



# MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

23 July 2010

## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE'S VCA RESPONSE A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION: NTEU

The NTEU has today cautiously welcomed the University of Melbourne's response to the Switkowski report into the Victorian College of the Arts and Music, subject to further clarification of the State and Federal Governments' expected announcements.

"The University has acknowledged many of the concerns raised by us and the wider arts community that practice-based training and an industry focus are essential to the future of the VCAM," said NTEU Victorian Division Secretary Matthew McGowan.

"We also acknowledge Prof. Sharman Pretty's decision to step down as Dean of the College to facilitate the healing period ahead."

"There are a number of areas where we are still waiting for details. The curriculum review for example should involve genuine consultation with staff, students and the arts community.

"There should be a real conversation about the role of cross-disciplinary collaboration before firm decisions are made about the split of music from the VCA into a Conservatorium. We will be seeking to engage with the University about these and other issues," said Mr McGowan.

"This report makes it clear that that without additional funding courses and subjects will continue to be cut," said Mr McGowan.

"Increased funding from the State and Federal Governments will be vital to securing the future of the College. The Federal Government in particular has the ability to solve the funding crisis that has precipitated many of the problems at the VCAM.

"We especially welcome the indications by Premier John Brumby that a funding arrangement could be secured. Adequate funding for the VCAM is essential for the College's long term future, and for the future of arts training in Victoria," he said.

### **For more information**

**Matthew McGowan**, Secretary NTEU Victorian Division  
0417 054 110

**Alex White**, Communications Officer, NTEU Victorian Division  
0403 694 397  
awhite@vic.nteu.org.au