



17<sup>th</sup> March

For immediate release

### **Students celebrate the defeat of deregulation**

The National Union of Students today are ecstatic over the defeat of the Higher Education Research and Reform bill.

Students have been campaigning since the irresponsible budget measure was announced in May 2014 with no consultation with students.

Not only have students argued that this bill will gut funding from universities but it would have allowed universities to charge whatever they wished for a degree as well as trying to sell 'new' scholarships by rearranging the existing funding seeing no new funding to the sector.

The National Union of Students has co-ordinated mass demonstrations, stunts and lobbying against these disastrous "reforms" throughout the past year.

NUS President Rose Steele said " We congratulate the Labor Party, the Greens and members of the crossbench who tonight stood up for students and their constituents. Students have fought hard and deserve to celebrate this major win."

However, we are still facing a tertiary sector that is underfunded and in real threat of declining quality of education.

NUS president Rose Steele said "If Pyne wants to take these reforms to an election he is not listening – what students and the sector are calling for is increased base funding"

Students are looking to parliament for the future of higher education, what the government don't understand is the importance of a publically funded higher education system that produces benefits for the whole nation.

We need the government of the day to prioritise education and research for the future."

Students will be rallying around the country on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March for their education and for increased base funding, income support and quality education.

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