



28<sup>th</sup> May 2015

## Dodgy spending from VCs

NUS is seriously concerned by the findings of the VAGO report on Victorian Universities released yesterday.

During 2014 over 137 million dollars was spent on travel across the 8 universities.

The report shows that although universities have policies on travel, they often could not demonstrate that the expenditure was in the public interest.

Under the VAGO report basic recommendations such as “a clear definition of personal travel, and a set of rules on cost sharing where personal travel is attached to business travel, rules around the ownership and use of frequent flyer points” were outlined to be implemented.

Further to this travel during 2014 across the universities has not been appropriately authorised travel as well as discrepancies on agreed travel dates and incomplete travel diaries.

NUS President Rose Steele said “These are public universities, the fact that Vice Chancellors who are meant to be overseeing them are already being paid over often around 1 million dollars cannot account on their travel and could be gaining frequent flyer points is deplorable”

The 8 Victorian Universities need to make it clear what the travel money was spent on and ensure that money will only be spent for the public benefit.

Not only did the report outline that travel funds are not accountable to the public benefit but universities such as Deakin and Melbourne have continued to fail to account to the Australian accounting standards.

While students are suffering at the hands of university-sanctioned cuts, unaccounted travel funds are not being comprehensibly accounted for.

Students are seeing overcrowded lectures, cuts to staff both academic and general and a general decline in the quality of tertiary education.

The National Union of Students is calling on universities to be accountable the students and staff who make up these organisations and to the society of which they are to benefit.

### Contact

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