






national
union of
students

VOTE FOR STUDENTS 2010 ELECTION REPORT CARD

			
Funding for Education	B	D	B
Student Income Support	B	C	A
Tuition Fees	C	F	A
Universal Student Unionism	B	F	A
Addressing the Student Housing Crisis	B	C	A
Action on the Environment	C	D	A
Ability to Implement Change	A	A	D

HAS YOUR POLLIE MADE THE PLEDGE?
WWW.UNISTUDENT.COM/VOTE



Funding for Education

Labor has introduced a \$5.7 billion funding increase for universities, vocational education and TAFE. This is the largest real increase in over 15 years but is still not enough to catch up with the expansion of public investment in tertiary education by most other OECD countries.

During its previous term in Government, the Coalition cut funding to higher education, making Australia the only nation to not increase investment in education of all OECD nations. There is currently no commitment to increase funding for universities if elected.

The Greens have consistently supported increases in funding for universities and TAFE. There is support for increasing public as opposed to private funding to ensure academic independence.

Student Income Support

The current Government has introduced significant reforms to Youth Allowance which give more deserving students access to support and to vital scholarships. However, there's been no new money injected nor an increase in rent assistance or rates of payment.

The previous Coalition Government increased the age of independence to 25 and failed to index income cut-off thresholds. The Coalition have proposed a narrowly targeted rural and regional scholarship which would require students to return to an area of need at the completion of their study.

The Greens have proposed a \$115 increase in the rate of youth allowance. They worked to ensure gap year students were not unfairly disadvantaged by changes and have strongly supported Government reforms to Youth Allowance.

Tuition Fees

Labor has made no move to increase HECS and has also abolished Domestic Undergraduate Full Fees in its first term. However, the review of cluster arrangements in 2011 will raise concerns over HECS increases.

During its previous term in office, the Liberals increased HECS. The Coalition has rearmored its position in favour of full fee paying places for undergraduate degrees. Under the Liberals, there will be no guarantee that HECS debts won't increase.

The Greens support the abolition of fees in favour of a system of free education for all domestic students.

Universal Student Unionism

Labor opposed the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism in 2005. The Government introduced Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) legislation to support some campus services but not independent representation or advocacy services. The legislation is currently blocked in the Senate.

The Coalition introduced Voluntary Student Unionism in 2005. This was an ideological attack on student representation which has seen vital services disappear on campuses and has impacted upon the power of student unions to effectively represent students. The Coalition opposes the SSAF.

The Greens strongly believe in independent student representation and have introduced a number of positive reforms to the SSAF which would ensure student control of student funds.



Action on the Environment

Labor supports a Mandatory Renewable Energy Target and some funding for renewable energy demonstration projects. However, without a price-tag on pollution, this will not be enough to promote renewable energy and steer us away from fossil fuel

The Coalition will retain the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target if elected and provide some funding to small scale and emerging technologies. But without a price-tag on pollution, this will be insufficient to create real transformation of energy markets.

A price on carbon, feed-in tariffs for large scale emerging technologies, a 30% Mandatory Renewable Energy Target and the reform of the National Electricity Market will transform Australia into a world leader in renewable energy.

Addressing the Student Housing Crisis

The ALP has introduced a new relocation scholarship to assist with accommodation start up costs. Student housing is beginning to become available for grants under the National Rental Aordability Scheme. To date, there has been no positive movement on Rent Assistance.

Neither the Liberal or National Parties have made significant statements or implemented policy either in favour of or against student housing. This does not appear to be an important issue for the Liberals.

The Greens are in favour of affordable housing in a general sense, recognising it as a human right. They have pledged to include student housing in NRAS, force universities to develop an affordable housing plan and ensure students have greater tenancy rights.

Ability to Implement Change

The Australian Labor Party has demonstrated the ability to form stable majority Government in Australia. Labor has the capacity to introduce and implement political change.

