New Places
Murdoch will receive an additional 80 student places from 2007, rising to 208 EFTSL by 2010. These include 40 new places in the Bachelor of Engineering, 25 in the Bachelor of Nursing at Peel and 15 Master of Applied Psychology places. This was the full complement of places for which Murdoch submitted a bid.

Nationally, the Government will provide more than 4,600 new Commonwealth supported places, once the full effect of the pipeline of base growth occurs over the next three years. Western Australia received 435 of these places, growing to 1,171 places by 2010.

Places were allocated by the Commonwealth to areas of skills needs and student demand, particularly in regional and outer-metropolitan areas. Emphasis was placed on the training of engineers, nurses, clinical psychologists and teachers. While the majority of new places were provided to public universities, 130 places were provided to the private University of Notre Dame, primarily in the National Priority areas of nursing and teaching but also including medical places.

Supplementary Funding
Under the Commonwealth funding guidelines, all higher education providers need to comply with both the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements (HEWRRs) and the National Governance Protocols in order to be eligible to receive increased levels of Commonwealth Grant Scheme funds. From 2007 the amount of funding is 7.5% of the total institutional CGS funds, approximately $4 million for Murdoch in 2007.

Murdoch has previously received advice from DEST that it is compliant with the National Governance Protocols (NGPs). However, DEST drew attention to the that the Murdoch Act does not specifically require a majority of independent external members on Senate, a key NGP requirement. The terms of reference for the Governance & Nominations Committee require that, in making its recommendations, the committee will also take into account the specific mandated requirements of the NGPs, including members with financial and commercial expertise and a majority external membership. This provision will be highlighted in our compliance certification documents.

As I recently advised, the University’s new Collective Workplace Agreements have been overwhelmingly approved by staff in the recent ballot. The Agreements have been lodged with the Office of the Employment Advocate and have effect from 16 August 2006.

Importantly, the Agreements allow the University to meet the HEWRRs while providing a Murdoch-focused workplace relations framework that will help us to meet many of the challenges of the coming years.
It is our view that we now comply with NGPs and HEWRRs and will therefore secure that additional CGS funding.

Diversity Agenda
In her recent public addresses the Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop, has expressed the view that Australia does not have the capacity to maintain thirty-seven comprehensive public universities and that greater diversity is needed between institutions. Indeed, she has indicated that she will use all funding measures at her disposal to increase diversity in the Australian higher education sector. I have included a cogent critique of the “Diversity Agenda” under the Matters for Information section of the Agenda.

National Protocols
The Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA), has agreed to a range of measures as part of revisions to the National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes (“the National Protocols”). Changes will:

- allow high quality higher education providers to accredit their own courses, rather than through accreditation processes run by State Governments. Currently only universities and a handful of other institutions established by State or Commonwealth legislation can accredit their own courses.
- provide specialist institutions access to the title of university. This is in line with overseas practice and means that Australia may see initiatives such as a University of Performing Arts, or University of Mines and Resources, or similar.
- clarify requirements for overseas higher education institutions seeking to operate in Australia. In particular, research and higher degree teaching requirements will be reduced for new universities in their first five years of establishment.

The revised Protocols and guidelines are due to be implemented by the end of 2007, pending legislative change in all jurisdictions, and will be reviewed no later than 2012.

Learning and Teaching Performance Fund
At the annual conference of the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA) held in Perth, the Minister for Education, Science and Training announced changes to the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund (LTPF).

For 2006 the LTPF recognised excellence in teaching and learning on a whole-of-institution basis. The most significant change will be the allocation of the $82 million available for 2007 on the basis of four broad discipline areas:

- science, computing, engineering, architecture and agriculture;
- business, law and economics;
- humanities, arts and education; and
- health.

In addition, there will be changes to the performance indicators and all indicators will be given equal weighting. Further work remains to be completed, in cooperation with the sector, on the measurements of excellence with a view to assessing the attitudes of all students to the quality of the education they receive and tracking the success of students post-graduation.

