

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of the certain students and citizens of the North Shore Area and Northern Sydney draws to the attention of the House to the Budget of 2014-15, Higher Education sector. We believe that the Higher Education sector should be revised so that it does not discriminate against students based on their family wealth or make it more difficult for them to repay their debts by placing an interest rate on the HELP debt. This will not only increase the gap between higher and lower class citizen of Australia but force lower class citizens into a cycle of poverty. Though the government wishes Australia to have more universities within the top 100 around the world, this will make them inaccessible to many Australian students. It is a universal right to have equitable access to higher education and this budget is in fact denying those who are financially disadvantaged. Citizens from generations past have received the benefit of subsidised tertiary education including members of parliament, like our Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

We therefore ask the House to amend or remove this section of the Budget so that it does not make it more challenging for any students to enter university than it is already with their Higher School Certificate and to have equal advantage for everybody.