

To Whom It May Concern:

When I commenced this degree I knew no one in the course and very few people in Sydney. Thankfully there were many people in a similar position to me who had also moved here from around the country and globe and were keen to make new friends and start an exciting journey.

As the months have passed since Uni commenced in February I have continued to unpack the boxes whose contents contain most of my life's memories, placing them around the house. I know that I will be in Sydney for a long time and where I live has fast become not only my house but also my home.

In my stay thus far I have become good friends with many of the international students. Many of them have come to Australia not only for education but to live here and work in the future as they recognize that Australia is a great place to live and raise families.

It is a nice feeling to arrive in a completely new environment away from friends and family and yet feel comfortable, at peace and at home in my town, Sydney. My friends and I have become regulars at some of the coffee houses and restaurants and through our patronage have become friends of the workers thinking that we will be going to these places, our favourite places, for many years to come.

This nice, comfortable feeling that many of my cohort had when we moved to Sydney has been replaced with feelings of stress, betrayal and an overarching sense of isolation. This is due to abandonment of the international students by the Australian Government once they have finished paying their fees. Whilst I can look forward to many years more in Sydney and Australia completing my internship and following years and then working and contributing to our nation the International students studying with me will not be given this chance.

The stress, betrayal and isolation has been detrimental to the International students ability to study, and plan for a future and I believe will have profound consequences on the interest International students will have in Australia in the future. Loss of these students will not only cause significant losses to Australian education in regards to revenue, our national multiculturalism but also our reputation of gaining the best students nationally and globally, as we will have to sell medical positions not to the best students but to the ones who can afford them.

In short I am extremely disappointed of the lack of information, correspondence and consideration given to International students in general but especially in medicine where they will be at a severe disadvantage to gain any sort of postgraduate positions thereby making their huge investment of time and money in our country worthless. I believe that there are other possibilities and avenues that should be considered and deliberated upon so that we can keep our reputation of world-class education provided in our unique Aussie way that

develops character and integrity, both of which I believe are lacking so far in the international students' treatment.

Sincerely,

Zach Turner