

Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To Committee Secretary,

To Sen the Hon Jacinta Collins,

On May 31, 2017 during Higher Education questioning by Sen the Hon Jacinta Collins, Mr. David Learmonth stated that enrolment would increase as a result of proposed changes for Permanent Residents as the barrier to education was the upfront fees. (~22:23).

I can assure you as a Permanent Resident that this is definitely not the case. I am deeply concerned that these changes would provide a significant barrier. The idea of my children taking on significant debt through removal of Commonwealth Supported Places is of grave concern.

My youngest son graduates from year 12 in 2017 and we would be forced to split up our family and send him back to Canada for university due to what we consider to be unaffordable changes.

It was also stated that current students would be grandfathered with respect to changes, but no details have been provided. My daughter starts Doctor of Medicine at Griffith University in January 2018 upon completion of her fast-tracked Bachelor of Medical Science (GPA ~6.85). With her situation it is uncertain if her Doctor of Medicine will be considered a new course under the proposed changes. This would definitely be unfair.

You have my permission to publish this letter in full.

Thank-you,
Kevin Balshaw