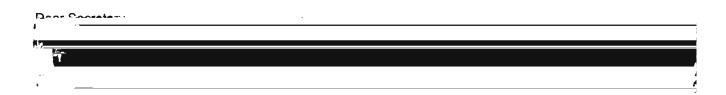
#### 8 June 2017

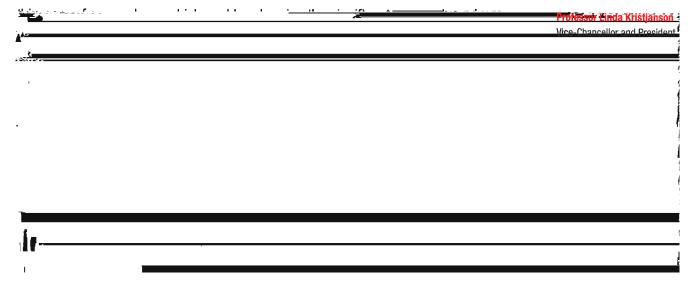
Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



# Inquiry into the Higher Education Support Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

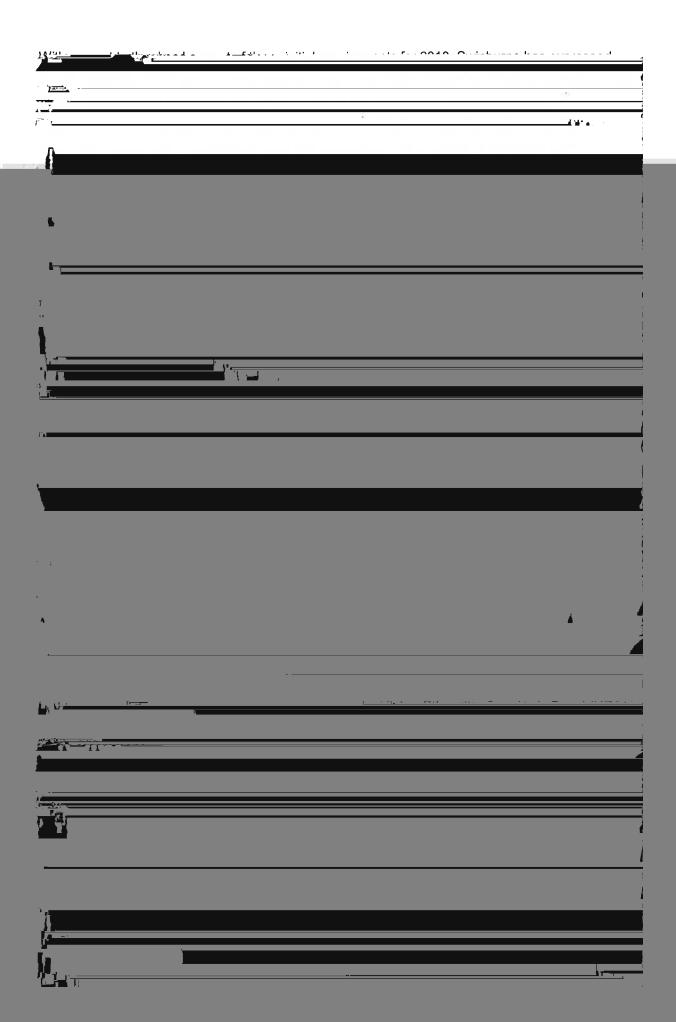
Swinburne University of Technology welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Higher Education Support Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (the Bill).

Australia is fortunate to have a university sector that is internationally-competitive, supports excellence in higher education and provides equity of access and quality educational outcomes for students. While Swinburne is supportive of certain elements of the Bill, there are a number of features of

