Highlights of February Board Meeting

1. **Students in rural and remote communities**
The Academy has a key priority to improve the outcomes of students in rural and remote communities. Discussions will take place this year to put in place a strategy that could include:
   - Improved ICT services like video-conferencing
   - Teacher-to-teacher mentoring and support between the Academy and rural schools
   - Shared professional learning
   - “Hothouse” learning on Academy sites for rural students
   - Improved flexible learning opportunities

   A joint Polytechnic/Academy budget submission has gone into Cabinet for this work.

2. **Transition of the four remaining colleges**
The transition of Rosny and Elizabeth Colleges to the new model is underway with collaboration on issues like quality assurance, staffing and professional learning. The aim is to have staff placed in the three new organisations by June allowing all three to review their structures.

   The Principal and Chair of the Claremont College Association have been invited to the next Board meeting in Hobart to discuss the needs of Academy students in Hobart’s northern suburbs.

   The CEO has met with Launceston College staff and will continue this association during 2010.

3. **Shared Services**
A key aspect of the new model is a corporate service located within the Polytechnic that is charged with the responsibility of managing HR, ICT, finance, facilities and client services for all three organisations. An effective Shared Services has the potential to free teachers from administrative work and allow a greater focus on learning and teaching. The CEO represents the Academy on the Shared Services Governance Committee.

4. **Corporate Plan**
The Board will submit a Corporate Plan to the Premier in June. The values and purposes of the Academy are currently under consideration with feedback being sought from staff and students. The Board will hold a full-day meeting in March to establish the framework for the plan. The Academy does have three clear legislation functions that will guide the plan, these are:
   - Provide Year 11 and 12 students with the education they need to successfully participate in university
   - Provide learning support to enable students to attain their learning and personal goals
   - Improve educational outcomes for rural and remote students

   While the Board will broaden and strengthen these aims they are at the heart of the Academy’s purpose.
5. **Relationships with the Department of Education**

The Department (DoE) and the Board have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that effectively gives the Academy its entire running budget in exchange for the achievement of certain outcomes and standards. Two key performance indicators in this MoU are:

- 50% of Academy students will attain a median TER of 78.5 of better
- 80% of Academy students will graduate with the new Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE)