

CDAA is Disappointed with Government's Announced Changes to University Fees

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The Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) is disappointed with the Federal Government's announced changes to university fees.

The new fee structure encourages a mindset that places more value on some degrees than others.

CDAA National President Wanda Hayes said the value of a degree is not a fixed formula based on the subject matter covered.

"People obtain the most value from a degree when they choose a program that aligns with and builds upon their interests and natural talents," she said.

Ms Hayes said that while it is great that fees have been reduced for some study areas, we shouldn't assume that will prompt people to study in those areas or that it will produce a good outcome.

"People are more likely to be successful in finding jobs if they focus on their strengths and interests," she said.

"Employers want motivated, engaged and productive workers, and that is most likely to happen when people pursue study pathways they are genuinely suited to."

The new fee structure will make some degrees much more affordable, but may put others - including those in humanities, law and social science fields - effectively out of reach for some students.

"Study in these fields enhances critical thinking skills that are an essential part of innovation – something the government says it values highly," Ms Hayes said.

"These courses are valuable to our community because they teach people to question the status quo, think clearly, develop new evidence-based ideas, and communicate effectively.

"All of these skills are highly valued by employers, and thereby contribute to business and the economy."

Instead of making changes to the fee structure, Ms Hayes said the Government should focus on ensuring people are choosing high quality courses best suited to them.

"While we are pleased that some course fees are going to be reduced, this shouldn't be at the cost of other areas," she said.

The Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) commenced as the Australian Association of Career Counsellors in 1989, and is Australia's largest cross-sectoral association of career development professionals working in a diverse range of roles, delivering services in industry, government, education, employment programs and community organisations. The primary purpose of the CDAA is to support its members by leading, building and growing the career development profession.

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