

Education Legislation Amendments – IRU Submission

Relevant legislation:

- Education Legislation Amendment (Tuition Protection and Other Measures) Bill 2019
- VET Student Loans (VSL Tuition Protection Levy) Bill 2019
- Higher Education Support (HELP Tuition Protection Levy) Bill 2019 [Provisions]

IRU submission

Tuition protection schemes exist to ensure the smooth resolution of cases where a whole provider or some courses at a provider can no longer be taught. They are there to ensure that fees paid in advance can be recovered and that students are assisted to find a suitable alternative course to continue their study.

It is important that each provider be part of a suitable scheme or have its own mechanisms in place.

Universities due to their size and low risk of closure are exempt from the requirements to be part of a tuition protection scheme. They adhere to the expectations of those schemes in protecting the fees students pay to them in advance of delivery of a course and in providing for students enrolled in any course that the university needs to cease teaching.

Universities are also active participants in assisting students of other institutions who need to be placed in a similar course when their course is no longer available.

The IRU has no comment on the amendments concerning the tuition schemes that apply to other providers.

About the IRU

Innovative Research Universities (IRU) is a coalition of seven comprehensive universities committed to inclusive excellence in teaching, learning and research in Australia.

Our membership is Charles Darwin University, Flinders University, Griffith University, James Cook University, La Trobe University, Murdoch University and Western Sydney University.

The members' commitment and impact is both local and global with a focus on advancing communities through education, resources, opportunities, translational research and enterprise.

Through its members working collectively, the IRU seeks to be at the constructive centre of Australian university policy making, influencing political developments beyond individual university capacities to do so.

31 October 2019