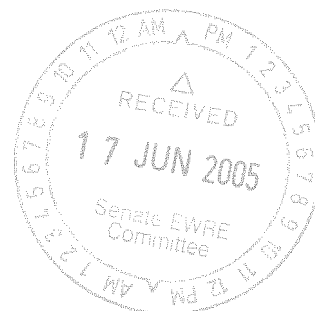


15 June 2005

Committee Secretary
Senate Employment Workplace Relations and Education Committee
Department of Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ATC 2600



Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Provisions of the Higher Education Support Amendment Bill 2005

I would like to express my concerns about the proposed changes in the VSU. I was an international student of the University of Wollongong between July 2001 and March 2005. Like many other international students, I experienced serious problems at the University. However, an advocacy officer at the Wollongong University Postgraduate Association provided me with valuable assistance to resolve a series of issues, some were related to safety issues on campus. Without his help, I would not have physically survive on campus let alone continue my studies at the University. His help was crucially important for my student life at the University.

If the fundings to the Association will be dramatically reduced because of the introduction of VSU, many students, especially international students will suffer. I note that international students always exchange their views of their host countries. It is already a shared idea that Australian universities are not taking sufficient care of international students compared to other countries in the West. If the Australian government introduces a new policy that will affect international students negatively, frankly, it is also suicidal to Australia's educational industries in the international market.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mitsuko Nanke'.

Mitsuko Nanke