

Sirs

Moments ago, I listened to a news report wherein it was said that your commission was recommending interest rates be re-introduced on students loans: I was appalled!

The introduction of charges for tertiary education was a mistake when it was carried out. A mistake which could only be rectified with great difficulty because a return to essentially free tertiary education would create an inequity between those students receiving that benefit and those of the previous few years who have had to pay for their tertiary education.

I cannot imagine any economist supporting any move to increase the costs of tertiary education. A thoroughgoing analysis of the economic costs and benefits of tertiary education, spread through the population to the maximum degree possible, over the next several generations, must find that the benefits clearly exceed the costs. Please do not leave such analyses to accountants!

Rest assured I will vote for any politician who is prepared to support any decrease in the costs of tertiary education to New Zealand students.

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