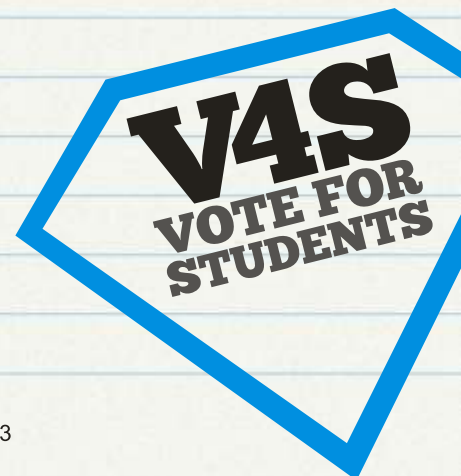
Despite concerns regarding its willingness to implement progressive measures for students, the Liberal Party has been in Government for more years than not since its inception. The Coalition has the ability to implement change.

Having never formed Government in their own right or won a lower house seat at a general election, the Greens are a relatively weak political outfit. Their only genuine power could come through holding the balance of power.

Thanks to the Australian Youth Climate Coalition for ratings on Climate Action



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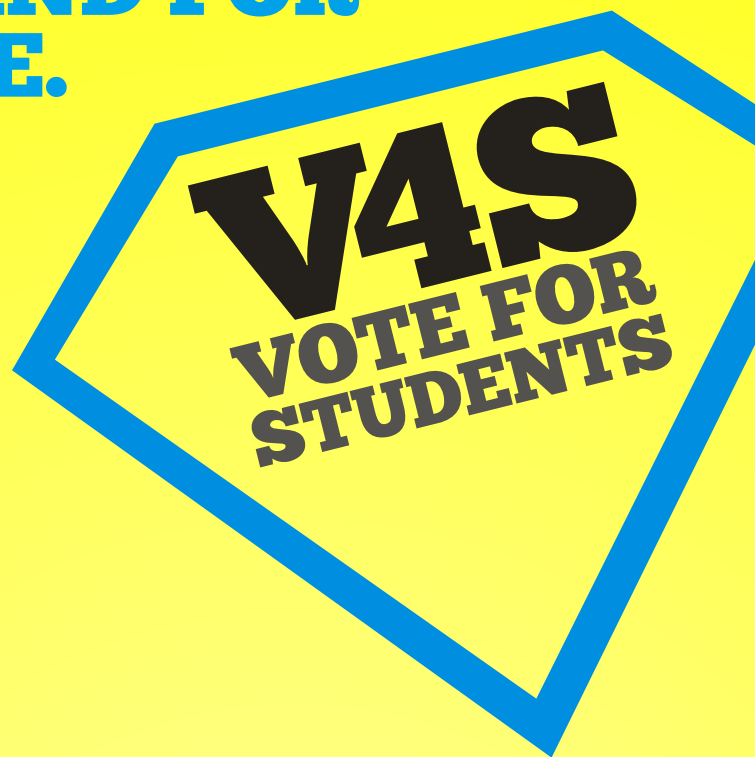
For ratings on more policy areas and updates as they're announced, head to WWW.UNISTUDENT.COM.AU/VOTE

IN 2010, NUS IS URGING STUDENTS TO GET ACTIVE IN THE FEDERAL ELECTION. THE VOTE OF NEARLY ONE MILLION STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION HAS THE POTENTIAL TO IGNITE CHANGE FOR THIS GENERATION AND FOR THOSE TO COME.

The collective voice of Australian students at the ballot box can make waves in Canberra and on every campus.

The NUS Vote for Students campaign sets out a pledge to uphold four key demands. The Pollie Pledge urges candidates at the upcoming election to use their vote in parliament in support of student issues.

We are asking students to use their vote in the Federal Election to support candidates who've signed on to vote for students.



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**FOR MORE INFO
OR TO TAKE THE
STUDENT PLEDGE, GO TO
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