

Submission Number 29

Thank you (and the Honourable Gentlemen) for providing me with the opportunity to speak to you all yesterday at the Senate Inquiry.

I do have some additional information that I didn't bring up but is of extreme importance regarding the intent of the inquiry. I apologise for this but I did find the format a little intimidating since I've never experienced it before.

DIMINISHING LOCAL INTEREST

I mentioned Industry and local government supported our degree by agreeing to co-sponsor a lecturers position. This amounted to \$10K pa from six Tier 1 partners and \$25K from Mitsubishi and \$27.5K pa from State Government.

We have since lost 50% of our Tier 1 sponsors and Mitsubishi expressed an interest to discontinue support only this morning.

GROWING OVERSEAS INTEREST

Lack of funding places growing pressure on universities to attract overseas students. There is also government encouragement to open new international universities that will specifically target international students (Carnegie Mellon for example).

Towards ensuring survival, the University of Adelaide has proven to be very successful in attracting International students and continues to attract even more. Most relevant to this inquiry is that **100 Chinese** students are likely to commence our **Automotive Engineering** program in 2009. This compares to our current enrolment of 40 Australian students which may represent a peak in local student interest.

This lays testament to the fact that those who believe we can retain (and sell) the knowledge while safely allowing manufacturing to go offshore are talking rubbish and demonstrating xenophobic arrogance.

Not only will manufacturing in ALL engineering areas go offshore (Australian businesses can not compete with countries that offer significantly lower wages, and are less regulatory regarding work place conditions) but so will the ability to design and engineer solutions.

I hope this helps and can be passed on to the committee for inclusion into the inquiry.

Regards
Colin Kestell