



Australian Government
Department of Education

Update on Higher Education Reforms

March 2025




What is changing in 2025

Dec 2024 - Feb 2025

- **Disability Support Fund** funding quadrupled from 1 January
- **FEE-FREE Uni Ready** started 1 January, with additional competitive places now allocated
- **40% Student Services and Amenities Fees allocation to student led organisations** from 1 January
- **National Student Ombudsman** started taking complaints from 1 February
- **Rolling-over the unused funding for the 20,000 commencing CSPs for non-Table A providers** from 2024 to 2025 commencements

Mid-2025

- **20 per cent reduction of HELP debt** occurs in June, followed by **increase to the minimum repayment threshold** for HELP on 1 July
 - **National Code on Gender-Based Violence** legislation in Parliament
 - **Commonwealth Prac Payments** to students begin from 1 July
 - **Interim ATEC** starts on 1 July
 - Transfer of **Indigenous Student Success Program (ISSP)** from NIAA to DoE from 1 July
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Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) – governance and leadership



Australian Tertiary Education Commission

- Formal independence will be established through its enabling legislation
- The Minister for Education will guide the ATEC through a regular, published statement of expectations
- The ATEC will work in close collaboration with the sector
- Government has agreed the ATEC be established and led by three expert Commissioners:
 - A full-time Chief Commissioner
 - A full-time First Nations Commissioner
 - A part-time Commissioner
- As a collective, Commissioners must bring a diversity of experience to the ATEC, including substantial experience in VET
 - Commissioners will bring extensive experience in tertiary education, a history of delivering great public outcomes, a deep understanding of First Nations issues and a strong commitment to consultation and engagement to the ATEC.
- Commissioners will be appointed through a transparent merit-based process as independent statutory officeholders and supported by an ATEC staffed from the Department of Education
- Commissioners will be appointed for up to (and ideally) five years



What is changing in 2026

- **Managed Growth Funding** transition year, including additional funding to reflect student demand and continuing funding protections
- Demand-driven **Needs-based Funding** starts
- **ATEC** permanently implemented, subject to passage of legislation
- Negotiation of first **mission-based compacts**

What is changing in 2027 and beyond

- Full implementation of **Managed Growth** Funding, subject to passage of legislation
 - Enhanced **mission-based compacts** take effect
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