



THE SENATE

**EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**Higher Education Support Amendment (Reverse Job-Ready Graduates Fee Hikes and End 50k Arts Degrees) Bill 2025**

**PUBLIC HEARING  
Tuesday 28 April 2026**

**Parliament House  
Committee Room 2S3, Canberra**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Witness</b>
9.45 am	<b>Universities Australia</b> ( <i>Submission 7</i> ) Mr Luke Sheehy, Chief Executive Officer  <b>Regional Universities Network</b> ( <i>Submission 55</i> ) Mr Alec Webb, Chief Executive Officer  <b>Innovative Research Universities (IRU)</b> ( <i>Submission 42</i> ) Mr Paul Harris, Executive Director  <b>Group of Eight</b> ( <i>Submission 46</i> ) Dr Matthew Brown, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
10.45 am	<b>Charles Darwin University</b> ( <i>Submission 8</i> ) Professor Fiona Coulson, Acting Vice-Chancellor (via videoconference) Ms Penny Szybiak, Director, Planning and Performance (via videoconference)  <b>The University of Newcastle</b> ( <i>Submission 57</i> ) Professor Alex Zelinsky AO, Vice-Chancellor (via videoconference)
11.15 am	<b>Western Sydney University</b> ( <i>Submission 6</i> ) Distinguished Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President (via videoconference)  <b>Queensland University of Technology</b> ( <i>Submission 16</i> ) Professor Margaret Sheil, Vice-Chancellor Dr John Byron, Principal Policy Adviser  <b>University of Technology Sydney</b> ( <i>Submission 36</i> ) Professor Andrew Parfitt, Vice-Chancellor and President (via videoconference)
<b>11.45 am</b>	<b>Break</b>

Committee Chair: Senator Marielle Smith

Committee Secretary: Gerry McNally

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12.00 pm	<p><b>National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU)</b> (<i>Submission 51</i>) Mr Kieran McCarron, Policy and Research Officer (via videoconference)</p> <p><b>Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations Inc.</b> (<i>Submission 61</i>) Mr Jesse Gardner-Russell, National President Mr Richard Lee, Vice President Ms Charlie Backshall, Media Officer</p> <p><b>National Union of Students</b> Mr Felix Hughes, National President Mr Charley Ellwood, President, Australian National University Students' Association</p>
12.45 pm	<p><b>Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS)</b> (<i>Submission 15</i>) Professor Frank Bongiorno, President Dr Naomi Smith, Board member</p> <p><b>National Advocates for Arts Education</b> (<i>Submission 23</i>) Dr John Nicholas Saunders, Chair Professor Sandra Gattenhof, Board observer</p>
<b>1.30 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
2.30 pm	<p><b>Australian Historical Association</b> (<i>Submission 11</i>) Professor Michelle Arrow, President Professor Kate Fullager, Vice President</p> <p><b>Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities</b> (<i>Submission 32</i>) Professor Lori Lockyer, Secretary Mrs Kate Nash, Board member</p>
3.15 pm	<p><b>Professor Andrew Norton (via videoconference)</b> (<i>Submission 30</i>)</p> <p><b>Ms Claire Field (via videoconference)</b> (<i>Submission 31</i>)</p> <p><b>Dr Adam Lucas and Dr James Guthrie (via videoconference)</b> (<i>Submission 14</i>)</p> <p><b>The Australia Institute</b> Mr Jack Thrower, Senior Economist</p>
<b>4.15 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
4.30 pm	<p><b>Mr Michael Sanderson</b> (<i>Submission 5</i>)</p> <p><b>Dr Ashley Craig and Dr Matthew Lilley</b> (<i>Submission 58</i>)</p> <p><b>Mr Ben Archer (via teleconference)</b> (<i>Submission 20</i>)</p>
5.15 pm	<p><b>Department of Education</b> Ms Jessica Mohr, First Assistant Secretary, Policy, Payments and Data Division Dr Fleur Champion de Crespigny, Assistant Secretary, Market Analysis and Data Branch Ms Felicity Ryan, Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Policy and Engagement Branch</p>
<b>5.45 pm</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>

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