Submission

to

Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee

Inquiry into the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (2005 Measures No.1) Bill 2005

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Brief Submission to Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislative Committee

Inquiry into the provisions of the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (2005 Measure No.1 Bill)

Bond University is the only private, not-for-profit and independent university in Australia. It's Constitution defines the objectives of the University to include 'to provide educational facilities at university standard for all persons who, without discrimination and from all sections of the public are eligible and seeking the benefits of such facilities'. The Constitution also states that 'the income and property of the Company, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Company (University) as set forth in this Constitution'.

The University is situated on the Gold Coast in South-East Queensland, a region with the fastest growing population in Australia.

Established in 1987, and accepting its first students in 1989, Bond University has serviced the higher education needs of the local population, as well as interstate and international students for over 15 years. The University has been a significant contributor to the economic success of South-East Queensland and Australia.

The current student population is 2,500 with numbers likely to increase to 4,000 over the next few years. In contrast to the current university application and enrolment trends, Bond University domestic student applications and enrolments increased in 2005. Many students had been offered places in other universities but decided to exercise their options by choosing Bond.

Bond has five faculties; Business, Health Sciences and Medicine, Humanities and Social Sciences, Information Technology and Law. Bond prides itself on academic staff who are committed to teaching excellence and providing workplace ready and outcomes focussed students. The March 2005 report of the Australian Universities Quality Agency Audit of Bond University made numerous commendations confirming the leading role played by the University in higher education in Australia.

The first private medical school program in Australia has been accredited by the Australian Medical Council and will commence in May 2005 with an initial intake of approximately 65 students.

Over 10,000 alumni, including a current Federal Member of Parliament, are proud to call Bond University their alma mater. Approximately 35% of the alumni received partial or full tuition scholarships from the university during their studies.

Bond University is recognised for its contribution to the economic, social and intellectual fibre of the local and national community by being a Table B provider with access to research funding, based on research performance. As a Table B provider, Bond University receives research funds under the RTS, IGS and RIBG schemes.



Extension of eligibility to Table B providers to apply to access funds from the Capital Development Pool is considered to be further recognition of the contribution made to higher education in Australia by such universities.

It is noted that, with the proposed further diversification of the higher education sector, it is highly unlikely that any university established in the future will be research oriented, but rather teaching-only focussed. Such a university would not be a Table B provider.

Trevor C Rowe AM

Chancellor