Media Release:
New partnership to strengthen relations between the ACS and Universities

Australia, Tuesday August 28, 2012: The Australian Computer Society (ACS) today announced a joint commitment with the Australian Council of Deans of Information and Communications Technology (ACDICT), the peak academic body for ICT higher education, to encourage engagement between ICT professionals, industry leaders and educators towards shaping more engaging ICT education opportunities and programs for a next generation of ICT leaders.

The ACS, the nation’s peak body for ICT professionals, has long been focused on making ICT skills and education a national priority. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ACDICT sets forth terms for an ongoing cooperative and collaborative partnership based on a joint interest to identify Australia’s workforce development needs and to deliver benefits to ICT higher education.

ACS CEO Alan Patterson is passionate about investing in ICT tertiary education to overcome a recent decline in ICT university enrolments and a parallel downturn in young people pursuing an ICT career.

“Student engagement in education is a critical to attract young people to the industry. We have a responsibility to ensure Australia has the skills that are in shortage yet critical to underpinning the future prosperity of our nation,” said Mr Patterson.

The ACDICT President, Professor Leon Sterling said “We need to urgently address knowledge and skills deficits in information and communication technology. There are more jobs in ICT that are important for innovation than there are skilled professionals to fill them. What we have seen, over decades, has been a gradual deterioration in the attention that our education system pays to ICT skills”.

“Computing concepts and ICT subjects deserve serious attention - along with mathematics and science - within our educational institutions. Getting the national curriculum right is a vital first step towards securing the Australia’s future economic prosperity.”

ACDICT will now have input into reviews and updates made to the ACS ICT Core Body of Knowledge which outlines knowledge requirements for all ICT Professionals and areas of specialisation. In turn, this collaboration will ensure that valuable input from professionals and industry partners can inform curriculum development in Australia’s tertiary institutions.

ACS President, Nick Tate, said “Engaging curriculums can help inspire students, changing the negative community perceptions that exist around ICT. Today’s students are aware of the ubiquity of technology and how it affects their lives, but less able to view ICT as a rewarding profession and a channel for creativity. We believe that much more can be done to develop the
relationships between educators and industry to reinvigorate student interest in ICT higher education.”

With help from industry, the partnership between the ACS and ACDICT represents a holistic approach to attracting, engaging and inspiring young people to pursue an ICT career.

When people are inspired by what they do, it is individual businesses, industry, and the economy as a whole that reap the benefits.

Media Enquiries
Ashford Pritchard at Launch Group e: ashford@launchgroup.com.au
P: 02 9492 1000 | M: 0411 020 680

About the ACS

The Australian Computer Society (ACS) exists to advance professional excellence in Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Over 20,000 ACS members work in business, education, government and the community. Its objectives are to further the study, science and application of people and organisations; maintain and promote a Code of Ethics for members of the ACS; define and promote standards of knowledge of ICT for members; promote the formulation of effective policies on ICT and related matters; extend the knowledge and understanding of ICT in the community; and promote the benefits of certification among ICT professionals.
For more information visit: www.acs.org.au

About ACDICT

The Australian Council of Deans of ICT represents all Australian universities involved in all the ICT Professions. ACDICT’s mission is to promote and advance ICT education, research and scholarship on behalf of Australian universities and thereby provide the skilled ICT workers needed by Australian industry. www.acdict.edu.au

Contact: Professor Leon Sterling, lsterling@swin.edu.au