

New Zealand Productivity Commission
PO Box 8036
The Terrace
Wellington New Zealand 6143

24 February 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

I applaud the wide-ranging nature of your inquiry into tertiary education. It seems to me that only by exploring alternative approaches and institutions can we ensure that everyone gets a decent tertiary education, which embraces both vocational and scholarly learning.

A couple of years ago I undertook a project, funded by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research, that discussed these things. Two papers resulted, an [historical analysis](#) of the Australian binary policy of higher education. This may be of interest in so far as it articulated some of the enduring problems facing tertiary education policy. The second came about after a roundtable (conducted under Chatham House rules) at the University of Canberra, in which senior representatives of the sector considered some future possibilities. These were sketched out in a [short paper](#) aimed at stimulating further discussion in the Australian reform debate but they may also be pertinent to your considerations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Francesca M. Beddie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Francesca Beddie

Adjunct Associate Professor, Education Faculty
University of Canberra