



bright future – shining stars

You all seem to have an awful lot of qualifications and things, did that take a lot of uni and how did you manage costs and residence and those kind of things? Going to university for starters?

Jenny Martin

Perhaps I can start. I went through uni when there was no HECS debt. I don't know if I would have gone through had there not been, being from a large family, maybe I would, maybe I wouldn't but after that, after my undergraduate degree, I've got two postgraduate degrees and I was awarded scholarships for both of those. I just have to thank the Queen over there, one of the scholarships was the Queen Elizabeth II scholarship to go over to the UK so thanks for that. If you do well at undergraduate level, then you're much better placed to get funded for the costs of postgraduate study, so you can get scholarships that will fund your stipend, which is your living expenses, and to cover the cost of fees and I don't think you have to pay HECS until after you finished all of that, so you can leave that out 'til then.

Melissa Griffith

I unfortunately did have a HECS debt but that's alright because you don't have to pay it 'til you start working so I went through uni and I always had a part-time job. I used to work selling shoes 'cause I absolutely love shoes, I have lots of them so for me, that was always my part-time job, through high school and university. So I had my play money and Mum and Dad assisted me as well to complement that so they paid for my rent 'cause I lived on, I grew up on the Sunshine Coast and I came to university in Brisbane and I just lived with a bunch of friends so we had a fantastic time but there was lots of learning about, you know, how different people do the dishes and how they cook, you know, they cook onion in a different way to how you cook onion and you know, there's a whole stack of things that go on, but it's great. We had great fun and with my post grad, I did, so I did four years for my first degree and then I started working and then I did my second degree while I was working full-time so I just did a subject a semester, really part-time and I paid for it myself and my work gave me some money towards it as well so it helped out.

Miranda Forwood

Yeah, I've also got a big, nasty HECS debt 'cause I did five years of undergrad at uni. By the end of it, yeah I was sort of, people were like, oh, you want to do post grad, I'm like, yeah, you know, in a couple of years, not just yet and yeah, I actually struggled really, really hard when I was going through uni 'cause I didn't, my parents couldn't afford to help me out and I couldn't get Centrelink benefits either so I had to work. I think I worked about 15 hours or so as a waitress, all through uni and so that kind of destroyed my social life at uni, working on Friday and Saturday nights but I didn't have the money to go out anyway so that was okay. But it's worth it, you know, I mean, you just manage it somehow. Like, I look back now and just go, oh my God, I don't know how I survived on that sort of no money, no time and sort of having to work in uni. Most of my friends didn't have jobs or rent to pay or anything like that but you just, you survive, you just have to yeah, be good with your time management and your budgeting.



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