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Media Release

Budget Has No Vision For Students.

The National Union of Students (NUS) tonight are furious that the budget handed down continues to push on with the governments unfair agenda to deregulate university fees and slash the public investment into higher education.

One year on these unfair measures will still see universities allowed to set their own price for degrees, reduce government contributions and devastate research in Australia.

President of NUS Rose Steele said, "This is a continued attack on the future of education and has been botched since its first introduction.

These budget measures will not gain support from the public or the senate.

Fee deregulation has twice been voted down by the senate proving the government have failed to listen to the public who are screaming out for education to be a priority of this government."

Polling today has shown that 80% think that deregulating university fees will lead to greater inequality between Australian universities and create an American-style Ivy League system, 77% think that deregulating universities will mean Australian families have to take on unreasonable debt if they want their children to go to university and 73% of the public agree there needs to be more funding into higher education not less.

Ms Steele said "To pour salt in the wound, young people under the age of 25 will be subjected to wait for 4 week to receive any income support under changes to Newstart"

Investment into Australia's most important resource – our people is what a smart government would do. Time and time again this government have proven to be unfair and against our national interest.

NUS will continue to fight against these measures and for a fair equitable university system.

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