In moving towards a discipline-oriented format the Minister is seeking to encourage universities to “play to their strengths and focus their teaching and learning efforts in particular areas”. This is seen as one measure to be used to encourage diversity in higher education in Australia.
Earlier this year ten staff were selected to receive Vice Chancellor’s Citations for Excellence in Enhancing Learning. These awards are designed to encourage recognition of the many and diverse contributions that combine to create effective learning environments. These ten staff were then put forward as Murdoch’s nominees for Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning under the 2006 Carrick Australian Awards for University Teaching.

The Carrick Institute was established in 2004 to be a focal point for the enhancement of learning and teaching in Australian universities. It will receive $26 million annually from the Australian Government to manage its competitive grants and awards schemes.

The Carrick Citations, awarded for the first time this year, form part of an expanded programme of awards. They recognise and reward the diverse contributions that individuals and teams make to the quality of student learning and are valued at $10,000. A total of 210 awards are made nationally.

Six staff from Murdoch University have been selected to receive Carrick Citations. The successful nominees, with detail of their Citation, are:

The successful nominees are:
1. Ms Geraldine Box
   For sustained commitment to equity students through the development and administration of enabling programs and innovative support services, and providing on going support for equity students
2. Associate Professor Lorraine Marshall
   For innovation, sustained refinement and leadership in the integration of generic skills and content in first year Foundation Units between 1976 and 2006
3. Dr Julia Hobson
   For specialist expertise in the design, development and teaching of support programs for postgraduate students (both research and by course work) at Murdoch University.
4. Dr Jennifer Mills
   For the design, development and sharing of teaching resources and implementation of workshops to enhance professional communication and workplace skills for veterinary students
5. Dr Angus Morrison-Saunders
   For ongoing contribution to enhancing engagement, effectiveness and efficiency in student learning.
6. Dr Christine Creagh
   For excellence and passion in establishing and maintaining and outstanding learning environment for her students

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Rob Phillips Manager, Open, Distance and e-Learning was recently awarded a Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA) Fellowship. His citation read:
  "Rob supports academics in enhancing student learning, particularly through the use of educational technology. Rob plays a significant role as an educational designer of
technology-supported learning environments and has written widely on the scholarship of learning and teaching.”

- A team of MBS students comprising Cara Bakker, Natalie Le, Sarjit Singh and Brett Smith won the Deloitte Dream Team University Competition. The team was awarded a prize of $1000, plus guaranteed work with Deloitte during the coming summer break. The Deloitte Dream Team program is an innovative competition run by Deloitte for motivated students across all disciplines. Students work in a team of four to solve a business case study over the course of three weeks. The competition pitted teams of students from all five Western Australian universities against each other to prove that they are the ultimate “dream team”.

- Fairbridge are joint State Winners of the 2006 Prime Minister’s Awards for Community Business Partnerships in the Large Business Category with Alcoa World Alumina. Murdoch has a Memorandum of understanding with Fairbridge and pleased to see the positive effect they are having in the Peel region.

**NOTABLE EVENTS**

**Courses and Careers Day**
The first of the University’s annual Courses and Careers Day was held on Sunday, 30th July 2006 on the South Street Campus. It is estimated that some 2,000 people attended the event, a significant increase on the approximately 1,800 people who attended last year. The vast majority of attendees were current Year 12 students who showed a strong level of interest and engagement with the University.

Our second Courses and Careers Day was held on the Rockingham Campus on Sunday, 20th August 2006. Whilst attendance was slightly down on last year, there was a steady flow of applicants, many of whom were matured aged applicants, throughout the day who were interested in a broad range of Murdoch courses.

I would like to thank the Prospective Students and Admissions Centre and all Murdoch staff and students who contributed to these days. Your ongoing participation and support is appreciated.

- A presentation ceremony for the 2006 Hyogo Joint Summer Session at Sea on-board Scholarship Students was held on 30 June 2006. The ceremony was hosted by Mr Masa Ogawa, Director of the Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre. Radha Krishnan attended on behalf of Murdoch.
  Six Murdoch students received awards that provide airfare to Osaka, where they will have a week in Kobe touring the Kobe-Osaka region. They then board the Summer Session at Sea ship for its journey to Fremantle. The strength of Murdoch’s Japanese program is underlined by the number of on-board scholarships which is more than any other institution.

