

Experts have predicted that the price of degrees will increase significantly from 2016.¹ The proposed flat fee of \$16,000 per year announced by the University of Western Australia for 2016 represents an increase over 2014 prices, ranging from +56% (Bachelor of Commerce) to +166% (Bachelor of Arts).

How it would work	An advisory committee would be established to monitor the implementation of the reform package and advise the government on any policy changes that are required.	The Government would set an annual HECS-HELP loan limit that students may borrow towards an undergraduate degree. Higher education providers would be free to charge more than, the same as or less than the loan limit.	A body such as TEQSA or the ACCC would be tasked with monitoring prices for degrees offered by higher education providers and disallowing inappropriate or excessive prices on the basis of clear and objective criteria.	The Government would continue to set the maximum student contributions payable by students for undergraduate degrees. New maximum contribution amounts would allow universities to raise sufficient revenue to at least offset the 20% funding cut.
Advantages	<p>Least intrusive mechanism for sector</p> <p>No additional regulatory burden</p>	<p>Would give higher education providers freedom to set prices at any level for which there is market demand</p> <p>Would be effective in exerting downward pressure on price as providers would be under pressure to minimise the amount of any 'gap' fee payable by students</p>	Would have legal authority to disallow inappropriate or excessive fee increases	Would limit fee increase to the new
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