

LUTHER SEMINARY
Theological Education for Vocation and Life

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 Roderick West Esq
 Chairman
 Higher Education Review Committee
 Location Code 728
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Dear Sir

DISCUSSION PAPER: HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

The tertiary institution of the Lutheran Church of Australia, Luther Seminary, together with the Church's national network of 70 primary and secondary schools; welcome the Committee's Discussion Paper, dates 24 November.

The proposed broad principles of support for higher education and wider access of students to it are appreciated. In particular, the Seminary Council and the Board for Lutheran Schools strongly support the Committee's resolutions involving:

- access by all students to HECS-style loans;
- a commitment to 'universal access' to post secondary education through equitable public budget support for all individuals who gain access to a course offered by an accredited provider;
- the provision of public funding for higher education at 'private' institutions on the basis of, amongst other factors, equity and diversity;
- an independent and robust process for the educational accreditation of those courses for which students can use public funding;
- a process which assures the financial viability of institutions through, for example, a 'prudential regulator' that assesses and reports on the financial circumstances of those institutions which are accredited to take publicly funded students; and
- the facilitation of the provision of performance information to students by, for example, the private providers through the communication of appropriate information and analysis to students.

THE TERTIARY INSTITUTION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

Both Luther Seminary and the Board for Lutheran Schools wish to record their endorsement of these principles, and look forward to their further elaboration in the Committee's final report.

Yours sincerely

Dr Vic Pfitzner
Principal

Note: Luther Seminary is the national tertiary institution of the Lutheran Church of Australia. It provides fully accredited higher education programs in theology, the humanities and education at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It is also in partnership in the provision of initial teacher education courses, as from 1998, with the Flinders University and with the Australian Catholic University.

Its current enrolment is in the order of 170 students, with a Faculty of 15. It is currently funded by both the Church itself and by some student fees.

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