strengthen sustainable development and education for sustainable development.