

**Submission
No 5**

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

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Universities are not just an economic engine. Decisions made from the 1980s to now have forced universities to act as businesses just to survive, becoming heavily reliant on international students without any other option. The effect of this defunding has now been clearly observed as the universities begin to collapse. This is not their fault, but the fault of successive defunding by short-sighted governments who see university only as a means to tick an employment box rather than as a launchpad to change the world. The people running this inquiry seem to only want graduates fulfilling employment roles that have existed from when they were born. The goal of a university is to train students to change the world in addition to finding employment so that whole new sectors of employment can be developed. The majority of parliamentarians have been useless at their jobs compared to the standard at which somebody with so much training should be operating, and so naturally you believe in the limited usefulness of the university training you received. It's far easier to believe that the training is faulty than to consider your own mediocrity. The perception that most politicians have of university training is only because most people who use their degree for positive purposes don't become politicians.

Training should be fully funded by the federal government without placing caps and restrictions. It should not be up to a small group of people without any expertise in anything besides backroom negotiations to predict what the future educational needs of a country will be. You are wrong far too often to impose your limitations on the Australian public as gospel.