



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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Deputy Prime Minister Shows Support for International Students

Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Julia Gillard, has thrown Rudd Labor Government support behind international students studying in Australia, in light of recent violent attacks perpetrated around the country recently.

In a Ministerial Statement to Parliament yesterday afternoon, the Deputy Prime Minister announced that the Rudd Labor Government will invite international student representatives to participate in a roundtable to discuss issues affecting their study experience such as accommodation, welfare and safety.

Ms Gillard will be asking the round table to consider how the Government can best hear and respond to their views on these and other issues of vital concern to international students, on a continuing basis.

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, today welcomed this announcement.

"We are all aware of the spate of violent and cowardly attacks that have taken place on and around the Newcastle University campus recently," Ms Grierson said.

"Unfortunately, these incidents have not been restricted to our city. However, this announcement will provide an important forum for international students and other relevant stakeholders to express any concerns with their experiences in Australia, and ultimately serve to enhance international students' safety and protection."

"I offer my full support to this initiative, and encourage international students from Newcastle University and the Newcastle University Students' Association to apply to participate in this roundtable discussion."

The Deputy Prime Minister will shortly call for expressions of interest from those wanting to participate in the roundtable. Participants will be selected on the basis of their ability to represent the views of international students.

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