“Everything under the heavens is in chaos. The situation is excellent…”
- Chairman Mao Zedong
EXTERNAL CONTEXT

• **2008**: New Rudd Labor Government: period of reviews especially Bradley, Cutler, Mortimer, RTS, Bennett.

• **Early 2009**: Emergence of Global Financial Crisis and, in education, Indian Student Crisis: structure and Budget framework decisions on review recommendations by Government.

• **Later 2009**: Consultations over program implementation of Government’s framework decisions.
1. **Reviews:**
   - Influencing Reviews especially re indexation, full-cost of research, enhanced teaching and learning funding, and better student income support; **while**
   - offering co-operation on complementary structural changes eg quality regulation and improved pathways; **and**
   - detailed consultation for well-informed implementation including in international education to address Indian Student Crisis (Ten Point Plan etc).
2. **Advocacy:**

- Support own advocacy by increased partnership with other stakeholders – ranging from NTEU to BCA; **and**

- greater representation in the media, especially national quality media; **and**

- by generating merit based evidence for universities’ contribution eg Student Finance, KPMG Economic Benefit and Public Diplomacy Studies.
3. Budget:

- Pressing for fast-tracked and supplemented competitive infrastructure funding during Reviews and Recession and for additional formula-based Funds; **plus**
- enhanced recurrent funding for teaching and learning, competitive research grants and student services and income support.
EXTERNAL OUTCOMES

• **Reviews**: All major Reviews recommended positions as broadly proposed in Universities Australia and other sector submissions.

• **Government Decisions**: Many key non-financial recommendations of Reviews accepted by Government in a series of addresses beginning with UA Inaugural Conference March 2009 and including 40/20 targets.

• **Budget**: Government provided substantial infrastructure support for the universities via EIF/ BURF/ TLCF in 2008 and 2009 Budgets and commitment to revised indexation and research indirect cost funding in 2009 Budget.
DEMAND DRIVEN ENROLMENTS: 40% TARGET FOR 2020
SOCIAL INCLUSION: 20% TARGET BY 2020
A NEW BUDGET FRAMEWORK
A NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

• A Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) will be established in 2010 for higher education and expanded to VET in 2013.
• TEQSA will administer a new standards-based quality assurance framework, including discipline standards.
• Compacts to be negotiated directly with the Government (DEEWR & DIISR).
• ESOS Act to change and reform of Australian Education International and DIAC visa arrangements.
• Higher Education and VET under a new Ministerial Council: MCTEE.
• AQFC to play a key role in post-Bradley tertiary environment.
• Expanded mandates for Skills Australia and National Centre for Vocational Education Research and by IDP.
• AARNet role in proposed VET Broadband Network and NBN.
• New National Health Workforce Planning arrangements.
• Fully regulated fees for domestic undergraduate places combined with student-centred demand driven enrolment.
New/Ongoing Reviews/Consultations: Programmatic Specificity

- Senate/Baird/COAG international students
- Renewal and growth of academic workforce
- Base load funding review
- Performance funding indicators
- Regional Inquiries including Loading
- Compact Development
- MCTEE/ TEQSA/ AQFC
- ERA/ SRE
- Full Cost of Research
- Responsible Conduct
- IP Australia reviews
Programmatic Specificity (cont’d)

- Higher Education Data Reference Group
- NHMRC Harmonisation of Multi-Centre Ethical Review (HoMER)
- Australian Research Collaboration Service
- International Postgraduate Research Scholarships
- Graduate Careers Australia Code
- Governance Best Practice Protocols
- Academic Freedom legislation initiatives
- National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce
- PLUS national priority CSP, SES definition, indexation formula development etc etc
FOLLOWING TOO

Plus tracking:
• Aggregation of Compact arrangements
• Pape and High Court case implications
• TEQSA Reference Group
• DIISR industry program implications eg Enterprise Connect, R&D Tax Credit, National Commercialisation Institute, National Innovation Councils
• DIISR special infrastructure schemes: National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Scheme and Committee, ANDS, EIF
• DIISR Higher Education Advisory Committee
• International research linkages invigoration
KEY NEGATIVES

• Overall funding commitments less than Bradley/Cutler recommendations
• Most benefit in out-years, especially after next election
• Relative emphasis on teaching and learning modest in early years
• EIF allocations will be less than HEEF provision
• A greater regulatory burden may eventuate in some areas if care is not taken
• Student income support reform has been cost-neutral and did not provide for adequate “grandfathering”
• Student Services and amenities legislation outcome is still uncertain
• Indian market still fragile and new international regulation arrangements still to be determined
• MYEFO uncertainties: EIF deferral, AEI transfer, student services HECS provision, FEE HELP charges
UA ARRANGEMENTS

Organisation: Members (UNDA), Board (Sutton, Larkins, Coaldrake; Audit Committee), meetings (Joint Chancellors, Plenary, Worksop, Board, DVC-4 and protocols, UAEW, Policy Analysts).

Media and Government Relations:

• Media: Australian, AFR, ABC, Campus Review, Commercial radio and television, city and regional press, web services and organisation branding, conference organisation and support including UA Annual Conference and, as required, National Forums.

