



30 September 2024

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### Questions on Notice from Senator Henderson

#### *Commonwealth Prac Payment*

1. Universities will both apply for the Commonwealth Prac Payment on behalf of the student as well as distribute the payment to the student.

- a. Were you consulted on the establishment of this payment and did you confirm that universities were willing to undertake the administrative operation of this payment?  
**No.**
- b. Are you aware if your member universities were consulted directly and indicated they would be willing to administer this payment.  
**No.**
- c. In applying for a payment, for example with Centrelink, individuals are required to provide substantial personal information. In the case of this payment, students would be required at a minimum to provide proof of their ID, evidence they are in receipt of a Centrelink payment, at least 4 weeks of payslips to evidence the 'need to work' test and their bank details. Do universities have the right privacy protections and systems in place to safeguard this private and sensitive student information?

**Universities have privacy protections in place to meet legislative requirements and would ensure that any new processes for the implementation of this program were compliant with those requirements. A key challenge will be requirements for the storage of this information in our systems which will be difficult to configure in the short time frame.**

- d. In the instance of an ICT or security breach, what safeguards are in place and what recourse would be available to the students?

**Universities would ensure that whilst implementing new processes required for the implementation of this new program that they were covered under their ICT and cybersecurity safeguards.**

- e. Have you discussed with the department how compliance of the program will be managed and what universities role will be in managing compliance? If so, please provide details of the role universities will be required to undertake to manage compliance by students and for the overall program.

**No, this level of detail has not yet been discussed. We would like to gain greater clarity on issues such as: eligibility, taxation, reclaiming debt, and reporting requirements.**