

Substantive agreement with Page 10 – Students sometimes experience poor quality learning and teaching and encounter risks to their safety and wellbeing. Support services are often insufficient to enable them to achieve their best.

Insufficient support services are one aspect, as a student, the bigger issue putting student safety and wellbeing at risk is the university timetabling of lectures/tutorials, these sessions are often at night. Universities are putting students on the streets, on public transport and on campus at night. Now in my third year, my experience is, scheduling night classes is business as usual for universities. Universities are placing students in unsafe and risky environments. As a young 17-year female from a regional location, I can recall how frightening it was to relocate to a metropolitan city and from week one, have classes starting at 7:00pm finishing at 9:00pm and this included Friday nights. Not only do students miss an evening meal, students walk to public transport, travel on public transport (regularly the victim of verbal abuse from other passengers) then walk again when you get off the bus/train, then walk around dimly lit campuses consisting of lots of buildings and garden areas. This is then repeated to get back to your accommodation, generally at about 10:30pm, if not later depending on transit timetables.

It is pleasing to read **Priority Action 5 – Student and staff safety.**

Please reduce the opportunity for risk, providing more support services will not help students who are expected to commute at night, forcing universities to only timetable during the hours of 8:00am – 5:30pm will provide less occasions for students to be placed in high risk situations.

Page 14 B. *More students enrolled in higher education, a fair system that ensures access and attainment and larger system that better meets national jobs and skills needs.*

University domestic student numbers are on the decline, part of the solution to increase student numbers, is to improve the student university experience. This improvement can be two-fold, as it can also be a win for servicing employer workforce shortages.

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k. improving Work Integrated Learning (WIL) and placements by providing participating students with better incentives and financial support.

l. establishing a national jobs broker system, to assist students to find work placements and part-time jobs in their fields of study.

Providing incentives, financial support and providing a broker system are strategies which will assist to enable students and potential employers to engage and work together in a planned and mutually beneficial system. Due to legislative and mandatory qualification job requirements, not all students will be able to work in their field of study. Students can however, work within the sector of study, for example, someone studying to be a registered nurse, can't undertake paid employment as a nurse, they can however, get paid employment in the health sector, in administration, wardsperson, laundry, kitchen and the like. This would be a very positive improvement for students, as they are then an employee within the sector of their future profession. The lower skilled paid role, provides experience to the sector workplace culture, inductions, team work, policies, procedures etc.

In addition to incentives, financial support and broker system, student availability needs to be addressed so students have capacity to undertake WIL. University scheduling to have more classes on the same day, so as students we attend university less days per week, will provide students with free days. Making provision for students to have the capacity to be available for employment/WIL. If students can advise employers from their sector/field of study, that they are required to be on campus a set two days of the week. Makes student much more attractive for paid employment and for WIL. My friends and I are studying all different types of professions, law, accounting, engineering, technology, yet we have to work in retail, babysitting and fast food and are constantly swapping and changing availability because of university timetabling. The scheduling is set in the past from decades gone by, when university study was free, students didn't have to work, so they had free time and didn't care that they had to go to uni four and five days a week. There also wasn't the expectation of BYOD, so they would study in computer labs on campus, another reason for them to be on campus more days. Scheduling is all done around what suits the staff or what has always been done, not what is best for the student – this needs to change, please block classes into two

days a week. It would be a well-rounded university experience if two different years of student cohorts doing the same course were scheduled on campus the same days. To be then working in the sector of our field of study would be an amazing experience, the opportunity to embed our learning into becoming a practitioner in the workplace. Being a third year, this is all probably too late for any improvements for me personally, however, please consider forcing scheduling of classes blocked across 2 days ASAP. I acknowledge, that while I may not see the change, those that come after me, will have a better experience because of the changes and that is a good thing for the future of Australia.

Page 17 *e. through a national jobs broker system, helping students find parttime work in their areas of study.*

This is most welcomed, students want this, the success of this will rely on university timetabling.

Page 18 *e. providing a high-quality university experience for international students.*

This also needs to be provided to domestic students – we should all be treated like VIP customers, yet we are treated so poorly. Huge financial expense, for no service or support.

Page 21 *B Strengthening institutional governance*

Staff and student safety, including in relation to sexual assault and sexual harassment, requires concerted action.