• Government: Ministers and Government members, Opposition members, State Governments, central agencies federal and state/territory, DEEWR, DIISR, IHEAC, HAC, CSIRO, ARC, NHMRC, DOPIE (incl RRDC), DOD (incl DSTO), DFAT, DIAC, ATO, Productivity Commission, Skills Australia, Infrastructure Australia, Australia Council, ALGA, MCTEE, AUQA, AQFC, NCVER, PMSEIC, ACCC, state/territory education and research and innovation departments
UA ARRANGEMENTS (cont’d)

Partnership:

- **International** – UUK, NZVCC, EUA, ACU, AUCC, OECD, EC, UNESCO, ACA, CEAIE, AIU, overseas governments and diplomatic missions

- **Sectoral** - NTEU, NUS, CAPA, GCA, AARNET, LH MARTIN, ALTC, IDP, TDA, ACPET, CHASS, FASTS, NAF, BHERT, IEAA, English Australia, Councils of Deans, CAUL, CAUDIT, AUS, ATEM, TVET, Open Universities Australia, SIFE, AISEC, AAGE, NAGCAS, Unisuper, TEFMA, Fulbright Commission, ACEN, ACER, Australia 21, DDOGS, ATN, Go8, IRUA, Independent SCA, ISANA, Unimutual

- **Business & Community**: BCA, ACCI, AIG, CEDA, ASR, Professions Australia, ACOSS, IPAA, Banks, Committee for Melbourne, Office of Knowledge Capital, Tourism Australia, Australia Unlimited, NSW Business Chamber
Services:

- Higher Education Services subsidiary; AHEA building services.
- CAL, ABS, Elsevier, Thomson Reuters, Sound
- International Promotion eg Shanghai Expo, International Student Barometer, Shadowing Programs; Indigenous Cultural Competency Project
- Appointment of university representatives to national bodies, organisations, inquiries
- Secretariat support for logistics, papers, minutes, for organisation meetings
UA ARRANGEMENTS (cont’d)

Staff and Budget:
• 21 staff and $3 million secretariat Budget. Average membership cost is $100k (check).
• Adjusted for changing functions and priorities: eg more international in 2009, more special project capacity, more conference capacity replacing professional development program
• Conditions of service revamped, professional development and occupational health and safety prioritised, support functions market tested eg IT, audit, consultancies, teleconferencing

- One Government Submission per fortnight.
- One media mention per day.
- On meeting supported per fortnight.
- Two stakeholder meetings per day.
- One Position Paper or Study per half-year.
- Three sector representation appointments per week.
- One speech/presentation per fortnight.
Some Attributable Outcomes

- Appointment of Professor Bradley to chair major Review
- Extensive use of UA submissions in Review reports and recommendations
- Inducing Better Universities Renewal Fund in May 2008 Budget
- KPMG Econtech Study crucial to sustaining May 2009 Budget outcomes
- Finance Study a major stimulus and resource for Student Equity policies
- Stimulation of BCA and CEDA higher education projects
- Negotiation of major sector savings in CAL, ABS, Elsevier contracts
- Prompt development of Ten Point Plan and associated international education initiatives, including India Australia Strategic Research Fund expansion
2010 Big Issues for Universities

• The Funding Squeeze: limited indexation and full cost funding, rejection of Bradley on teaching and learning, enterprise bargaining, investment and commercial weakness, international market risks.

• The Regulatory Burden: potential for high costs of detailed regulatory and accountability mechanisms being developed, and for regulatory bias because of new tertiary institutions not well-informed about higher education.

• Adjustment Capacity: ability to respond to demand-driven entry systems and access and equity requirements.

• Sectoral Co-operation: universities’ unity in diversity; working with other providers and stakeholders; external protocols with Government
2010 Budget Priorities?

• Restate and document major economic contribution made by higher education to productivity, skills, export, employment, debt reduction and interest rate reduction.
• Lock-In Commitments from 2009 and oppose any MYEFO style backsliding.
• Suggest enhancement of commitments to grow benefits and bring them forward.
• Seek fiscal improvement through program consolidation and better systematic and professional expenditure evaluation.
• Propose off-budget instruments to assist higher education support eg HECS bonds
2010 Regulatory Priorities?

- TEQSA establishment and operations with a focus on accreditation, standards and associated bodies.
- Base funding formula determination and linkages to regional and equity and other funding formula.
- ERA arrangements and linkage to funding formula.
- Response to and implementation of International Review decisions.
- Determination of integration of compacts with national priorities, including sequencing and consistency of government targets.
2010 Advocacy Priorities

- A new tertiary education economic benefit analysis including for individual states and territories for Budget.
- Public preference for higher education funding and electoral salience of universities analyses for Election.
- Contribution studies for ecological sustainability and for social/cultural/ community benefit.
- Studies for tertiary integration, base funding, regional funding and for infrastructure needs.
- Enhance Government Relations program for access and influence to central agencies and Ministers and key service agencies.
- Use UA Conference and new National Forums as major occasions for reputation enhancement.