



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Release**  
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### **Newcastle to Speak Up on Student Violence**

Newcastle is to have a strong voice at an upcoming roundtable being held by Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard MP, on international student welfare, with two Newcastle University students to participate.

The students, both internationals, are Alexa Halford and Vee Lyn Chew.

"I encourage all parties to have their voices heard at this roundtable," Ms Grierson said.

"Please contact me in my office on **(02) 4926 1555** and I will ensure that any valid concerns are passed on to these representatives."

Ms Grierson is pleased to see the Uni will have an input at the roundtable, in light of the renewed spate of violence towards international students on the Newcastle University campus.

"Attacks against any students – whether international or not – are of great concern," Ms Grierson said.

"Action needs to be taken to eradicate this violence and restore Newcastle, and Australia's, reputation as a world-class centre for international studies."

There have been thirty-one international students selected from across the country to participate in the roundtable, which will focus on addressing student concerns and experiences.

The roundtable participants were drawn from all states and territories and broadly represent the diversity of international students who come from more than 190 countries to study in Australia each year.

The roundtable will complement the Government's proposed amendments to immediately strengthen the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act and inform the review of the legislation currently being undertaken by the Hon Bruce Baird MP.

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