

## Huge rise in employment outcomes for humanities, arts and social science students pokes holes in Job-Ready Graduates Package

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The employment outcomes of students enrolled in arts, social sciences and humanities degrees have risen to 89.6 per cent - an increase of 25 percentage points according to the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching 2022 Longitudinal Graduate Outcomes Survey.

This figure challenges the assumptions behind the Federal Government's Job-Ready Graduates package, which appears to have underestimated the value and employability of arts, social science and humanities graduates.

The Package was introduced under then Education Minister Dan Tehan in 2020 and implemented this year. It has seen the cost of many arts, social science and humanities degrees increase in price by more than 100 per cent.

This longitudinal study shows that the graduates in a wide range of disciplines, including arts, social sciences and humanities are highly employable with incentives to drive students into some fields at the expense of others misplaced.

The Federal Government should commit to abandoning the policy which is putting our students at a massive financial disadvantage.

The Report measures the medium-term outcomes of higher education graduates based on a cohort analysis of graduates who responded to the 2019 Graduate Outcomes Survey.

It noted the figures around generalist degrees "continue to demonstrate an important point - that while undergraduates from some fields of education, in particular those with generalist degrees, have weaker employment outcomes soon after completing their course, the gap in employment outcomes across fields of education tends to narrow over time."

It also states that while vocational degrees tend to have higher employment outcomes than generalist degrees in the short term "the gap in employment rates between those with vocational and generalist degrees diminishes over time".

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