



Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2024-25
Thursday 6 June 2024
Daily summary

The committee met from 9:00am until 9:12pm

The committee called:

Department of Education, Australian National University, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, and Australian Research Council

Department of Education

Outcome 2: Higher Education, Research and International

- Antisemitism on university campuses - engagement with TEQSA;
- University encampments;
- Australian Universities Accord - racism at universities, budget support, update on progress on five priority actions from the interim report;
- Freedom of speech and moral code;
- Job-ready Graduates Package - Status of universities removing the 50 per cent pass rule;
- HECS-HELP loans - debt, timing and rate of indexation, legislation to be introduced for indexation changes;
- Commonwealth Prac Payment - process for deciding on professions to receive the payment,
- Mandatory unpaid placements;
- Upholding of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* at universities;
- Government support for an inquiry into racism at universities;
- Budget changes to the Student Services and Amenities Fee;
- National Student Ombudsman - powers available to the ombudsman, cost recovery arrangements;
- National Higher Education Code;
- Research and development;
- Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Quality and Integrity) Bill 2024 [Provisions] - impact on jobs in the sector;
- Uni-ready courses - number of enrolments, budget allocation;
- Regional Study Hubs;
- International Student Visa age limit;
- Support for Students Policy - guidance for universities, monitoring compliance;
- Additional 20,000 university places;
- Establishment of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission;
- Student Services Amenities Fee - utilisation of the revenue;
- Action Plan Addressing Gender-based Violence in Higher Education;
- VET pathways;
- 4,000 places allocated to the nuclear powered submarine student pathways program;
- Micro-credentials;
- Higher Education Disability Support Program;
- Nixon Review - what actions the department is responsible for;

- Letter from Department of Home Affairs to a number of higher education providers for alleged non-genuine or exploitative recruitment practices; and
- Start-up year program - amount of places taken up.

Australian Research Council

- Changes to the calendar dates for grant schemes;
- Two-stage process for discovery grants - differences in scores from college of experts;
- Centres for Excellence; and
- Research project involving Dr.Randa Abdel-Fattah.

Australian National University

- Management of pro-Palestine encampments on campus - disciplinary action, moving of the encampment, concerns from Jewish students, increased security;
- Investment holdings in weapons manufacturing companies;
- Support provided to Palestinian and Jewish students;
- Courses and training relating to social cohesion; and
- Reporting of islamophobia on campus.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

- Regulatory role and powers in terms of student safety on campus; and
- Responses to TEQSA's letter sent to all universities in relation to protecting student and staff safety on campus.