

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of certain citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House the Commonwealth legislation (Ministerial Determination of Educational Institutions and Courses of the Student Assistance Act 1973) which determines eligibility of candidates in certain university courses for Youth Allowance and Austudy support through Centrelink.

Centrelink states that for a course to be eligible it needs to be necessary for the person to be able to practice in the profession. The Doctor of Physiotherapy at Bond University is an **entry level postgraduate degree**, it is not a degree for someone who has already completed a Masters and it is not a PHD. It is required for participants to be able to become a qualified Physiotherapist.

The Masters in Physiotherapy at Sydney Uni and Griffith University are also **entry level post graduate degrees** and this year candidates in those courses are able to receive Austudy and Youth allowance.

The Doctor of Physiotherapy at Bond University is a full time, 2 year course with 81 teaching weeks (out of a possible 104); far exceeding normal courses, with approximately 60 teaching weeks. Of these 81 weeks, 42 require the candidate to undertake full-time, unpaid clinical placement. The remaining 39 weeks are on campus for a minimum of 4 days per week, plus time required for study and assignments.

We therefore ask the House to amend relevant legislation to allow the Doctor of Physiotherapy course at Bond University to be included in the eligibility for youth allowance and Austudy support from Centrelink.