

THE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES ACCORD: IMPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH TRAINING

Andrew Norton

ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

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Australian
National
University

A taken-for-granted instrumental view of unis in Canberra

- Graduates to meet employer needs
- Research aimed at end user needs
- Unis to contribute to equity agenda



01

AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY EDUCATION COMMISSION (ATEC)



Regulatory & policy structure

- Australian Tertiary Education Commission
 - TEQSA a statutory agency within ATEC
 - ARC a statutory agency within ATEC
- ATEC Commission members
 - ATEC Chief Commissioner + 2 deputies
 - ARC Board Chair
 - TEQSA Chief Commissioner
 - Equity Commissioner
 - First Nations Commissioner
 - Regional Commissioner



ATEC would have extensive research-related functions

- Funding allocations to universities for research
- Including RTP, RSP & NCRIS but not NHMRC or MRFF
- New Solving Australian Challenges Strategic Fund
- Create a National Research Workforce Development Strategy
- Negotiate mission-based compacts (detail of what unis expected to deliver)
- Monitoring performance
- Policy advice to government
- Annual state of the sector report



ATEC sources of research advice

- Australian Research Council
- Centre of Excellence in Higher Education & Research (within ATEC)
- First Nations Council
- Research Investor Forum
 - Business focused - share ideas on problems to be researched
- Research stakeholder consultations



02

RESEARCH STUDENTS

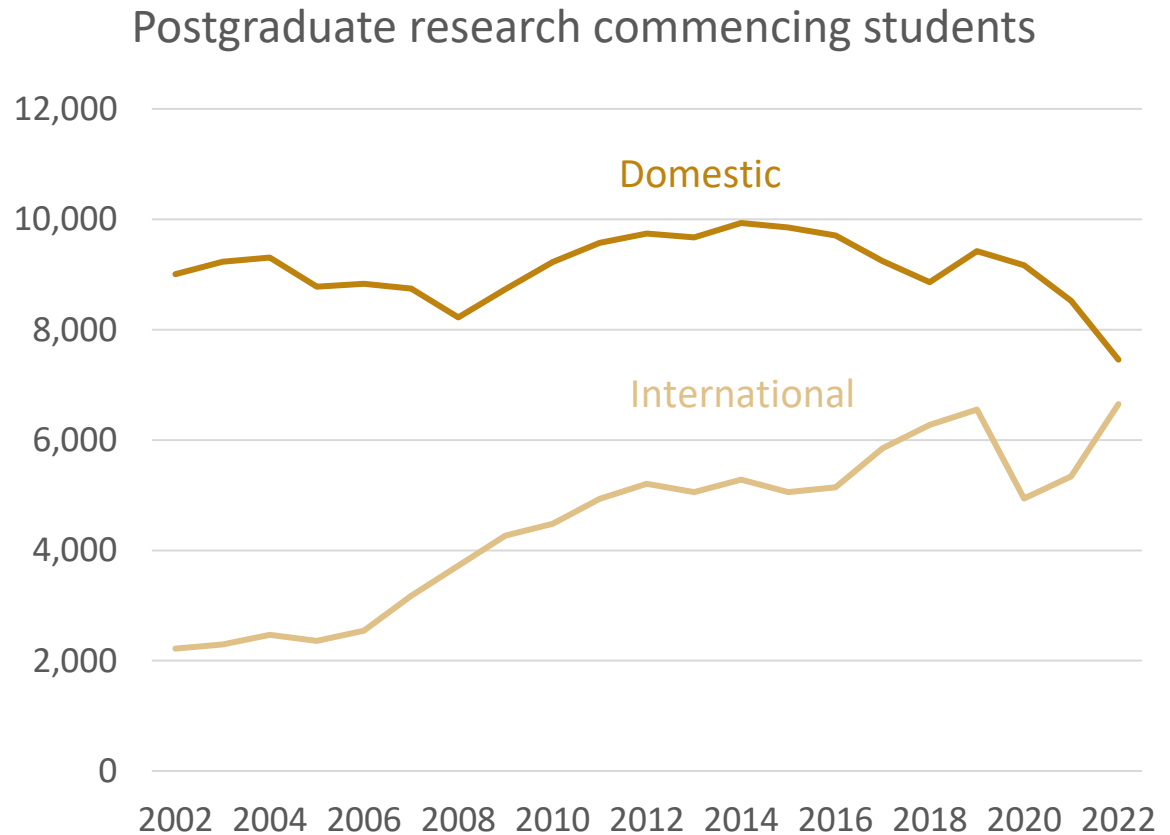


What would the National Research Workforce Development Strategy include?

