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## **Tertiary**

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**Madame President, Distinguished Guests, members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to present the Tertiary Portfolio Report for 2021.**

The past year was certainly disputed, and tertiary education was in the thick of it.

At university level there were campus closures, loss of international students and their fees, moving course content online and cuts to teaching and support staff.

I do not know the deferment rate of students but suspect it was greatly increased due to a number of factors, not least the loss of the campus lifestyle and the knock-on effect of the loss of student employment opportunities in hospitality and retail.

### **Federal Government:**

In the last budget the Australian Government announced funding for 100,000 new apprenticeships through wage support (\$7000 per quarter).

At the university level, \$157 million is to be invested in new research plan, as well as \$900 million for more university places and support for student (12,000 new places for Australian students and an extra 50,000 short course places. The push for women to pursue STEM careers will receive \$25 million as part of industry-sponsored training.

### **New South Wales Government:**

We made a submission to the NSW Parliament's Portfolio Committee No.3 – Education report into the Future Development of the NSW Tertiary Education Sector. The report has been released and some motions at this conference will take recommendations forward to the NSW Government.

The NSW Auditor-Generals report into failure to meet predicted savings for TAFE.

### **Country University Centres:**

The right fit for the times I would suggest. The expansion of centres in NSW and the increased enrolments during the past year are very welcome.

### **Micro-credentials:**

On-the-job training and short courses are growing as employers target specific skill sets for their staff.

Thank you to my fellow councillors and especially Claire Butler for her leadership of ICPA.

**Tim Fletcher**

**Tertiary portfolio.**

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