

# MEDIA RELEASE

[Wednesday 11 September 2024]

## AUSTRALIA'S FIRST DEDICATED CONSULTANCY FOR A CHANGING HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR

To meet the growing opportunities and challenges of the Higher Education sector, **Higher Education Advisory** ('HEA') was launched today by Scott Davies, the former Chief of Staff to the Minister for Education, and Nick Campbell, one of Australia's leading public affairs and strategy advisers.

"We're pleased to launch this experienced, bipartisan partnership, which will cater to the complex needs of the Higher Education Sector. Now more than ever, the sector is critical to Australia's innovation and growth" said HEA Principal, **Nick Campbell**.

"The political and policy environment for Higher Education in Australia has become so sophisticated that tertiary institutions require a dedicated, expert team to provide advice and counsel at a critical inflexion point. That's why we created this new and exciting *Higher Education Advisory*," said HEA Principal, **Scott Davies**.

Nexus APAC is a leading public affairs and strategic communications firm with over 30 years of experience. Led by Chairman Nick Campbell, Nexus APAC is made up of experienced corporate affairs professionals who have worked in senior roles in business, government and the higher education sector.

Scott Davies is the Principal of Reign-Maker Advisory and is the former Chief of Staff to the Federal Minister for Education. Scott also leads a boutique communications and public policy consultancy, offering senior strategic counsel. He has advised governments, leading universities and global corporations in his career.

HEA's combined team has in-depth experience engaging with Australia's leading universities across a range of areas, including 4 Regional Universities Network (RUN) Universities, 3 Australian Technology Network (ATN) Universities, and 3 Group of Eight (Go8) Universities.

"The value of Australia's higher education sector cannot be understated. It is vital that Australia's 42 universities are fully prepared to address the nation's economic and productivity issues," said HEA Director, **Addison Ridge**.

"It is also critical that our universities continue to foster the growth and success of students, researchers and academics."

According to Universities Australia, each new university graduate delivers an average of \$891,000 in benefits to the broader economy over their lifetime.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, lifting investment in higher education research and development by just one per cent would raise productivity and increase the size of Australia's economy by \$24 billion over 10 years.<sup>2</sup>

"Australia's Higher Education sector is undergoing its most consequential change since the Dawkins reforms of the 1980s. The Australian Universities Accord, the proposed new funding model for Commonwealth Supported Places, the Job-ready Graduates Package, the Higher Education Loan Program, and the Tertiary Education Commission are in varying states of review and renovation. The sector will face ongoing innovation and change in the next decade at an increased rate." noted Mr Davies.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://universitiesaustralia.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Universities-Australia\\_2024-25-pre-budget-submission.pdf](https://universitiesaustralia.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Universities-Australia_2024-25-pre-budget-submission.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://universitiesaustralia.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Universities-Australia\\_2024-25-pre-budget-submission.pdf](https://universitiesaustralia.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Universities-Australia_2024-25-pre-budget-submission.pdf)

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“Using our combined expertise in public affairs, strategy, communications and risk, *Higher Education Advisory* is committed to providing tertiary institutions, students, academics and the broader community with crucial, timely support,” said Mr Campbell.

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