



For immediate release

27th March 2019

Students locked out of the budget yet again, where is Scott Morrison's vision for our future?

Students and young people have been locked out of the federal budget lock-up yet again with the National Union of Students (NUS) being locked out for the third year in a row. In the lead-up to the federal budget announcement, students across the country will be campaigning to present their vision for Australia's future.

"We have seen 6 years of neglect from this government, 6 years without policies for students and young people. Meanwhile student fees and barriers to higher education have increased, and job prospects for graduates are increasingly insecure," said NUS National President Desiree Cai.

"Workplace exploitation, underpayment and a failing income support system are making the cost of living untenable for students. We are the first generation who will be worse off than our parents, and on top of that climate change threatens any stability for our future," said Ms Cai.

NUS is calling for action and leadership from the government, and in this upcoming federal budget announcement students want to see:

- Increasing public investment into higher education to 1% of GDP;
- The \$104,000 HELP loan limit abolished, and the increase of the HELP repayment threshold back to \$55,864;
- Investment in accessible, low-cost housing options;
- Restoring penalty rates to the 2016 model, criminalising wage theft and ending permanent casualisation to combat underemployment and work exploitation;
- An increase to income support, particularly Newstart, Youth Allowance, Austudy and ABSTUDY, to at least 75% of the Henderson poverty line;
- Investment in renewables, for a zero emissions target by 2030.

"Young people have a vision for our future that our government does not. We are demanding action and policy for our future, and if this government cannot deliver it, students will be fighting back come the federal election."

For further comment;

NUS National President

Desiree Cai

E: president@nus.asn.au

P: 0411 606 808