

## DASSH calls for fee shake up in light of new CPI figures

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The Australian Bureau of Statistics has confirmed mass hikes in the cost of Arts degrees are costing the country, and DASSH is calling for a rethink on fee structures.

While both parties campaign hard on the cost of living, the main driver of inflation in Sydney is education, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures released in April.

At an increase of 3.8 per cent, March quarterly consumer price index figures show education outstrips transport, food, health and housing.

The Jobs Ready Graduates Package, introduced in 2020, is behind a 113 per cent increase in fees for humanities arts and social sciences courses for students starting new degrees in 2022.

When the JRG is reviewed later this year, the Australasian Council of Deans of Arts Social Sciences and Humanities will be calling for change to the way university course fees are set in Australia.

Our members believe fees should match the cost of delivery and not be driven by clumsy attempts to drive student preferences.

These figures show the cost of distorted fee structures disadvantaging our disciplines are not just hurting students, they are hurting the Australian economy.

### **About DASSH:**

DASSH represents more than 250 deans, and associate and deputy deans, from 43 universities across Australia and New Zealand, leading schools and faculties that teach tens of thousands of students and several thousand scholars in the HASS disciplines. Led and governed by an executive committee, DASSH supports those who have responsibility for governance and management of research, teaching and learning across those member institutions.