

submission to the inquiry on “Quality of governance at Australian higher education providers”

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Thu 6/03/2025 5:40 PM

Dear Secretariat

For an extended period, various Australian universities—despite being non-profit organisations—have implemented redundancies without clear and robust justification. For instance, the University of Melbourne experienced significant financial losses due to investments in derivatives, which subsequently led to job cuts within the institution. Similarly, the investment decisions and portfolios of Australian universities often lack transparency, with limited public disclosure and scrutiny over how funds are allocated or the extent of profits and losses. The public, including staff and students, has little insight into financial decision-making processes, and there is inadequate accountability for senior executives, regardless of the outcomes of their decisions. Given that these institutions operate as non-profit entities, greater transparency, regular disclosure of financial strategies, and increased public oversight are essential to ensure responsible financial management and institutional accountability.

submission to the inquiry on “Quality of governance at Australian higher education providers”

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Thu 6/03/2025 2:59 PM

Dear Secretariat,

I make the following submission to the inquiry on “Quality of governance at Australian higher education providers”:

University vice chancellors should not be paid over a million dollars per year. This is twice the PM's salary and four times a professor's salary. I have worked as an academic at three different universities over 12 years and I've seen countless poor decisions by senior university executives which have resulted in job losses, poor morale for staff and poor results for students. It is essential to have more staff input in university management, improve accountability, prevent bullying and make universities great places to work and study.

Bad Governance Inquiry

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Thu 6/03/2025 2:55 PM

Dear Secretariat

As a result of bad governance, rampant casualisation has decimated future workforces in higher education. We have had to face wage theft, exploitation, an absence of job growth and development, endless financial insecurity leaving a generation of young academics burnt-out and scarred from abusive employers. As we see Universities respond to the recent 'Closing the Loopholes' bill, extreme workloads, misapplied exemption categories, ramshackle fixed-term and casual contracts are being rolled out en masse, rather than University management taking a close look at their own pay-packets. Bad governance is not just bad business, its hurting young academics and driving us out of the sector.

Re: Inquiry into the quality of governance at Australian higher education providers

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Thu 6/03/2025 2:50 PM

Dear Secretariat

I have been teaching sessionally for a period of 8 years (and consecutively for 5). I have a demonstrated record of bringing new expertise and original content to the university. I have no job security and am always asked at the last minute to teach. Sometimes when I've been counting on it for income I have been dropped. Basically I am the cushioning that makes up for variable student numbers as they're confirmed just before the semester. In my field universities seem to be adding 0.4 and 0.6 fraction 'teaching only' roles which are supposed to be for those 'who want to focus on teaching'. I consider these to be a scam, a hollowed out version of an old tenured role.