

## **CDAA Rejects Concerns Over Recommendation Based University Offers**

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The Career Development Association of Australia rejects recent concerns that university offers based on recommendations rather than results attacks academic achievement and lowers entry standards.

CDAA spokesperson Wanda Hayes said while universities have focused on Year 12 results for many years, for some specialised courses they have used other criteria for some time.

“Universities have already been using other information such as performance in standardised admissions tests, written submissions, portfolio submissions, or interviews,” Ms Hayes said.

“They have also been using recommendations from schools and recognition of vocational qualifications and work experience prior to the pandemic.”

Ms Hayes said Year 12 results are not always the best predictor of success in a course, nor are they a means of ensuring a good “fit” between the applicant and the course they are applying for.

“For example, it’s not uncommon for students who wish to study Law at university to take a program of study in Year 12 that is mostly Maths and Science subjects,” Ms Hayes said.

“They hope those subjects will help them achieve the highest possible ATAR. But subjects like Modern History and Legal Studies may in fact be a better preparation for a Law degree.”

Ms Hayes said using mechanisms other than the ATAR can help universities to select students that are more likely to engage enthusiastically in a particular course.

“They can also indicate if students are more likely to complete the course, and more likely to pursue a successful career in that field upon graduation. Surely this should be the gold standard for universities.”

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The Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) commenced as the Australian Association of Career Counsellors in 1989, and is Australia’s largest cross-sectoral association of career development professionals working in a diverse range of roles, delivering services in industry, government, education, employment programs and community organisations. The primary purpose of the CDAA is to support its members by leading, building and growing the career development profession.

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