• Prime Minister Gillard, Premier Weatherill, Vice-Chancellor Bebbington, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen.

• I’m David Lloyd, the Vice Chancellor and President of the University of South Australia and it is my very great pleasure to host you all here at the Hawke Building today.

• You’ll probably note from my accent that I’m not from these parts. I moved to South Australia & Adelaide with my family from Ireland at the turn of the year.

• In Ireland, we have a very famous folk ballad – the west’s awake.

• Well, today, in Adelaide, the west is certainly awake.

• Back in 1996, the University of South Australia was pretty much out on its own as we took an undeveloped part of the city and invested in new industries and opportunities to build the City West Campus which is home to more than 5,000 students and staff and is where we’re meeting today. Less than twenty years later, the centre of gravity of this wonderful city has shifted westwards.

• The investment announced today further cements that shift as the new Adelaide is laid down around us, just yards from the first acre plots laid out in Colonel Light’s survey of the original settlement of this State.
• And the new settlement of the city is being built on new industries, new knowledge and the connection of critical public services with high technology, professional training and knowledge creation. Today is a reminder about the future economic power of the combination of higher education, the professions and our governments.

• Today’s announcement equips the University of South Australia and the state, for the future. It equips us for the education of modern professionals, for the conduct of leading edge biomedical research which is coupled to patient benefit.

• The creation of the University of South Australia’s Centre for Cancer Biology in partnership with SA Pathology and the CCB underpins delivery of a key component of the University’s footprint in the new South Australian Health Precinct. The CCB is one of the top three cancer research centres in the world and we are proud to be forging a new partnership and collaboration with them.

• 1 in 2 Australian men and 1 in 3 Australian women will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85. Thirty percent of all deaths in Australia is due to cancer, a disease with a $3.8 billion direct healthcare cost annually.

• The University of South Australia’s centre for cancer biology will spearhead the creation of innovative therapies through patient-focused cancer research and will have global visibility as a centre of excellence with true relevance for us all.
• The creation of SAHMRI, soon to be completed and just across the road, heralded a new beginning in inter-institutional cooperation in South Australia. Together, the Universities of South Australia, Adelaide and Flinders, with state and federal support, have collectively advanced a world class clinical research facility.

• Today, the addition of the University of Adelaide’s medical and nursing education facility will further enhance the scale and scope of this unique heath precinct.

• The federal government investment, coupled to the state government’s ongoing valued support will help the University of South Australia realise our ambition in what I can announce today is the delivery of a $290m science, health and biomedical education and research facility on North Terrace, by 2017.

• Our commitment today, is that we will build on the federal government’s funding to deliver not only a world class facility for Cancer Research in partnership with our new colleagues, but that we will build on our position as the region’s largest educator of health professionals to additionally deliver new infrastructure for the allied health professions – advancing specialised clinics, a centre for healthcare innovation, and a major outreach initiative underpinning this state’s future competitiveness in Science, Technology and Innovation.

• On behalf of the University of South Australia, I extend my sincere thanks to the Federal and State Governments for this, their vote of confidence in us and their investment for our nations’ future prosperity.