

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Thursday 23 September 2010**

### **Supporting student services**

Innovative Research Universities (IRU) welcomes the Government's decision to reintroduce the bill to provide for a student services amenities fee in its first suite of legislation for the new Parliament.

"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", said IRU Chair Professor Sandra Harding.

"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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