8th May 2012
For immediate release

Media Release – NUS Disappointed that Surplus comes at the Expense of Students – Media Release

The National Union of Students (NUS) was disappointed that the Government’s return to surplus was at the expense of students in tonight’s budget.

“We welcome the fact that there have been no cuts to education funding in a very conservative budget, but NUS remains opposed to the unfair increase of student fees,” said NUS President Donherra Walmsley, in response to the removal of grandfathering on the increased cost of previous National Priority courses.

“We acknowledge that the Government has increased overall funding to higher education over the past few years and in particular we welcome the changes to the indexation calculation,” Ms Walmsley said.

The introduction of a demand driven system has resulted in more students than ever before accessing higher education.

“We support the Government’s efforts to make higher education more equitable and more accessible with an increase in equity funding. However, without more money for teaching and learning, students from low-SES backgrounds and other at-risk groups are not going to complete their degrees,” Ms Walmsley said.

“The quality of education that students receive, and in particular student:staff ratios are key factors in student retention and completion.”

Both the Base Funding Review (2011) and the Bradley Review (2008), recommended an increase in the level of per-student funding to universities.

“Quality of education is still suffering as a result of inadequate per-student funding. We believe that this budget shows a commitment to higher education reform, but the Government needs to act on the recommendations of the Base Funding Review,” Ms Walmsley said.

For further comment call:

Donherra Walmsley
National President
0411 606 808