

Dear Senate.

I object to the Federal Government's proposed changes to higher education and want you to know why:

1. it will place a heavy financial strain on many young Australians just trying to start out in life. Who of us was not one of these once?
2. this will have the effect of further limiting access to higher education for people who can least afford it ie further disadvantage people from low socio-economic backgrounds and mature age students and women and people with disabilities. A few scholarships do not cover all of these people
3. the continuous move to a for-profit only sector reduces academic standards and excellence in the pursuit of the dollar and lowest common denominator. Australia will languish intellectually and internationally, while smart thriving countries do the opposite and actually fund their higher education sectors
4. uncapping places provides an oversupply of graduates in any one field who have declining work opportunities but burgeoning debt. This will further discourage people to study and further undermine our tertiary institutions
5. over-burdening our young people is the road to social disaster, as we rely on them to work and provide growth and opportunity for the country
6. at a time when all commentators are telling us that we should be prepared for multiple careers and multiple courses of study, these changes will severely hamper Australians' capacity to adapt to and succeed in the new work environment. The road to poverty lies ahead.

Kind regards,
Lisa Ford