- About the research workforce generally, not just in universities
- Smoother HDR student flows from industry & into industry
- Targets for PhD candidates with topics related to their industry of employment
- Research students & postdocs undertaking parallel qualifications in business, leadership & teaching
- More equity group HDR students, flowing on from targets for undergraduate enrolments



Accord report wants to reverse a decline in research student numbers



Source: Department of Education, Selected student statistics, Enrolment pivot table



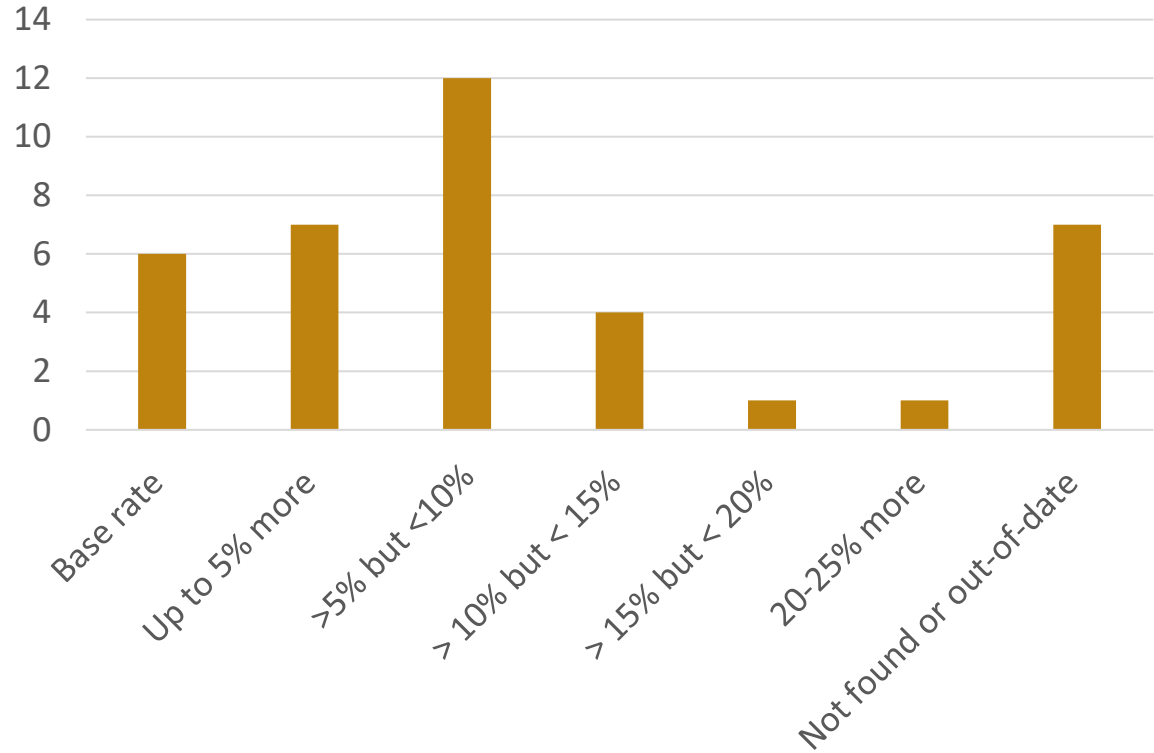
Research student income

- Higher base rate for the RTP stipend
- Part-time stipends to be tax free
- But teaching work may be harder to get
- All teaching staff, including casuals, to have teaching qualifications



