



**Submission to
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on
Education and Employment
Inquiry into Bills Referred on 22 September 2011**

Education Services for Overseas Students Legislation Amendment (Tuition Protection Service and Other Measures) Bill 2011
Education Services for Overseas Students (TPS Levies) Bill 2011
Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration Changes) Amendment (Tuition Protection Service) Bill 2011

Response

The Sydney College of Divinity (SCD) is one of 6 organisations offering TAS coverage. The SCD has operated a Tuition Assurance Scheme (TAS) successfully for the past 17 years (started 23/11/1994) and over this period has not had to deal with any default or displacement of students. The TAS covers a range of Theological Colleges and their performance to date would suggest that the Theological Colleges who are members are a very low risk category group.

The SCD is not resistant to this Legislation; it makes this submission because of concern about potential additional costs that might be implemented as this scheme comes on-line. Regulatory costs are already significant for HEPs, which in the case of HEPs like SCD means not-for-profit organizations offering a specialized but essential service to their clientele. In regard to student protection, where they are coming from a current low risk / low cost situation established by guarantees between similar institutions under existing TAS schemes that have no history of provider default, cost is a particular concern.

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