



TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of the staff, students and residents of the University of Newcastle, Callaghan, NSW draws to the attention of the House that this community is left without reasonable access to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescriptions dispensed by a pharmacy on campus, approved under section 90 of the *National Health Act 1953*, due to an unintended consequence of the application of the pharmacy location rules. This leaves a community of 24,652 students (including 980 living on campus), 2,723 permanent and 2,478 part-time staff without reasonable access to PBS services. This includes a large number of key groups (e.g. culturally diverse groups and people with disabilities) who are unfamiliar with or unable to access government subsidised services, like the PBS, outside of the university's service delivery support network.

We therefore ask the House to remedy this lack of reasonable access to pharmaceutical benefits for staff and students at the University of Newcastle by requesting the Minister for Health to exercise the Discretionary Power to approve the proposed pharmacy at shop 110b, Level 1, Shortland Building, University of Newcastle, Callaghan, NSW, 2308.