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22 April 2013

Ms Sarah Edson
Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing
Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Edson

RE: Inquiry into the Higher Education Support Amendment (Asian Century) Bill 2013

I am pleased to have the opportunity to make comment on the proposed amendments to the Higher Education Support Act 2003 (HESA). The proposed changes will most definitely benefit students studying a Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) Degree at the University of Wollongong (UOW) Graduate School of Medicine (GSM). The design of the Curriculum means that students are only able to undertake an overseas placement in the final six months of their studies and as such have been excluded from accessing the OS-Help loan. I know of several students who have foregone this opportunity due to financial reasons and many others who have taken out personal loans to meet the costs.

All staff and students at the UOW GSM are excited by this proposed amendment and I personally believe it will significantly benefit UOW GSM students.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Alison Jones
Dean
Graduate School of Medicine
University of Wollongong