Fewer universities are offering the base rate for RTP stipends

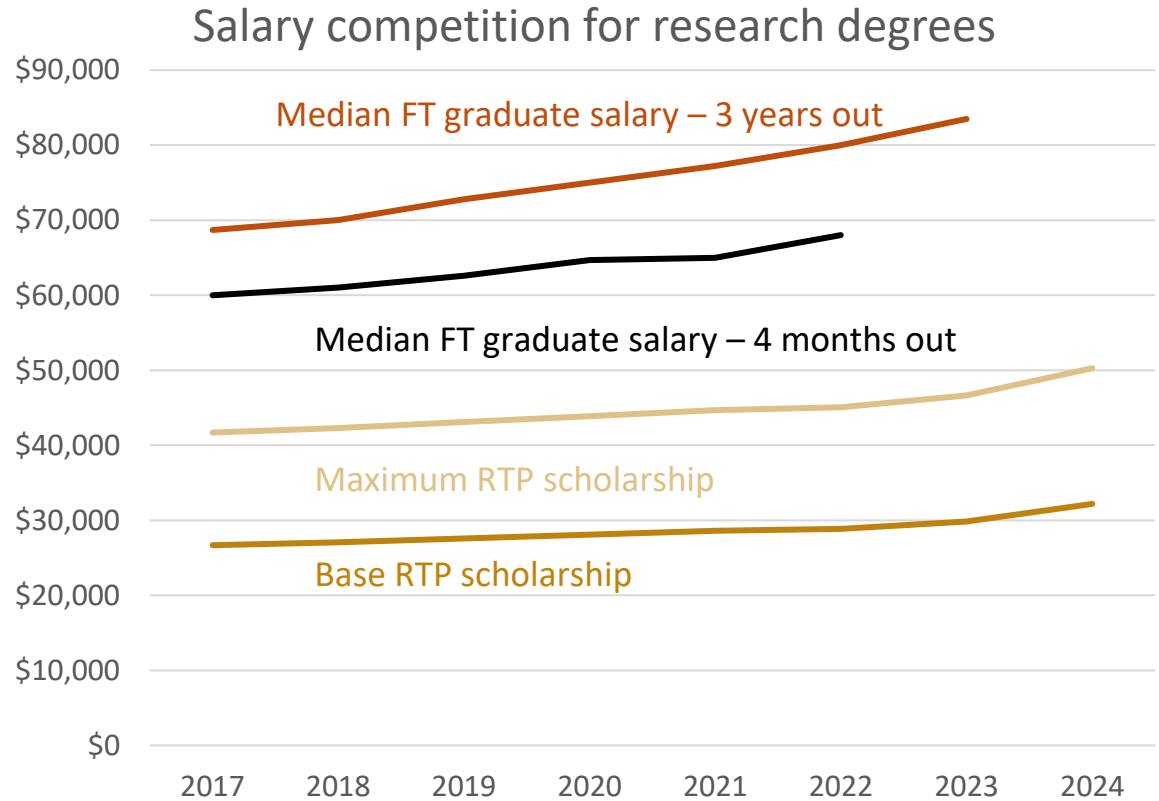
Table A university advertised RTP stipends



Source: Desktop website search April 2024



Stipends
would need to
be a lot higher
to be
competitive
with work



Sources: SRC, Graduate Outcomes Survey & GOS-L
Department of Education, Historical stipend rates for scholarships



