My answers to the questions for discussion:

• **Are low completion rates an issue?** Yes, because I am one of thousands of students who is suffering from being stuck at the end my degree. Especially, students like me who commenced university before LANTITE was introduced in 2016.

What is the impact? As you're aware, of the shortage of teachers that is currently happening around most of the states in Australian plus the COVID pandemic is affecting us all. Also, from my experience with LANTITE and how it has affected me personally through depression, anxiety and now having to be on herbal stress pills, undertaking counselling and paying for tutoring. This is the same for many other students on the Facebook group I am with.

Can low completion rates be addressed? Yes, because these low completion rates still have crucial importance. For example, this can be addressed by giving exemptions for ITE students starting university before 2016 or removing LANTITE completely. It is unfair that LANTITE was introduced in the middle of my degree and made mandatory for me to graduate. The government needs to find another way to assess ITE student's literacy and numeracy skills and this should have been done through the university's subjects when ITE students first enrol.

• **Is the degree of variability in completion rates between providers ideal?** No, because each university provides different education degree courses and they are all at different levels. According to ACER's deficiency scale I am passing individually, but not in the top 30 per cent of the whole Australian adult population. This is absurd, unfair and not equality to be marked like this and up against other students who are doing their Master of Teaching (secondary) degree, when I have completed only a Bachelor of Education (early childhood) degree that enables me to only teach children aged between zero to eight years old (0-8 years old). Also, when the true fact is that the tests are at a secondary year 9 and 10 level.

What could be done to address this? Abolish LANTITE because it does not define me or other students as teachers. LANTITE should have been conducted fairly and equally to all ITE students. For example; individually marked, free of charge, unlimited attempts and tests that are based accordingly to degree levels. Also, LANTITE should have been made mandatory for ITE students when it was introduced in 2016 and for ITE students completing their degrees in secondary school or primary school, and not for ITE students completing their early childhood degree based to teach children aged between zero to eight years old.

• **Should more be done to identify suitability for a career in teaching earlier in the degree or before entry to ITE?** It should be no, for ITE students who commenced university before 2016 and yes, for ITE students before entry to ITE.

What might this look like? LANTITE should have been an entry requirement from 2016 when it was introduced. If the government wants teachers with strong literacy and numeracy skills, then this should have been the responsibilities of the universities to embed this through our degree subjects when we first enrolled. However, identifying suitability for a career in teaching should only be before entry to ITE students after commencing university in 2016 because this way ITE students can decide whether or not they would like to continue their degree instead of being stuck at the end of their degrees and having to pay a HECS debt for nothing.

• **What are the main reasons ITE students leave an ITE course before completion?** I believe it is from LANTITE because the shortage of teachers is now showing and it is saying something. LANTITE has affected most of all ITE students with their degrees and mostly this is from being stuck because of LANTITE or leaving their degree they first enrolled in and transferring into either a lower degree or another degree completely.

Therefore, after all that is happening at the moment because of LANTITE, I strongly believe that a fair change should be made ASAP and that is possibly to abolish LANTITE.