

Open Letter to University IT Suppliers

The impact of COVID-19 is being felt across the entire world economy.

Many of our vendors have supported the Higher Education community by granting free licenses and working hard alongside us to adjust to new ways of teaching as social distancing measures became more common. This assistance was greatly appreciated and allowed us to start the transition to a 'new normal.'

We are now seeking your assistance and consideration as the financial implications of the situation become clearer.

University revenues have been hit hard by COVID-19. Universities Australia conservatively estimates a revenue loss of between \$3.0B and \$4.6B in 2020. Kearney Consulting have provided a less optimistic position—a decline in domestic students of between 15-20%, international students 30-50%—resulting in a reduction of \$7B-\$9B.

The ongoing reduction in revenue is estimated to be approximately 20% with recovery taking until at least 2024.

Universities have reacted swiftly; cancelling projects, releasing contractors, reducing casual staff numbers, reducing pay (at some institutions) and considering redundancies. Universities Australia anticipates a loss of around 21,000 full-time equivalent positions across the sector in 2020.

Before the crisis, costs were already increasing more rapidly than revenue.

Universities are reviewing their positions and contracts, and have asked CAUDIT to do the same on their behalf. We are looking for true partners to help universities through this crisis and asking our IT vendors to assist—to help reduce our operational costs, to offer direct price relief and to contribute in any other way that may be possible.

Consideration of our situation would be appreciated.



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About CAUDIT

CAUDIT is the Council of Australasian University Directors of Information Technology, a not for profit association incorporated in NSW, owned by member organisations within Australia and New Zealand. It is the peak body for Information Technology Services within Higher Education and Research, representing 63 member institutions across the region.

CAUDIT's mission is to support each other in leading the application of digital capabilities to transform education and research.

References

- <https://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/media-item/uni-viability-crucial-to-national-recovery/>
- <https://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/media-item/investment-in-university-research-an-investment-in-covid-19-recovery/>
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