

The Secretary,  
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations  
and Education References Committee  
Suite SG.52, Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



To Committee members,

Austudy is insufficient to cover the costs of living, let alone the extra costs associated with full-time study. And the days worked to make ends meet means lost study time and lower marks.

Some students take on a three-quarter workload in an attempt to focus their efforts and achieve better marks, thereby extending the time span of their degrees, increasing the drain on Austudy, and decreasing their potential time spent in the workforce.

In short, students who can financially afford to devote all their time to study have a much greater chance of achieving the higher marks.

HECS is a fantastic scheme. There are very few instances in our must-achieve-increased-profits obsessed society where people are encouraged to earn less. Unfortunately, graduates need to take low-income work for the rest of their lives to qualify for this 'free' education.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Gallagher.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Gallagher", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.