



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

MEDIA RELEASE

FINAL CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: INQUIRY INTO THE NEW SOUTH WALES UNIVERSITY SECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Submissions close this week for the inquiry into the New South Wales university sector.

The Standing Committee on Social Issues established the inquiry in response to a petition from 2,619 petitioners of New South Wales to the NSW Legislative Council about university governance.

The committee will examine a range of matters regarding the legislative and governance arrangements of universities, including for example the powers and responsibilities of university councils, and the reporting obligations to the NSW Parliament, NSW Department of Education, and the NSW Auditor General, and the ability to provide oversight of staffing, financial management, and use of external consultants. The committee will also consider the role of governance structures in safeguarding the public mission of universities, academic freedom, research ethics, and student welfare.

The Hon. Dr Sarah Kaine MLC, Committee Chair, stated: 'Governance of public universities in New South Wales, is in crisis. Various universities across the state are facing drastic restructures, which will impact university staff, and threaten the quality and accessibility of public higher education. A reduction of university courses being offered, an increase in workload for academic staff, and a growing reliance on private consultancy firms for decision-making, are just some of the factors identified by the many concerned stakeholders who made the petition to the NSW Parliament'.

The Chair continued: 'The inquiry is an opportunity for the committee to determine opportunities for reform, that will help strengthen governance, transparency and accountability of the university sector. We want to hear directly from those impacted in the University sector and broader community – whether you're a student, a staff member, a university leader, an expert, or simply someone who cares about the future of higher education in NSW.'

The closing date for submissions is 17 October 2025. Submissions may be lodged via the committee's website: [New South Wales university sector](#).

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Dr Sarah Kaine, on 9230 2444