

Dear sir/madam:

I write with a brief submission to the Inquiry. Over the past decade I have worked as an academic tutor with three Australian universities, and I thus have some experience with how universities deal with international students.

My experience does leave me with serious concerns as to how Australian universities are exploiting international students, especially by accepting students who have no realistic English language capability to deal with tertiary studies. It is not uncommon as a tutor to find students in one's classes who have problems with basic English conversation and with basic English expression. This has two outcomes. There is a high failure rate, in circumstances where students have paid considerable fees to study in Australia - a situation which is clearly detrimental to student welfare.

The other result is that there is considerable pressure to soft-marking of such students - outside of the terms of reference for this inquiry, although it does bear mentioning at this stage.

I know that there is considerable criticism of so-called rogue institutions dealing with international students. However I would suggest that attention needs to be directed towards the practices of the established universities in dealing with international students. In particular I would suggest that the entrance level for accepting international students should be at least 7.0 in the IELTS entrance test.