

Dear committee members,

I am very concerned about the Federal Government's proposal to slash funding to Australia's universities, to dramatically increase student fees and to use taxpayer's money to fund for-profit colleges.

Higher education is Australia's second biggest export earner. A number of our public universities are among the global top 100. That success can only be maintained and improved on with greater public funding, not less. Higher education is essential to our economic future. All our major trading partners out-spend us on universities. We are already falling behind. We cannot afford to cut funding to universities even further.

My daughter will turn fifteen this year and is hoping to study at university in a few years' time. If the Abbott government's proposals are waved through by the Senate, she could have a fee debt well over \$100,000 that would be a millstone around her neck for the rest of her life. I did not vote for this. In fact nobody voted for this, because on the campaign trail Tony Abbott promised there would be no such changes to education.

Mr Abbott and Mr Pyne do not seem to think much of breaking their election promises, but your committee has the power to recommend against their breaking their promises to Australia's families and young people. I urge you to reject the government's plans to cut funding to higher education in Australia. We cannot afford to further erode the funding basis of our higher education sector.

Regards,

Brian Long