

JRG explained

Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

What is the Job-Ready Graduates (JRG) Package?

- Restructured student contributions and funding bands.
- Increased costs for Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, Business and Law students.
- Intended to shift student demand through price signalling and fees.

Why this matters

Higher students costs

Over 113% increase in student contributions for Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities from \$6,804 to \$14,500.

Lower public funding for universities

In 2024, government contributed up to \$1.18 billion less and universities received up to \$813 million less.

Price signals distorting student choice

Higher fees are being used to attempt to influence student enrolments with ineffective results.

Equity impacts on participation

Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities are preferred study areas for equity cohorts now more vulnerable to financial pressures. Low SES commencements declined 19.7% in 2024.

Regional pipeline at risk

Undermines access and participation in regional areas where skills are already in demand.

Long-term capability impacts

Reducing Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities participation limits future workforce adaptability and sovereign capabilities.

The case for reform

- **Clear time-bound reform aligned with the Universities Accord**
- **Protect total funding and system sustainability**
- **Ensure fair and equitable student contributions**
- **Base policy on existing evidence and data**