



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

MEDIA RELEASE

UPCOMING HEARING FOR THE INQUIRY INTO THE NEW SOUTH WALES UNIVERSITY SECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
6 NOVEMBER 2025**

The Standing Committee on Social Issues will hold its first hearing into the New South Wales university sector on Friday, 7 November 2025.

The committee will hear from unions, student associations, academics and governance experts. The committee will also hear from representatives of the University of Technology Sydney, including the Vice Chancellor, members of the university's governing body, the UTS Council, and representatives of the UTS students' association.

In the course of the inquiry the committee will examine a range of matters, including the powers and responsibilities of university councils, transparency and accountability requirements, reporting obligations, and use of external consultants. The committee will also consider the role of governance structures in safeguarding the public mission of universities, including academic freedom, research ethics, and student welfare.

The Hon. Dr Sarah Kaine MLC, Committee Chair said: 'Governance of public universities in New South Wales is in crisis. UTS and a number of universities across the state are facing drastic restructures, which will impact university staff, and threaten the quality and accessibility of public higher education. Some of the concerns identified in submissions made to the inquiry include 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.

The Chair continued: 'As I have previously stated, the inquiry gives the committee an opportunity to make recommendations to the NSW Government for legislative reform that will help strengthen governance, transparency and accountability of the university sector.'

Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearings in-person in or watch via the broadcast live on the NSW Parliament [website](#).

For more information about this inquiry, including the committee membership and terms of reference, and submissions, see the inquiry [webpage](#).

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