



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Congratulations UNE

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has congratulated the University of New England on their being awarded a prestigious University "Institutional Award" in Canberra today.

The award was announced by the Minister for Education Science and Training, the Hon Brendan Nelson at a special event in Parliament House attended by many of the heads of Australia's Universities and other education dignitaries including the University of New England's Vice Chancellor, Prof Ingrid Moses.

The Institutional Award presented to the University of New England and comes with \$50,000 in prize money, was in the category of 'Innovative and practical approach to the provision of support services (on and/or off campus) that assist the learning of students.'

The program developed by the University of New England was called – **tUNEup: Skills for successful university learning**.

The University of New England established the tUNEup programme after identifying that over 39 per cent of its student population came from a rural background.

The tUNEup programme is a combination of independent learning resources and workshops that assist students from rural areas and students doing external study to develop academic and learning skills. The program modules include general study skills, academic writing, information technology skills and some specific mathematical components of university courses.

As testament to its innovation, the program was included in the Australian Publishers' Association 2000 Technology Showcase catalogue of 'world-class educational resources'.

In congratulating the University of New England, Mr Windsor said, "It's a fantastic result for UNE, our regional University and one that reflects the quality of education available through UNE.

It also reflects the commitment of UNE to meeting the needs of the students from rural areas.

In achieving such recognition, it is clear that the University of New England is playing its part in providing a high quality of education in a country centre that will assist in providing young people with a country experience and hopefully retain them as future community leaders in the country."