Good afternoon,

My name is Annie and I have just been reading the Discussion Paper out of interest. One trend missing from the discussions I think, is the pressures facing students from external factors including cost of living pressures. While the paper covers the financial challenges facing universities - I think the challenges facing students and staff, are also important. Increasing costs of living and housing insecurity are really important issues, and they're diminishing the capacity of students to concentrate on and excel in their studies to the best of their ability. I think that ignoring these contextual issues will mean that no matter how wonderfully set up a university is to deliver education - if people have to go hungry and face the threat of homelessness in order to be able to study - will it remain on the table as a choice? A few recent articles triggered my thoughts on this - relating to economic insecurity, housing insecurity and food insecurity of students and staff.

1. https://theconversation.com/its-not-just-australian-students-whoneed-more-food-university-staff-are-also-going-hungry-192928

2. https://theconversation.com/how-are-phd-students-meant-to-survive-on-two-thirds-ofthe-minimum-wage-185138

3. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-03/rental-market-share-houses-young-people-staying-home/102037748>

Best wishes,

Annie