

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ensuring student services

Innovative Research Universities (IRU) is disappointed with delays to the bill to provide for a student services amenities fee.

“We believe the bill should be considered this year to allow a 2011 start if passed. We are disappointed that the bill has been referred to two committees. There has been extensive consideration of the need for a student services amenities fee. Further inquiries are not likely to add useful information to guide members.” said IRU Chair, Professor Sandra Harding.

“It is critical for students to have access to support services which augment the student experience and significantly contribute to both student success and the development of well rounded graduates. she said.

“The amount of money available for these services was substantially cut when the previous Government abolished the compulsory fee. The modest levy the Government proposes would be a boon for student life on campus” she said.

Since the abolition of the compulsory fee universities have been extremely hard-pressed to provide essential student support services at a level enjoyed by students in the past.

Professor Harding said the reintroduction of a levy would provide the essential means by which an array of student support services can be provided without the need to divert University funds that are meant to support teaching and learning to this purpose.

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