

### Little support for the Education sector, with no commitment given to the re-opening of borders

#### Key takeaways

- No commitment to a re-opening of international borders before mid 2022
- Universities are the biggest losers, as funding for private school education soars
- International students provided with visa concessions to allow increased work rights from 20 to 40 hours per week
- All children, regardless of their economic circumstances will be provided free access to at least 15 hours a week of learning in the year before school
- Increasing the Child Care Subsidy rate by 30% for the second child and subsequent children aged five years or under.

#### Higher education

- No increase in University funding for research or education programs
- An additional \$30,000 per research PhD graduate who undertakes a three-month industry internship, on top of the \$30,000 or \$70,000 base funding universities already receive for an existing research PhD student completion. This measure will drive industry-based learning, build stronger employment pathways for PhD students, and create stronger links between universities and industry.

#### Skills and training

- Government to fund 10,000 additional digital skills training places and around 33,800 additional training places in the aged care sector
- Extension of Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy for another 6 months to 31 March 2022
- Digital Workforce package, which will see 20,000 individuals upskill and reskill in digital fields, including 3000 digital apprentices and trainees, and new Digital Skills Cadetships.

#### Did the Budget put the spotlight on what you wanted?

Sadly, given current border closures there was an expectation that there would be additional government funding to support the higher education sector. Apart from the funding provided in 2020 there is no additional support over the forward estimates to 2025.

On a more positive note, funding for private school education is budgeted to increase 6.1% in real terms over the forward estimates to 2025.

Given the contribution of the university sector in COVID-19 research and health facilities it is disappointing to not see an investment by the government in research activities that may prevent future pandemics.

#### Our review



1/5 – Audience left disappointed

*While there was funding support in 2020 there was hope of further support through to the period when borders re-opened, however we were left extremely disappointed.*



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