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Go8 positive about senior Ministerial appointments

The Group of Eight, (Go8) Australia's group of leading research intensive Universities, is pleased Prime Minister Turnbull has recognised the need for stability and continuity in the higher education portfolio by reappointing Senator Simon Birmingham.

"It matters to us that we are dealing with a Minister well across the fact that the sector is still seeking achievable solutions to its issues; solutions that recognise what is required to bolster the economy, address the needs of our students and our universities' long-term financial stability," says Go8 Chief Executive Vicki Thomson. "Minister Birmingham has an obvious genuine commitment to the portfolio and we have every reason to be optimistic he can deliver what is required."

Ms Thomson said that from a Go8 perspective, the move of Minister Pyne from Industry, Innovation and Science to Minister of Defence Industries was an inspired one. "It is one that will enable the Minister to utilise his in-depth understanding of both education and industry, in particular the science and innovation capabilities of Go8 members who do the defence sector heavy lifting for the nation in both teaching and research," she said. "Defence is pivotal to the economy and the Go8 is front and centre of that economic direction.

"The Go8 also welcomes Minister Greg Hunt to Industry, Innovation and Science which is such a crucial portfolio for Australia's leading research intensive universities," said Ms Thomson. "Go8 members have worked closely with Minister Hunt as he managed Australia's climate change portfolio," she said. "We know that previous portfolio exposed him to innovation, science and to working and negotiating successfully with major industry sectors so we look forward to working with him to champion our innovation and research agenda."

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