



For Immediate Release

22nd March 2019

NUS Wary of International Scholarship Scheme

The National Union of Students is concerned by the Australian Government's approach to supporting regional universities in light of the recent announcement of a new scholarship program for international students.

While the plan would see 4720 places funded up to \$15,000 to study at regional university campuses, there is no news from the government about securing student employment prospects or increasing funding for universities.

Nearly 60% of regional, rural, and remote students have to relocate to study, effectively doubling the cost of their degree. These students need adequately resourced universities and stronger workplace rights. The scholarship plan will barely make a dent in the funding and access concerns, or cost of living anxieties of the hundreds of thousands of students studying at regional universities.

NUS is concerned that the timing of this announcement is merely an effort to attract votes in regional seats in the lead-up to the Federal Election.

"The Government has made it clear that university funding and the future of education are the last things on its mind," said NUS Education Officer, Lachlan Barker. "This scholarship program is welcome, but a lot more has to be done to improve the quality of education than waving money at prospective students."

"Regional students across Australia are concerned about insecure work, cost of living, and inadequately funded universities," said NUS Small and Regional Campus Officer Jordan Mumford. "This announcement does nothing to seriously address these issues, and regional students deserve better."

For further comment;

NUS National President
Desiree Cai

E: president@nus.asn.au
P: 0411 606 80