



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
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Media Release

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UNE Medical school gets go ahead

The joint University of New England/University of Newcastle medical school funding release commitment by the Australian Government announced by the Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP today, has been welcomed by the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor.

“I am very pleased that the Minister Julie Bishop has indicated that the Australian Government would release its commitment to allow the University of New England and the University of Newcastle to progress their plans to open their new medical school next year.

It appears that the Commonwealth has seen good sense and will not hold up the development of the program that will see 60 medical students trained at the UNE with practical work to take place at the Tamworth, Armidale and Taree Hospitals.

The other pleasing announcement recently for higher education is the \$5B Education Endowment Fund which according to the University Vice Chancellors will take care of any future capital needs.

I congratulate the initiators of the project Prof Victor Minichiello, Prof Peter Flood, Debra Panizzon and Dr John Kleeman who first spoke on the proposal at the Vision New England Summit in 2003 gaining the support of all regional groups to push for its establishment.

It will be a great asset to increasing the number of doctors who will want to practice in country Australia and further enhance the reputation of the University of New England as being a leader in its field,” Mr Windsor said.

Further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868