



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle



# Media Alert

Wednesday 28 July

## UNI CLASS SIZES BLOW OUT UNDER HOWARD

Under Howard there are fewer lecturers per student at the University of Newcastle.

Figures released by the Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee today have revealed that that the number of students for each member of teaching staff has increased by more than 30 per cent at most universities, since the Howard governments election in 1996.

Under Howard students pay more for their degrees and get less in return.

Next year new students at the University of Newcastle will pay an extra 25 per cent in HECS, yet the student to teacher ratio has increased by 36% since 1996. For students at the University of Newcastle, this means over crowded lecture theatres and tutorials, less time spent with individual students or in undertaking research.

Many of the University of Newcastle's faculties have a higher than average student to staff ratio. Based on figures for 2003, the ratio in the discipline of education at the University of Newcastle is the second highest in the state.

The University of Newcastle was short-changed by this government when it was offered only 28 fully funded places at the Callaghan campus for 2005. Howard has sent a clear message to Newcastle – buy a place or move away if you want to go to university.

For those students who can afford a university education the figures are alarming, as invariably the quality of university teaching suffers the more staff are overstretched.

The blow out in class sizes reveals the detrimental impact of the Howard government's cuts of \$5 Billion to Australian universities.

Only Labor has a plan to rebuild, reform and expand our universities and TAFEs. Labor will properly index university grants to give our universities the funding growth and security they need to bring down class sizes.

**For more information contact Sharon Grierson on 4926 1555**

Newcastle  
427 Hunter Street  
Newcastle NSW 2300  
Ph: 02-4926 1555 Fax: 02-4926 1895  
e-mail: Sharon.Grierson.MP@aph.gov.au



Canberra  
Suite R2 88  
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600  
Ph: 02-6277 4221 Fax: 02-6277 8461  
Web Page: www.newcastle-alp.com