

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

This petition of the National Union of Students (NUS) on behalf of students studying higher education across Australia draws to the attention of the House:

The harmful impact that the imposition of a \$6 fee on GP visits would have upon already financially strained students.

A Universities Australia survey released in July 2013 found that:

- Two thirds of undergraduate students live below the poverty line
- Two thirds of undergraduate students reported some form of financial stress.
- One fifth of undergraduate students have reported going without food due to financial reasons.

Students should not have to choose between adequate mental and physical health and other financial commitments.

As Australian undergraduate students, we request that the House of Representatives:

- Recognise that two thirds of Undergraduate students live below the poverty line and a fifth have reported going without food due to financial concerns.
- Acknowledge that students should not have to choose between adequate mental and physical health and other financial commitments.
- Refrain from altering the current Medicare arrangements and imposing a \$6 fee on GP visits.