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Media Release

Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability (ARIES) launched at Macquarie University

19 August 2004

At lunch time today Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, will launch the Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability (ARIES) based at Macquarie University. ARIES is the first national institute devoted to the research of education for sustainability and has been established with a \$1.8 million funding boost from the Federal Government.

ARIES will be directed by Associate Professor Daniella Tilbury from Macquarie University's Graduate School of the Environment, a world-renowned expert on sustainability and also the Global Chair in Education for Sustainable Development of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication.

Tilbury explains the Institute will undertake a range of research projects aimed at better understanding methods of motivating and engaging organisations, governments, communities, and individuals into making changes for environmental sustainability. The research outcomes will be used to inform national strategy.

"ARIES will be developing partnerships from across the sectors and states to ensure that the research is valuable and relevant," Tilbury said.

The \$1.8 million funding is provided through the Australian Government's \$3 billion Natural Heritage Trust and will fulfil the need identified in the Government's National Action Plan for Environmental Education for effective environmental education research and high quality resources.

It comes on top of an initial grant of \$500,000 made by the previous Minister, Dr David Kemp in December last year for environmental education research at Macquarie University.

"We were thrilled to be singled out for the first Commonwealth funding allocation in this field," said Macquarie University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Di Yerbury. "The Government decision last December was superbly well timed, the grant allowing research and development for the UN Decade in Education for Sustainable Development commencing in 2005.

"I am delighted that the new Minister for the Environment and Heritage has extended his support for environmental education research in Australia by providing the funds to establish ARIES, the first national institute devoted to the research of education for sustainability," Yerbury said.

Launch details:

12.30pm Thursday 19 August 2004

Function Room, Building E11A, Macquarie University, North Ryde. Light refreshments will be served.

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