

**TO THE HONOURABLE, THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ASSEMBLED IN PARLIAMENT**

This petition of concerned students, on behalf of undergraduate and graduate Australian students, draws to the attention of the House:

The discrepancy that exists between **Centrelink payments** for local students and the **Australian Development Scholarships- ADS** for international students which cover tuition fees, living expenses, healthcare, allowances, return air travel etc...

Many Australians question the ADS short/long term advantages to Australia since those foreign students end up back home after their degree completion as per their scholarship requirements therefore it becomes hard to quantify how effective to Australia's foreign relations would that be. Besides, many students receiving ADS engage in unlawful activities such as providing falsified information to the ATO regarding income and not abiding by the Australian visa conditions in working 20 hours a week during university periods and most take advantage from a strong Australian dollar as compared to other currencies which in turn encourages those students to accept cash-in-hand. In addition, some overseas students forge documents in order to qualify for the ADS especially when it comes to experience and scores.

We kindly ask the House to:

- re-examine the ADS payments to international students in conjunction with Centrelink Austudy payments
- introduce a new visa condition whereby prohibiting work opportunities for those on the ADS
- re-consider the introduction of tight taxation law for those ADS students remitting money overseas
- establish strict criteria for awarding the ADS to international students