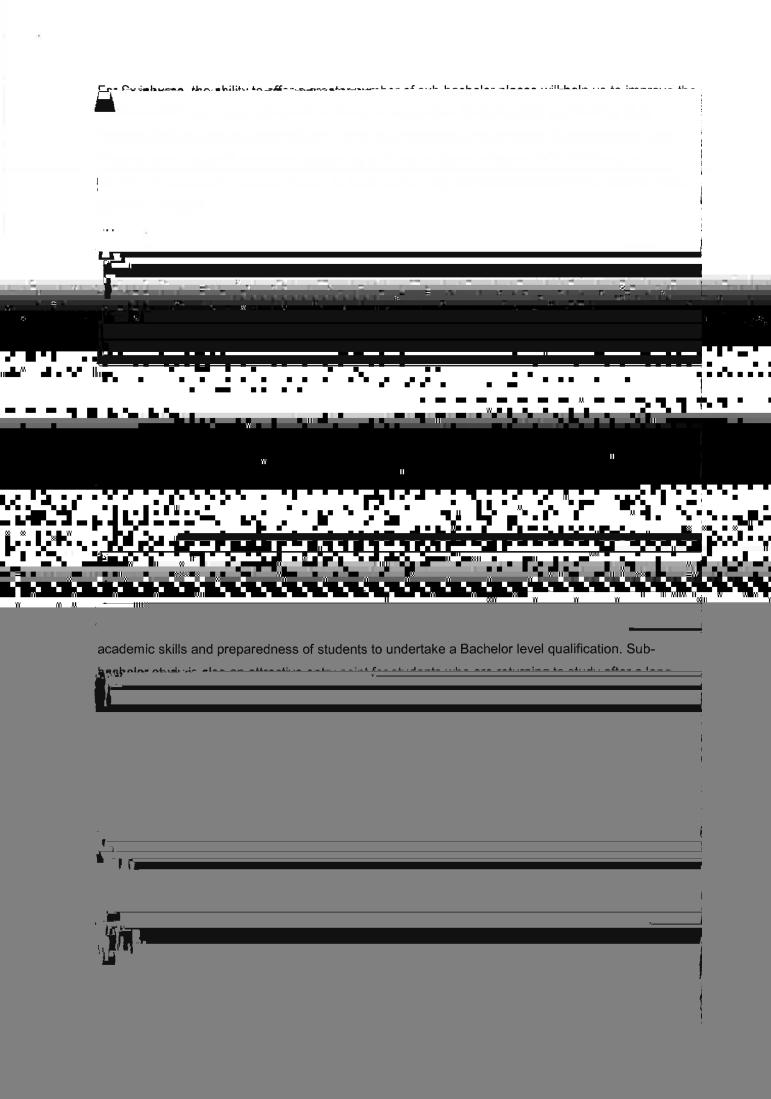


Swinburne's key concern regarding the reform package proposed in 2014 was the inflationary risk of deregulated university fees, with public commentary from providers at the time confirming the likelihood of this development. Swinburne also noted the additional risk posed by the design of the Higher Education Lean Deagrap (HELD) which ensures that students incur no unfront costs for their tuition. Given that students can defer loan repayments for many years, we observed that students could incur far larger debts than they reasonably should, as no 'price pain' was experienced at the time of purchase.2 While Swinburne is pleased that the significant and hasty 2014 deregulation agenda is off the table in these new proposals, and the previously announced 20% cut to the Commonwealth Grant 

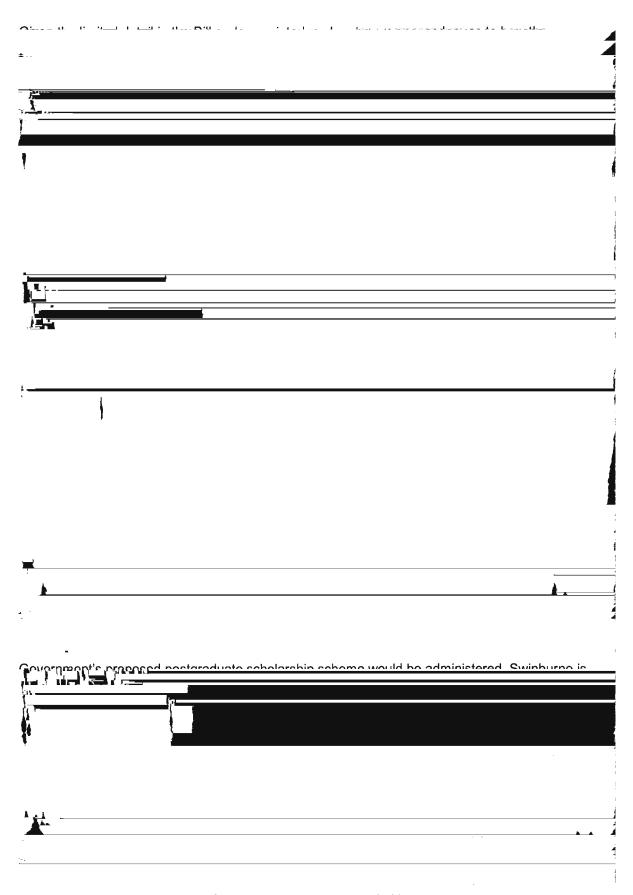
Given the evidence-based, transformative effect of higher education, maintaining and increasing access and reducing financial barriers for students is crucial to both Australia's future economic associate and applications for an activities and interest of containing that to out founding to a co



is universities have no control over such outcomes. Further, the Government's Graduate Destination
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## Post-graduate scholarships



concerned that there is potential for scholarships to be awarded in a non-transparent manner.

#### Recommendations

## Recommendation 1 – Efficiency dividend

Swinburne recommends that the Government abandon the proposed 2.5% CGS efficiency dividend in the Bill, in light of the deleterious effect it would have on students and universities,

## Recommendation 2 - Performance funding

Swinburne recommends that the Government abandon the proposed 7.5% CGS performance contingent funding, as it would punish those universities which provide access to non-traditional learners and learners experiencing educational disadvantage.

#### Recommendation 3 – Student contribution

Swinburne recommends that the Government abandon its proposal to increase student fee contributions by 7.5% in 2021. We believe such a measure would make university education less attainable and would further entrench Australia's relatively high student fees when compared with other OECD nations.

## **Recommendation 4 – HEPPP**

While Swinburne supports and commends the Government's proposal to continue funding the