David Murray’s Comments on the liberal Arts

Many students are concerned about studying a Liberal Arts course because they believe it limits their career options. Parents too are concerned that students need to choose a purely vocational program to be successful.

But the evidence for this concern is unsubstantiated.

Increasingly, employers are seeking graduates who can reason, be flexible in their outlook and who have some context in the environment in which they work.

David Murray, the former Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Bank, has commented on the value of the Liberal Arts in preparing Australians for the challenges of the future. He told the higher education newspaper, the Campus Review

"I would like to see a much bigger emphasis on the Liberal Arts, philosophy and thinking skills, followed by some specialisation rather than the other way round.

You have to question taking some of the best minds in the country through commerce/law so they can be better than you or I at interpreting 13,000 pages of tax legislation. Can we do something more with that mind?"

Campus Review, 19 October 2005, p.4

Experts also estimate that a person starting work now will change their career between three and five times in their lifetime. Possessing broad-based skills applicable to a range of careers will stand Liberal Arts graduates in good stead.