



14th May 2015

NUS welcomes opposition budget commitments.

NUS tonight are welcoming the Federal Labor opposition's plan for higher education.

Bill Shorten has announced not only to continue to oppose fee deregulation and any cuts to the sector but committed to raising funding to 3 per cent of GDP to research and development by the end of the next decade.

This comes after two consecutive budgets which have ignored students and left Australia lagging far behind their counter parts in the OECD on education and research, with some of the lowest funding into higher education.

The National Union of Students (NUS) have led an incredibly successful year long campaign against fee deregulation with the support of the Greens, Labor and crossbench senators which would have seen generations priced out of a degree and a future.

NUS President Rose Steele said "Tonight we have heard the commitments we have been long been campaigning for promised and look forward to further announcements for the ALP"

"This campaign, and the sector has been long calling for funding of a chronically underfunded higher education system, the rejection of fee deregulation and education as a priority."

Additionally the opposition have announced they will support more students in the areas of science technology engineering and maths (STEM) through increased funding and support.

Ms Steele said "We need universities and the future of higher education in Australia to be accessible, and the promises tonight to encourage students of the future are fantastic"

HECs can be a barrier to many and to encourage 100, 000 students into the areas of STEM and to write off their HECs debt is a smart move for a smart future"

NUS are awaiting further announcements from the federal opposition and will hold Labor to see these commitments through.

For further comment contact

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