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Professor Margaret Sheil AO
Vice-Chancellor and President

22 September 2020

Mr Alan Raine
Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Australian Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email: eec.sen@ph.gov.au

Dear Mr Raine

Thank you for your correspondence of Saturday 19 September, with the additional questions placed on notice by Senator Pratt, subsequent to my appearance before the Committee on Tuesday 15 September with respect to the *Higher Education Support Amendment (Job-Ready Graduates and Supporting Regional and Remote Students) Bill 2020*. I note that my response to those questions is expected tomorrow, to facilitate the Committee's deliberations towards its report back to the Senate on Friday 25 September.

Regrettably we have not already conducted the modelling requested, with the exception of sense-checking the 'Calculator' sent us by the Department, which models the implementation of the full JRG package as presented at the Bill's second reading. As I trust the Committee appreciates, much of the modelling requested would involve a significant quantum of labour, in the order of weeks of work. I am therefore unable to answer questions 1a, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 within the required timeframe.

Furthermore, that Calculator was sent to us within a Sensitive communication, so I am uncertain whether I am legally in a position to share it with the Committee, in answer to questions 1b and 2 (and effectively to question 3). I note that the Secretary of the Department was asked to provide the detailed institutional modelling to the Committee at the hearing on Thursday 17 September, and that she advised at the time that the Department would be in a position to do this subject to verification with the institutions.

I am therefore pleased to advise the Committee that QUT is satisfied that the Department's Calculator closely approximates our own estimation of the effects of the JRG legislation in its current form, and is comfortable with the Department sharing the QUT iteration of the Calculator with the Committee, in confidence. I have advised the Department accordingly.

In response to questions 9 and 10, the university budget does not hypothecate specific streams of teaching revenue directly to corresponding course delivery and related costs, so we are unable to address these questions as framed.

Page 2

Should you have any further queries about this response please contact my Director of Government Relations & Policy, Dr John Byron

Yours sincerely

Professor Margaret Sheil AO
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