

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Universities are most important learning institutions, where students, lecturers & professors critically interrogate the world and ask big questions or find treatment for diseases and learn for a professional life. They are places that must not be controlled by economics above all else. Years of funding cuts are the major threats to our universities, and recovery from COVID demands investment in the higher education sector as a major employer, source of income, and fundamental institution in our democratic society.

Universities shouldn't be places to make compliant workers, but places where independent thought is valued. Research within universities can be for the greater good of all of us, not just narrow corporate interest.

Rather than making universities public institutions designed to serve private business we should be looking to make them more diverse places, with equality of access, innovative research, and world quality teaching.

We need:

Free university and TAFE so that financial barriers are not an obstacle to a quality education
Quality teaching conditions including an end to casualization of employment and insecure employment generally

Support for students to be able to learn including raising youth allowance and restoring funding to improve teaching and learning conditions

Political activity should be supported within universities through universal student unionism
University campuses should be free from corporate limitation on freedom of speech, foreign governments including the Confucius Institute and private institutions like the Ramsay Centre
We need to keep corporative influence out of universities.