



AAH Policy

HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT AMENDMENT (HESA) BILL 2020 SENATE INQUIRY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

The [Australian Academy of the Humanities](#) (AAH) welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to questions on notice to the Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee Inquiry on the Higher Education Support Amendment (Job-Ready Graduates and Supporting Regional and Remote Students) Bill 2020.

In evidence before the Committee on 15 September 2020, the Academy's President (Professor Joy Damousi FAHA) and Executive Director (Dr Christina Parolin) took two questions on notice. Our responses to the questions on notice are detailed below and relevant supporting material at Attachment A.

Please get in touch with the Academy's Acting Executive Director, Dr Kylie Brass, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] should you wish to follow up on these responses or any other matter arising from the Academy's evidence.

1. Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Provider Category Standards and Other Measures) Bill 2020

The Australian Academy of the Humanities is aware of concerns raised in the University of Sydney's submission about the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Provider Category Standards and Other Measures) Bill 2020 with regard to universities being at risk of losing their status if they fail to meet research thresholds in the current operating context.

The Academy has not developed a comprehensive, formal position on this legislation, but we would be concerned if universities failed to meet the new provider category standards due to disruptions from COVID-19 or as a result of the fact that university research funding arrangements are yet to be determined.

In our submission to the Senate Inquiry, we made the point that the Job-ready Graduates legislation exposes structural funding gaps. While the Academy has welcomed the Minister's establishment of the Sustainability of Research Working Group to provide advice on the sustainability of research funding during COVID-19 and beyond, it is our position that the proposal to remove the base research component of the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) funding formula is high-risk without having any plan yet for what research funding stream will replace it.

2. Gender composition of Society and Culture

Society and Culture is a broad field of education that includes both humanities and social sciences fields.

Based on the Department of Education's Higher Education Statistics data for 2019, the domestic student bachelor load in Society and Culture fields in 2019 was 35% male, 65% female, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Bachelor-level Domestic Student Load (EFTSL) by Broad Discipline Group: Society & Culture, 2019

	Male	Female	Total
Society & Culture	51,867	94,715	146,582

SOURCE: Department of Education, Student Load Time Series, 2019 <https://www.education.gov.au/selected-higher-education-statistics-2019-student-data> Calculations are for Table A and B providers only and do not include international student load, or enabling or sub-Bachelor courses.

Of the 3,098 (EFTSL) Indigenous students enrolled across all Society and Culture fields in 2019, 2,205 (or 71%) were female and 894 (29%) were male.

The Job-ready Graduates legislation proposes changes to the way in which Society and Culture fields will be funded. The new funding Cluster 1 includes select Society and Culture fields (excluding Languages, English, Social Work, and Psychology) and all Communication and Media Studies fields. Table 2 shows the 2019 calculations based on the proposed Cluster 1.

Table 2: Bachelor-level Domestic Student Load (EFTSL) for Society & Culture and Communication & Media Studies fields, 2019 – New Funding Cluster 1

	Male	Female	Total
Society & Culture and Communications (Cluster 1)	47,825 (39%)	73,556 (61%)	121,381

SOURCE: Department of Education, Student Load Time Series, 2019 <https://www.education.gov.au/selected-higher-education-statistics-2019-student-data> Calculations are for Table A and B providers only and do not include international student load, or enabling or sub-Bachelor courses.

Given the Job-ready Graduates legislation will impact on commencing students in 2021, we have calculated the gender composition of commencing domestic Bachelor students for Society and Culture and Media and Communications fields in 2019 (see Table 3).

Table 3: Commencing Bachelor-level Domestic Student Load (EFTSL) for Society & Culture and Communication & Media Studies fields, 2019 – New Funding Cluster 1

	Male	Female	Total
Society & Culture and Communications (Cluster 1)	16,287 (38%)	26,338 (62%)	42,625

SOURCE: Department of Education, Student Load Time Series, 2019 <https://www.education.gov.au/selected-higher-education-statistics-2019-student-data> Calculations are for Table A and B providers only and do not include international student load, or enabling or sub-Bachelor courses.

ATTACHMENT A

Fields of education impacted by new Cluster 1 funding

Society and Culture fields include a mix of humanities and social sciences. Under the new model the cost has shifted to the student who will now face 93% of the share (\$14,500 per annum) with the Commonwealth support at 7% or \$1,100 per annum.

Fields impacted by the new Cluster 1 funding arrangements, which we have used in our calculations in are marked in red.

09 SOCIETY AND CULTURE

0901 POLITICAL SCIENCE AND POLICY STUDIES
090101 Political Science
090103 Policy Studies

0903 STUDIES IN HUMAN SOCIETY
090301 Sociology
090303 Anthropology
090305 History
090307 Archaeology
090309 Human Geography
090311 Indigenous Studies
090313 Gender Specific Studies
090399 Studies in Human Society, n.e.c.

0905 HUMAN WELFARE STUDIES AND SERVICES
090501 Social Work
090503 Children's Services
090505 Youth Work
090507 Care for the Aged
090509 Care for the Disabled
090511 Residential Client Care
090513 Counselling
090515 Welfare Studies
090599 Human Welfare Studies and Services, n.e.c.

0907 BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE
090701 Psychology
090799 Behavioural Science, n.e.c.

0909 LAW
090901 Business and Commercial Law
090903 Constitutional Law
090905 Criminal Law
090907 Family Law
090909 International Law
090911 Taxation Law
090913 Legal Practice

- 090999 Law, n.e.c.
- 0911 JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
091101 Justice Administration
091103 Legal Studies
091105 Police Studies
091199 Justice and Law Enforcement, n.e.c.
- 0913 LIBRARIANSHIP, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND
CURATORIAL STUDIES
091301 Librarianship and Information Management
091303 Curatorial Studies
- 0915 LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
091501 English Language
091503 Northern European Languages
091505 Southern European Languages
091507 Eastern European Languages
091509 Southwest Asian and North African Languages
091511 Southern Asian Languages
091513 Southeast Asian Languages
091515 Eastern Asian Languages
091517 Australian Indigenous Languages
091519 Translating and Interpreting
091521 Linguistics
091523 Literature
091599 Language and Literature, n.e.c.
- 0917 PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
091701 Philosophy
091703 Religious Studies
- 0919 ECONOMICS AND ECONOMETRICS
091901 Economics
091903 Econometrics
- 0921 SPORT AND RECREATION
092101 Sport and Recreation Activities
092103 Sports Coaching, Officiating and Instruction
092199 Sport and Recreation, n.e.c.
- 0999 OTHER SOCIETY AND CULTURE
099901 Family and Consumer Studies
099903 Criminology
099905 Security Services
099999 Society and Culture, n.e.c.

Communications and Media Studies fields are also impacted by the new arrangements, moving to Cluster 1 for funding purposes. The following fields have been included in our calculations:

1007 COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA STUDIES

100701 Audio Visual Studies

100703 Journalism

100705 Written Communication

100707 Verbal Communication

100799 Communication and Media Studies, n.e.c.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics,

<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/66f306f503e529a5ca25697e0017661f/e7779a9fd5c8d846ca256aaf001fca5c!OpenDocument>