



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle



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## **UNI JOB CUTS: HOWARD GOVERNMENT MUST RESPOND**

The Howard Government must respond to the announcement that over 450 academic and administrative staff will lose their jobs at the University of Newcastle. Without the support of the Federal Government it is difficult to see how performance and service delivery standards at the University of Newcastle will not be affected.

Minister Nelson has repeatedly washed his hands of any responsibility to assist the University of Newcastle.

He has refused to reinstate its regional funding, costing our Uni \$3.75 million per year.

He has refused to waive or defer the repayment of \$13 million from our Uni to his Department.

His Government has cut around \$120 million in funding to our Uni over the past nine years.

He also plans to cut funding increases of up to 7.5% per year if our Uni doesn't meet industrial relations changes completely unrelated to quality teaching or research.

The University is one of our region's largest employers, and the loss of around one-fifth of its workforce will have a potentially devastating spin-off effect on our community.

The Government must wake up to the fact that the Uni is central to our regional economy, and use some of its projected \$4.5 billion Budget surplus to help it out.

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