



Tim Payne, Director, Higher Education Policy and Projects
Office of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal

4 February 2021

Ms Shu-fang WEI
Senior Council Officer
Upper House Committees - Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales
PortfolioCommittee3@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Wei,

I write to alert the Portfolio Committee No.3 to an unfortunate error of fact about the University of Sydney's finances included in the Committee's *Future development of the NSW tertiary education sector* and a related Committee media release of 22 January 2020.

The error relates to this statement on page 40 of the report:

“4.2 At the University of Sydney, which has the highest proportion of international students in NSW, international student revenue was 63 per cent of the university's total revenue in 2019.¹⁵⁷”

The figure of 63 per cent comes from the University's answer to a question on notice from the Hon. Scott Farlow. While we interpreted that question as seeking the percentage of the University's total student fee revenue derived from international students, the Committee has interpreted our answer as providing the international student fee revenue share of the University's total revenues. As result, the figure of 63 per cent is incorrect and far too high.

We are sorry about the misunderstanding, however, the correct figures for the international student fee revenue share of the University's total revenues are as follows:

University of Sydney international student fee revenue as a percentage of total revenue	
2017	32.0%
2018	35.3%
2019	38.7%

We thought it important that we let you know about this error so that appropriate steps can be taken to advise Committee members and correct the public record.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Payne

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