

8 April 2013

Mr Alan Tudge MP

Member for Ararat

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Wantirna South, VIC 3152

Dear Mr Tudge

Swinburne University of Technology is pleased to make this submission to the Coalition's Online Higher Education Working Group.

About Swinburne

Swinburne is an innovative and inclusive university that provides high-quality, career-orientated education and strong engagement with industry and the community.

In recent years, Swinburne has progressed to become one of the world's leading

universities ranking in the top 100 in the world for research excellence.

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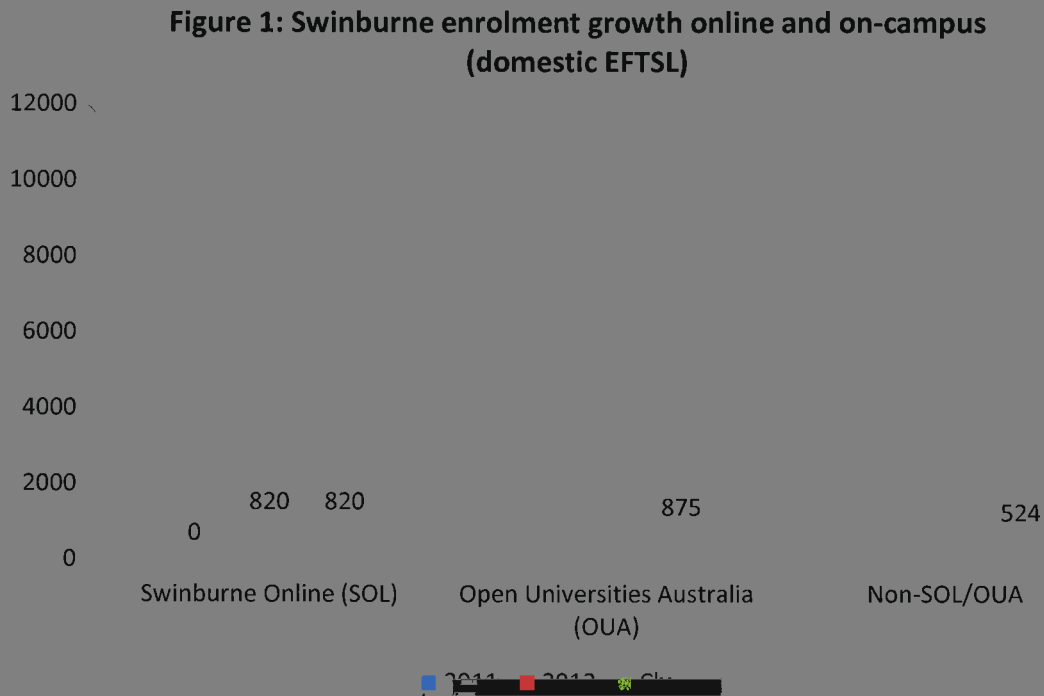
Most OUA students choose to study one or two units at a time, and do not have to complete an entire degree program. This provides a flexible pathway for students who wish to engage with university study but who may not wish either to commence or complete an entire degree program.

Swinburne has welcomed the launch of OUA's new study platform Open2Study, which is designed to provide potential students with a 'taste' of higher education. These specialised four-week courses are part of the ongoing innovation of unit-based enrolment in the open market. This represents a new innovation in reaching more students. By providing students with an experience

of online study, new pathways can emerge to further study.

Swinburne expects growth to continue for open access online education as an increasing number of

The figure below shows enrolment growth at Swinburne among domestic students from 2011 to 2012.



Online delivery has also made higher education more accessible to a broader range of Australians, including many who have traditionally been under-represented in university study.

Demand for online education from non-traditional students has contributed greatly to the

Swinburne's equity agenda. Online enrolments are out-performing on-campus in low socio

economic (SES) and regional enrolment data.



Regulatory environment

Swinburne’s model of online delivery ensures that students obtain the same learning outcomes and quality assurance as traditional campus-based study.

The future regulatory environment should acknowledge both that high quality online delivery will

utilise innovative models of delivery and that business models for online education will be different

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