- The Premier, the Hon Alan Carpenter, and Minister for Science and Innovation, the Hon Fran Logan, launched the WA Biotechnology Industry Development Strategy at the State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre on 10th August 2006. The launch was attended by Nobel Prize winner Professor Barry Marshall and former Australians of the Year Professors Fiona Wood and Fiona Stanley, as well as representatives from Murdoch, the biotechnology industry and Government departments with a responsibility for biotechnology policy. Murdoch is already a major player in biotechnology research and will be pivotal in implementation of the Strategy through the relocation of the Department of Agriculture to the South Street campus which will build on our existing strengths in agricultural and...
veterinary biotechnology and the capacity of the WA State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre. This was recognised by the Premier in choosing to launch the Strategy at Murdoch.

- Together with a number of Murdoch representatives, including the Chair of the Engineering Industry Advisory Committee, I attended the Engineering Week Lunch held on 17th August 2006. Mick Lilley, Head of Government Business, Corporate Finance within the Investments Banking Group at Macquarie Bank spoke on the topic: “WA’s Booming Economy – Is It Sustainable?”.
  The announcement of the agreement for the professional development programme between Engineers Australia and Murdoch University was also made during this lunch.

- The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Enterprise & International) hosted Adolfo Morales Villamizar, the Administrative Chancellor at University Innca in Columbia for a week-long ‘shadowing’ exercise from 21st August 2006 under the Latin American Executive Leadership Program managed by the AVCC. Innca is a private university located in the capital city of Bogota that has around 4,000 students and 500 staff and has expertise in arts, economics and finance, education, engineering, law, music, computer science and technology.
  The program aims to provide the Latin American participants with an improved awareness of Australian higher education administration practices and a bilateral opportunity to strengthen cooperative links between Latin American and Australian universities.

- Funds raised from the World Refugee Day lunch organised by the staff from the Equity, Access & Diversity office and held on 20th June 2006 have been matched by a donation from the Vice Chancellor. $500 was raised by gold coin donations made by students and staff at the lunch. At a formal ceremony, Jan Ryan, President of the United Nations Association of Australia, accepted a cheque for $1000, which will go towards the UN Refugee Agency’s International Education, Sport and Health Program for young refugees.

- Murdoch has developed strong links with refugee groups who have settled in Perth, with the aim of providing individuals with tertiary educational opportunities. The majority of these students currently enrolled are originally from Sudan and many have spent several years in refugee camps in other African countries.

- The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, the Hon Allanah McInternan, visited the Research Institute for Sustainable Energy (RISE) on 23rd August 2006 for a display of a new type of vehicle that the Department has acquired for demonstration purposes.

- The Hon Mark McGowan, Minister for the Environment; Racing and Gaming, visited the Rockingham campus library on 25th August 2006 to read for Children’s Book Week.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

A new offshore agreement has been signed with APMI Kaplan in Singapore for the delivery of the Bachelor of Commerce majors Hospitality & Tourism Management and Marketing Management in Singapore and Hong Kong. Delivery is scheduled to commence in the the January Trimester of 2007.

KDU College in Malaysia is scheduled to commence delivery of the Bachelor of Commerce (major Human Resource Management) on the Petaling Jaya and Penang Campuses in February 2007. KDU PJ will also commence delivery, for the first time, of Bachelor of Science majors in Games Technology and Computer Science in February 2007.

New exchange agreements have been established with Lancaster University in the UK and Waterloo University in Ontario, Canada.
**RECOMMENDATION**

**Murdoch University Foundation**

The terms of Ms Karen Brown, Mr Terry Budge and Mr Richard Alder as trustees of the Murdoch University Foundation are due to expire in the near future. At its meeting held on 5th July 2006 the Foundation trustees considered the ongoing membership of the Board of Trustees. The continuation of the terms of Ms Brown, Mr Budge and Mr Alder was supported and each of the trustees agreed to serve for a further three-years.

Emerita Professor Kat Longley has significant expertise and a wide range of contacts in the broader community, particularly in the catchment area of Murdoch’s regional campuses. As a result, the trustees supported her appointment to the Board of Trustees.

The Trustees of the Murdoch University Foundation **recommend** that Senate approve the re-appointment of Ms Karen Brown, Mr Terry Budge and Mr Richard Alder; and approve the nomination of Emerita Professor Kat Longley to the Murdoch University Foundation for a three year term from the date of approval.