Bendigo and Adelaide Bank MOU – video transcript 14/10/13

Narrator:

Tertiary education and financial leaders are coming together in Bendigo to form an alliance to develop smarter, stronger and more prosperous regional and rural communities.

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Chairman Mr Robert Johanson and La Trobe University Vice-Chancellor Professor John Dewar signed a Memorandum of Understanding to improve access to education and training in the region, trial new initiatives and assist regional communities to recruit, train and retain skilled workers.

Professor John Dewar:

What it does is to symbolise formally the relationship between the University and the Bank that has been developing for some time now, in fact we started this relationship in earnest about a year ago and its already born fruit in terms of the scholarship program that we offered at the start of this year, and other things that have already got under way. So it’s really formalising something that is already there, but laying a platform for the future.

Narrator:

The new agreement will take the relationship to the next level, with the establishment of a new research program. The Bendigo and Adelaide Bank – La Trobe University Regional Research Program would provide opportunities for University staff and student researchers to work with communities to develop solutions to identified social, environmental and economic problems.

Professor John Dewar:

We think there is a lot of expertise locked up inside the University that the Bank can really make great use of in it’s thinking about its own engagement with communities, but also that could be made more generally available for thinking about how healthy communities can be developed in the regions.

Narrator:

Other priorities could include a potential pilot of a new University based Community Bank model that would provide funds for students, staff and other La Trobe stakeholders to undertake research in community based projects; as well as further develop the $2.1 million dollar La Trobe University – Bendigo and Adelaide Bank scholarship program for educationally disadvantaged rural and regional students.

Mr Robert Johanson:

What are the defining things that we need to work on to improve all our societies? It’s going to be driven by stuff that comes out of higher education. I’m a really passionate believer in that the best investment we can ever make is in the next generation of people, and so the ability of the Bank to team with the University to develop that capacity in this city is I think was too good a chance to pass up.

END