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# media release

for immediate release

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Attention: Chief of Staff / News Editor

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MISSING IN ACTION IN CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

The biggest Central Queensland employer, Central Queensland University, is still set to lose up to 200 jobs by the end year.

Today the Australian Services Union met with the Vice Chancellor & President, Professor John Rickard about the 200 job losses expected later this year as the university attempts to meet a target saving of at least \$15 million by early 2008.

The VC also indicated that it is unknown at this stage if more jobs may need to go until the university budget is set in November 2007.

ASU Central Queensland Organiser Donna Webster said "Where is the federal government in all of this? They directly fund public regional universities like CQU and up to 10 years ago there was a strong financial commitment to regional universities operating for the benefit of regional communities and economies.

Clearly we're not a hospital in a marginal seat in Tasmania, but this is a crucial industry for Central Queensland and the federal government seems more interested in dabbling in state matters than it is in shoring up our industries of the future. This is 200 quality jobs going because of poor strategy and insufficient federal funding. It's a disgrace that local workers have to suffer because of the lack of foresight by the federal government which is now in election mode and unlikely to bother themselves with the plight of our local workers".

In May 2007 Central Queensland University announced that they would, for the first time in its history have to offer a university wide offer of voluntary redundancies. To date they have terminated 34 fixed term staff from CQU campuses of Rockhampton, Gladstone and Bundaberg.

The downturn in finances is in partly due to the university being required to give back Commonwealth funding over the last 12 months (as a result of not attracting enough Australian students), but a significant reason for the down turn is the 30% drop in enrolments from full fee-paying international students, equating to around 18,400 enrolled courses.

Not only has the university received less funding over the last 10 years, but this year the federal government changed the residency requirements for students coming to Australia, and international students are now finding it less attractive to study in Australia.

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