

Universities Accord (Student Support and Other Measures) Bill 2024

Questions on notices to witnesses

UNIVERSITIES AUSTRALIA

FEE-FREE Uni-Ready courses

1. The changes in the bill relating to enabling courses, which are now proposed to be entitled 'FEE-FREE Uni-Ready' courses, will change the funding provided to universities for each place.

- a. The UA submission notes the new funding amount will be \$18,278 per place regardless of the discipline being studied, however there will now be no enabling loading attached to these places, meaning the average funding per place in 2022 which was \$21,750 per place is reducing, particularly for high needs, rural or regional students. Will this have an impact on the support universities provide to high needs students undertaking enabling courses?

The interpretation of UA's submission is incorrect. The Committee is comparing proposed per place funding for FEE-FREE Uni Ready courses/enabling courses (which only includes a government subsidy) with general per-place funding (which includes both a government subsidy and a student contribution). Currently, enabling courses do not attract a student contribution

(see: <https://www.education.gov.au/higher-education-publications/higher-education-administrative-information-providers-october-2021/22-student-contribution-amounts#:~:text=A%20provider%20must%20not%20charge%20a%20student%20contribution,pay%20all%20or%20part%20of%20their%20student%20contribution.>).

- b. The UA submission also notes the Government has expressed intent that these places will grow to 30,000 places by 2030. Has the Government advised how many places will be allocated for 2025?

No.

- c. What is the completion rate of students who undertake an enabling course?

The Department of Education is best placed to provide this data.

- d. How many students who complete an enabling course go on to enrol in a university course?

The Department of Education is best placed to provide this data.