

9 April 2023

The Chair
Education and Employment Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



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

Dear Chair

RE: Jobs and Skills Australia Amendment Bill 2023 [Provisions]

The Tasmania University Law Society (TULS) appreciates this opportunity to provide comment to the Education and Employment Standing Committee on the *Jobs and Skills Australia Amendment Bill 2023*. TULS is the representative body for law students at the University of Tasmania (UTAS).

TULS supports this legislation and recognises the need for dedicated labour market analysis and advice to government on the future labour needs of our economy, whether it be through education, training or other initiatives. We at TULS believe further integration of government, business, unions and experts in decision-making is likely to have a beneficial impact.

However, TULS considers that a permanent body advising on jobs and skills development should include representation from the VET and higher education sectors. We would caution against a purely market-based view of education and training without consideration for how decisions would impact our tertiary educational institutions in practice. TULS therefore recommends that two representatives from the VET and higher education sectors (one each) be included on the Ministerial Advisory Board.

TULS encourages the Committee to look at ways in which participation in VET and higher education can be incentivised generally, rather than attempting to direct student choice through fee incentives and disincentives.

TULS also notes that tertiary education should not be limited in its scope to meeting labour market objectives and narrow economic considerations. We recommend that Jobs and Skills Australia considers the importance of research within our tertiary institutions, whether that be for a targeted economic purpose or more broadly.

TULS recognises that the *Jobs and Skills Australia Amendment Bill 2023* provides a great opportunity for government to better plan for the future workforce needs of Australia's economy.

Nevertheless, tertiary education is about more than just entry into the labour force and upskilling. Tertiary education should encourage critical thinking, creativity and

social responsibility and prepare students not just for their first job, but for their entire career, which may involve multiple jobs and career changes.

We again thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Regards,

MILES KAHLES

Vice President (Education), TULS