



MASSEY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Te Roopu Taura o te Kunenga ki Purehuroa

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Date: Thursday 10th May
Attention: ALL EDUCATION AND POLITICAL REPORTERS

Graduates Go Green - Student Debt Poison

Graduation begins for Massey University students this coming Monday May 14, where Palmerston North will kick start the first of 12 graduation ceremonies. 2,300 students in total will graduate over the week.

"Graduates will cross the stage with green ribbons distributed by MUSA pinned to their gowns as a symbol of student debt," said Huia Welton, President of Massey University Students' Association (MUSA).

"It is important that while we are celebrating the achievements of so many, we also recognise that in order to obtain a University education there have been huge costs involved. If three quarters of all those graduating have the average loan of \$12,413 that would equal \$21,412,425.00 - without question a terrifying amount," said Ms. Welton

"With the total amount of money owed to the Student Loan Scheme about to reach \$4 billion, we need to be aware that the issue of student debt does not just affect individual students or their families, it also effects the community at large," said Ms. Welton.

"The money owed through the student loan scheme touches everyone in society and it cannot help but have a detrimental effect upon both our economy and the lives we lead. Students graduating with degrees in engineering may go on to work for local government in assisting sewer and road designed, basic fundamental infrastructure. These graduates will demand to be paid more in order to pay off their student loans, thus rates will be forced to increase," Ms. Welton said.

"The issue of gender inequality is still extremely relevant - it will take the average woman to 27 years to pay off her student loan, and a man 14. The student loan scheme is blatantly unfair and needs to be overhauled."

ENDS

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