



**Jon Stanhope** MLA  
**CHIEF MINISTER**

TREASURER MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**CHIEF MINISTER WELCOMES ANU CONNECT CEO  
APPOINTMENT**

The Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, today welcomed the appointment of Professor Tim Hirst as the first permanent Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ANU Connect Pty Ltd.

“Professor Hirst is an excellent appointment to this important position and we look forward to seeing him drive the organisation towards its objectives and potential,” the Chief Minister said.

ANU Connect is a \$30M pre-seed investment fund formed through a partnership between the ANU, MTAA Superannuation Fund and the ACT Government. The ACT Government has contributed a \$10 million repayable grant to the initiative, matched by a \$20 million commitment from the Motor Trades Association of Australia. The ANU is also supporting the initiative by providing ‘first look’ access to ANU generated Intellectual Property as well other inkind support.

“Funding via ANU Connect has been designed to plug a significant hole in the volume of commercialisation development capital that is available locally,” Mr Stanhope said. “The input of experienced managerial and commercialisation expertise via ANU Connect’s involvement is also a significant outcome.”

Mr Stanhope noted that the ACT was without question Australia’s leading research cluster and there existing was a wealth of opportunity to convert this ‘smartz’ to new businesses and high value jobs.

Importantly, support from ANU Connect is accessible to technology based startup firms and other commercialisation and innovation opportunities across the ACT. To date about half the investment opportunities under active review have come from non-ANU related sources.

Mr Stanhope also thanked ANU Connect’s interim CEO Professor Lawrence Cram and the Chairman of of ANU Connect Mr David Gaul for the important work they had done in establishing the ANU Connect model in partnership with the Territory and MTAA.

Statement Ends

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