

THE AUSTRALIAN

New student precinct for Melbourne

Lyons founding director Carey Lyon in a student precinct his firm recently designed at the University of Melbourne's neighbouring institution, RMIT.

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In today's **Higher Ed Daily Brief**: Melbourne's big renovation

Show new precinct

The **University of Melbourne** has chosen the designers for its next big Parkville campus renovation, a showy new student precinct.

A design team led by **Lyons Architecture** will work with students to create "a diversity of social spaces, mixed-use retail, food and beverage outlets and increased contemporary study spaces for the whole campus community".

Lyons founding director **Carey Lyon** said his firm would be leading a team of landscape designers and architects to create an "incredible new precinct".

"Our design team, who are all university alumni, are looking forward to working closely with students so that the design positively reflects their aspirations for a campus experience," Mr Lyon said.

Other firms in the team include US-based Koning Eizenberg Architects, Aspect Studios, Breathe Architecture, NMBW Architecture Studio, Greenaway Architects, Glas Urban and Architects EAT.

Spend on unis, not tax cuts

Economist **Glenn Withers**, who is also the founding CEO of **Universities Australia**, has taken to print to put his view that "university is not a waste of time and money" for students. He writes in *The Conversation*: "University spending more than pays its way, including for public budgets for future generations, and should be compared carefully to other spending."

He says that spending more on universities would have more impact on jobs and growth than using the same amount of money for company tax cuts.

Professor Withers also notes that Australia spends less than most **OECD countries** on the public funding of universities.

Cochlear's big gift

Bionic ear company **Cochlear** will give \$US10 million to the Bloomberg School of Public Health at **Johns Hopkins University** in the US to fund hearing loss and public health research.

The gift, to be made over 10 years, will establish the Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health and be used for research studies on hearing loss (particularly among older adults), to test ways of mitigating its effects.

Cochlear already has a close relationship with **Macquarie University** and its global headquarters is on Macquarie's campus in Sydney.

Cochlear said its new relationship with Johns Hopkins meant there was the opportunity for shared postdoctoral fellowships, a shared Masters of Public Health program, shared PhD programs and faculty exchanges between the two universities.