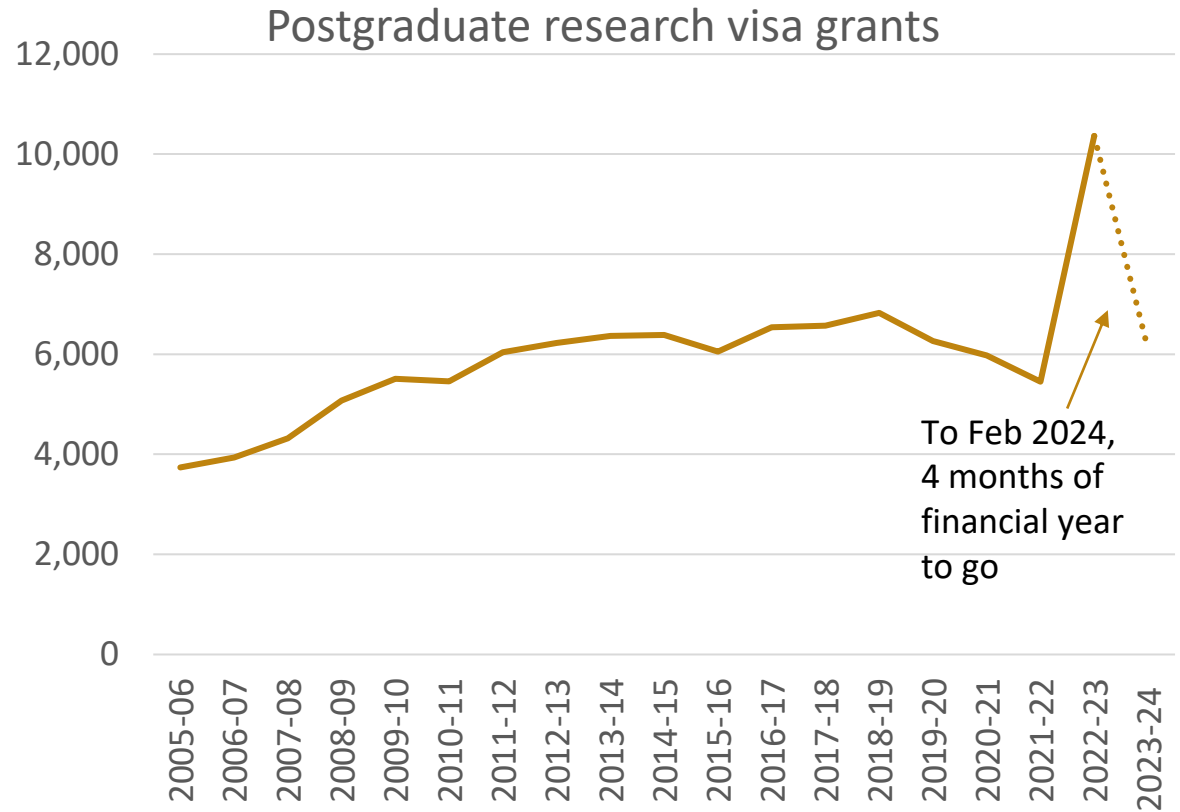
03

THE NEAR TERM



International student visa applications & grants still strong, but:

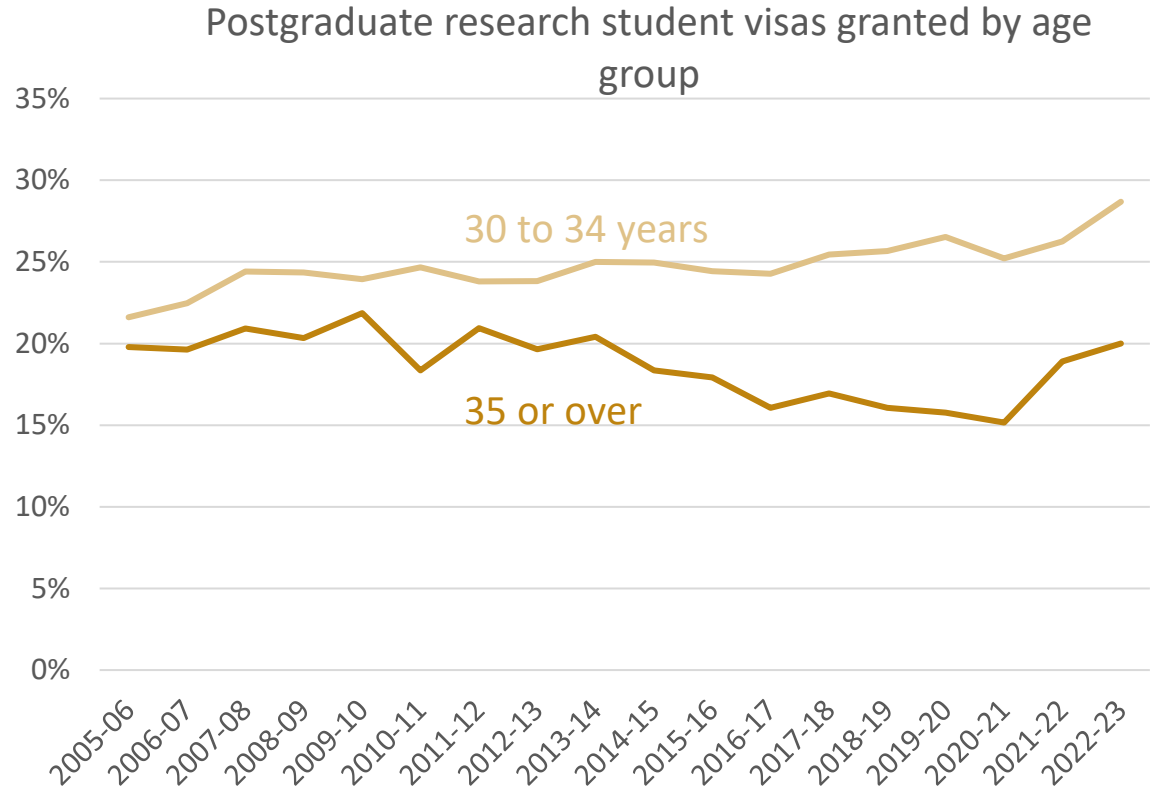
- Critical technology rules
- 485 visa changes



