

Dear Panel,

I am 56 years of age and completed my education by going from a TAFE certificate to University by correspondence and then to attending university to complete a Masters. I have two children who have attended university and make the following submission for consideration.

1. The university entrance system channels students, in many cases, into their second or third choice of subject. This means they do not have the passion they had for their first choice. My son missed out on Engineering by around 4 marks and my daughter carried on with her choice but does not

follow that profession. I submit that the first year of university should be more flexible to allow students to enter their subject choice without such stringent cut off points. We are losing the natural talent of people and pushing them into careers to earn money and this does not give the best return to our country.

2. The HECS system is very onerous for young people and I believe the first degree should be at no HECS for students and funded by broad taxation.

Regards
Robyn Flack