Not having students on campus or on public transport at night will reduce sexual attacks, bag snatches and laptop theft. My parents bought me a new laptop for commencement of university, over \$2500 with Microsoft office and Norton Security. Due to an incident, a replacement had to be purchased shortly after the beginning of year three, another \$2000+.

Page 23 *e. ensuring the ongoing affordability of higher education for students, including adjusting student contributions instituted by the JRG package.* Studying Law, commenced in 2021 the JRG increased my course by 113%. Tuition averaging \$15,000 per year, is racking up a huge HECS debt for me. Plus, because I'm from regional Queensland my parents (middle income, one parent working) are paying out a huge amount of money for me to live and study in Brisbane. Students with this type of HECS would sincerely appreciate being the recipient of an adjustment.

Page 78 *"Fulltime university is now a luxury many students can't afford."- National Union of Students.*

Scheduling of classes into two days a week can help address this – student will spend a lot less time commuting and they can provide perspective employers with definite days of availability. Less commute time, also provides more study time.

Page 79 *Many students also need to work to support themselves – I don't know any student that doesn't need to work.*

...important students are not being required to work excessive hours – Agree; plus, commuting time to and from workplaces also need to factor into the average week for a student, everything eats into our time. Fulltime study of university degrees depending on the course can require between 40 – 60 hours of study per week per term/semester. finding suitable work can be difficult and that students would prefer to work in areas related to their field of study – something supported by employers needing to address serious skills shortages – Totally agree with this, and am supportive of the broking system, fix the course scheduling so the broker system has a practical environment in which to operate in order to deliver the desired outcomes. Otherwise, the broker system, despite costing government money to implement, will be at risk of failing.

Page 85 – Students are very supportive of *Improving university-industry engagement.....*

A cadetship model or paid internship model would be welcomed – 2 days at uni and then 2 or 3 days in the workplace (must be in field of study) one day for study time, one day for rest and social.

General Feedback

Universities say, we schedule on campus classes and students don't attend, then they say, students do not want face-to-face, in my friend group and all the students I have engaged with since commencing studies in 2021, this is not the

case, we want quality on campus experiences during daylight hours. The reality is the university experience is often lacking, boring lectures/tutorials, academics with English as a second language are often difficult to understand, students told we can't make contact with our academics to clarify assessments, what type of business tells their customers they can't ask questions. Can never talk with anyone, even when you have an administrative question, it has to be online query and if you contact the wrong section, they don't forward on your inquiry, they just respond, with, you sent it to the wrong work unit, you go round and round and it takes weeks to get a response. The big issue, scheduling of classes at night which finish at 8:00pm or 9:00pm – hours to commute on public transport, students don't feel safe, miss dinner, course delivery not meeting expectations – these are the reasons students stop attending classes on campus.

3 hours round trip (10 – 15 minute walk to bus/train stop, 45 – 60 mins of travel, 15 minute walk to campus, repeat to get home = 3 hours) to attend one 90-minute session, four to five days per term/semester. Note: if questioned on this, universities will be able to show timetables, that are all day classes across limited days – perfect. But the fact is, the process and system for students to book into class times is very stressful, you rarely end up with a logical timetable, there are never enough day time sessions. You end up with classes all over the week and night classes (numerous nights a week). The system and process make majority of students very stressed, places students in potentially unsafe situations (commuting at night), hinders employment opportunities because you can't advise employers of your availability. Commuting so many days of the week also interferes with study time, is disruptive to meal times and when you live in college you miss the dining hall meal times, so parents are paying for meals we never get to eat and then we have to buy take-away.

With bring your own device, rain, hail or shine we are walking the streets and navigating public transport carrying, laptop, wallet, phone and heavy textbooks, tapping on & off public transport. Spread over four & five days/evenings a week – not safe, not attractive, almost impossible for students to have a job. Any wonder attrition rates are so high.

University related costs

SSAF approx. \$325.00 per year, textbooks average \$200 - \$250 each some as much as \$400 (min 4 textbooks per term), tuition fees \$15,000 per year, laptop \$2000, Microsoft & Norton \$500, quality bag/backpack \$200, accommodation and meals easy \$35,000+ per year, transport, relocation expenses, WIFI, phone, personal expenses, medical, social activities (if you are lucky) clothing, the list goes on. We the students should be treated as top shelf VIP customers. If we wanted to buy a car, the supplier would be falling all over us. We could even have a substantial deposit for a house. An incredibly expensive investment is made by families and personal individuals to receive sub-par product and poor customer service from Australian universities.