



NEW ZEALAND UNION OF STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS (INC.)

TE RŌPŪ ĀKONGA O NGĀ WHARE WĀNANGA O AOTEAROA

NZUSA

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**MEDIA
RELEASE**

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Attention: Education and Political
reporters
For Immediate Release

Time for National to announce tertiary policy

Student representatives congratulate the new Minister for Tertiary Education, Anne Tolley, and are eagerly awaiting the release of National's tertiary education policy now they are leading the new Government.

"As the government put their tertiary policy together for release, we encourage them to consider the broad student, political and public support that NZUSA gained this year for a universal student allowance", said Liz Hawes, Co-President of the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA).

Recent research shows strong support for increasing access to allowances, which would simultaneously reduce the ever-increasing student debt problem. NZUSA's Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2007 showed 77% support an allowance for all fulltime students. A public phone poll conducted by independent research company Versus in September showed 72% support for more or all students to be entitled to a student allowance. And a 2008 Ministry of Education report highlighted significantly improved academic achievement when students are adequately supported with a student allowance, compared to those who are not.

"Given this evidence on the benefit of student allowances, and the knowledge of where all the other parties in Parliament sit on the issue of universal student allowances, the public is now looking to the new National-led government to finally announce its policy and intentions regarding student support, as promised before the election", said Hawes.

"Current and prospective students are looking for leadership and commitment on the issue of allowances, particularly as many are currently trying to make plans for next year and need to know what sort of support they can expect. For many it will be the deciding factor in whether they can enter education or not," said Hawes.

NZUSA looks forward to a productive working relationship with the new government and Minister for Tertiary Education, and good progress being made on the major issues facing students and the sector.

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