

**Senator O'SULLIVAN:** You've made your point, in relation to the payment itself being necessary, but we're just trying to get down to the nitty-gritty of how that payment will be administered and whether or not the path that the government have chosen here is the right one.

Do you have any concerns at all about the university being the decision-maker on whether the payment is paid or not or would you see that maybe a government agency, such as Services Australia or Centrelink, might be better placed, given they would be familiar with the individual's personal circumstances? The concern that's been given to us today and through submissions is that students would be having to disclose their private personal circumstances to their education provider, which brings into question some privacy issues. Could there be a better way of administering it than what the bill prescribes?

**Mr Harper:** [inaudible] being made through Services Australia instead. Again, anecdotally, as students I think we would be happy with it either way, whether it was coming from the university or the government through Services Australia. I am aware that the universities, in a lot of their submissions, have made the case to ease the administrative burden and that it could be made through Services Australia.

As a president I haven't fielded any concerns from our members about the privacy issues of having to send that information to the universities, but it's something we can definitely take on notice and reach out to our members on, to get their thoughts on how they would feel about it.

To answer the question taken on notice regarding the processing of Commonwealth Prac Payments through universities or Services Australia, there have been no further concerns raised by members about payments being made by their university.