

Media Release —

Higher Education Tuition Protection Legislation Welcomed

— 12 November 2020
For Immediate Release

Legislation passed by the Australian Parliament that protects the fees of students with independent higher education providers has been welcomed by the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA), the peak body representing independent providers in the higher education, vocational education, training and skills sectors.

“This legislation that extends coverage of the Australian Government’s Tuition Protection Service to full-fee paying students who pay for their studies up-front is something that ITECA has been a strong advocate for,” said Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

The new legislation comes into force on 1 January 2021 and expands the coverage afforded by the Tuition Protection Service to include domestic students in the higher education sector who pay their tuition fees up-front and who do not, or are not, able to access a HELP loan.

“The new legislation will provide students with certainty and confidence to pursue their education,” Mr Williams said.

The measure supports not only students, but also quality independent higher education providers.

“This reform provides certainty for quality independent higher education providers that have, in the past, had to work with different forms of tuition protection arrangements. ITECA’s commitment is to ensure that the coverage offered by the TPS scheme does not impose an unacceptably high financial burden on independent higher education providers,” Mr Williams said.

The new arrangements are set out in the *Education Legislation Amendment (Up-front Payments Tuition Protection) Bill 2020 (Cth)* that was passed by the House of Representatives on 9 November 2020 and the Senate on 12 November 2020.

There are around 130 independent providers that collectively support some 10% of the 1.5 million students undertaking a higher education program.

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