Source: Department of Home Affairs, Student visas granted



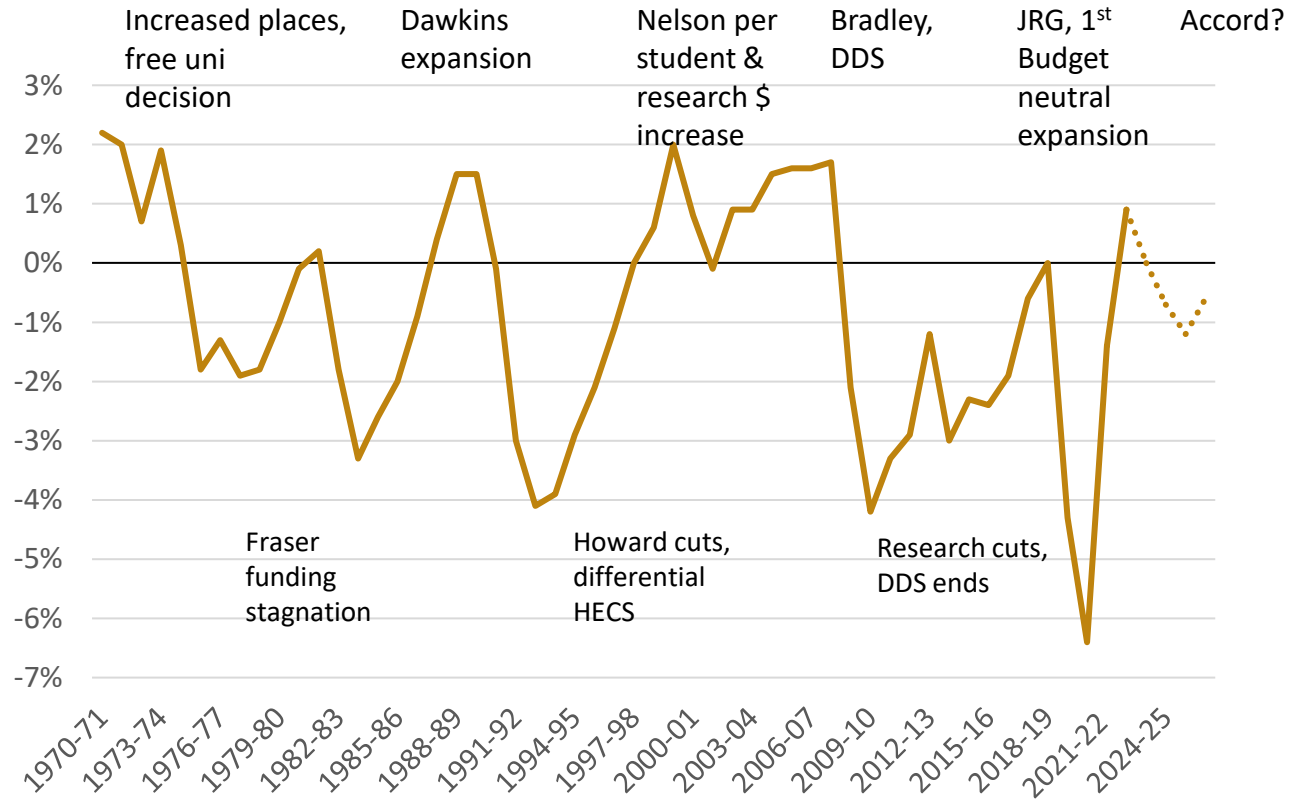
The proposed maximum age for a 485 visa of 35 years could have a major effect



Source: Department of Home Affairs, Student visa program



Higher education policy historically tied to the Budget cycle



Budget deficit/surplus as % of GDP

Source: Treasury, MYEFO



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