

**Submission
No 2**

**INQUIRY INTO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NSW
TERTIARY EDUCATION SECTOR**

Name: Mr James Gardiner

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It is of vital importance that universities are treated as places for knowledge, critical thinking, self-discovery and opportunity. Universities should be places where young adults can participate in a well-rounded and comprehensive education, in the fullest sense of the word. Universities should NOT just be training ground for a career. Of course, the skills you develop in university are useful for professional life - but to reduce university to a corporate training ground is to seriously misunderstand its purpose in our society. Without strong and accessible universities, our culture and democracy withers on the vine.

Universities also require significant, secure and ongoing funding for research. This is critical to our public service, our corporate sphere, our health and medical sectors, and so much more. University research is essential to a good society, and we need to encourage intelligent citizens to push themselves for the public good. Research serves the public, and the government needs to recognise that.

If we do not fund universities properly as robust and accessible centres of debate, teaching, and research, our society will suffer the very grave consequences.