

26 March 2013

**Atten: Senate Education, Employment and the Workplace Relations Legislation
Committee**

eewr.sen@aph.gov.au

***Re: Inquiry by the Education, Employment and the Workplace Relations Legislation
Committee into the Student Identifiers Bill 2013***

The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) represents approximately 27,000 members employed in Australia's higher education sector. We thank the Committee for the invitation to make a submission to the Inquiry in the proposed Student Identifiers Bill (2013).

The NTEU has no objections to the measures outlined in the Bill, in the context that it is a necessary prerequisite for development of a more coherent and consistent funding regulatory framework for vocational education and training. We acknowledge the benefits for VET students in having access to a permanent record of their enrolment and attainments.

We note that the Bill acknowledges that privacy of information for the student is paramount, and that potentially sensitive information (such as medicare numbers) will not be kept by the new Student Identifiers Agency, or any other entity that may have assisted the student in the application process, unless it was also collected for another purpose which necessitates the keeping of the information. We would be interested in what processes will be in place to ensure confidentiality of this information, and how students will be informed of their rights regarding the collection and storage of their personal information, as well as how to access any appeal mechanisms should they believe a breach of their rights has occurred.

Should the Panel wish to discuss any aspect of this submission please contact:

- NTEU President, Jeannie Rea
- NTEU Policy and Research Co-ordinator, Paul Kniest

We welcome any opportunity to discuss our submission with you at further length.

Kind regards,

Jeannie Rea
President
National Tertiary Education Union