



14th May 2007

## Students Protest against the Elitist Americanisation of Universities

Students around the country were outraged by the announcement from the Government that they would remove all caps on Domestic Full-Fee Entry (DFFE) places to Universities.

The removal of the cap on DFFE places was seen as the green light for some Universities, particularly the elite Universities, to move towards only offering DFFE places in some courses.

The further vertical stratification of Universities is an example of how the Government's current policy of diversification in the sector will lead to great inequities.

The National Union of Students called on the 16th of May on campus snap actions around the country, where students will be demonstrating their opposition to the changes. (Details below)

*National President, Mr Michael Nguyen said, "The change will ensure that only wealthy students will gain access to many of the courses that are currently in high demand, this is despite the Minister's reassurance that Universities would be required to fill their commonwealth supported places before offering full fee entry places."*

*Mr Nguyen went on to say, "The direction that higher education should be headed in, should be towards greater access. The phasing out of up-front fees will ensure that all Australians have an opportunity to go to University if they choose to do so."*

**Contact:**

**Michael Nguyen**  
**National President**  
**0411 606 808**

*"Only the elite sandstone Universities can sustain a high level of demand for full fee entry places and will further the government's agenda of vertical diversity."*

*"This policy is underpinned by the government's version of diversity which will reduce Australia to being a pale imitation of the American system and lead to a two-classed higher education system."*

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## Meeting Times and Locations

**Media Comment contact Michael Nguyen: 0411 606 808**

**QLD – Contact Claire Stimpson: 0434 884 578**

9am Queensland University of Technology, Kelvin Grove Campus, A Block Lawn

11am University of Queensland, Union Complex

**NSW – Contact Tom Patton: 0422 593 961**

12pm University of Sydney, Front of Fisher Library

**VIC – Contact Zoe Edwards: 0409 034 790**

12pm La Trobe University, The Agora

2pm Monash University, Clayton, Union Lawns

**SA – Contact Rhiannon Newman: 0400 273 335**

12pm Adelaide University, Barr-Smith Lawns

**ACT – Contact Marc Emerson: 0424 146 503**

12:30 University of Canberra, The Concourse

**WA – Contact Enrico Burgio: 0402 228 624**

12:30 University of Western Australia, Oak Lawns

**Tas – Contact Rikki Mawad: 0438 297 569**