



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

## **Media Release**

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### **Better Student Services on the Way for Newcastle University**

In answer to a question from Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson, the Minister for Youth Kate Ellis today outlined to Parliament the Government's plan to restore student amenities and representation on University campuses.

From 1 July 2009, universities will be able to introduce a compulsory fee of up to \$250 to help rebuild student services such as health, welfare and sports.

Students will be able to defer this fee under a HECS-style loans scheme.

Minister Ellis noted that during her visit to the campus earlier this year, Newcastle University students had clearly outlined their concerns about the former Howard Government's decision to rip \$170 million out of funding for student services.

Ms Grierson said today that regional universities like Newcastle were some of the hardest hit under the former government.

"At Newcastle University, we have seen student representation, welfare and grievance resolution services reduced, student media cut, food and transport prices increase and the second-hand bookshop close."

"The Rudd Government's plan is a balanced, practical solution that will enable our university to re-establish or maintain those services and amenities that are such an important part of the student experience."

"Students now at Newcastle University will have a huge role to play in the future of our region and our nation – this plan will ensure services, representation and amenities are available to meet their needs while studying."

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