



Anna Burke MP

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MEDIA RELEASE

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BETTER QUALITY SERVICES AND AMENITIES AT LOCAL UNIVERSITIES

Monash and Deakin University students will have access to better services because of new Federal Government laws that passed through the Federal Parliament yesterday.

Anna Burke MP, Federal Member for Chisholm, said the Higher Education Support Amendment (Student Services and Amenities) Bill would allow universities to provide essential student services such as sporting and recreational activities, employment and career advice, child care, financial advice and food services.

“The Bill will assist both Monash and Deakin Universities to rebuild vital student services and amenities to help support their growing student population,” Ms Burke said.

“Both universities will once again be able to deliver those services to students that maximise support to them whilst studying”, Ms Burke said.

Ms Burke said the Bill was especially important for rural and regional students who move away from home to study.

“Students who relocate to study often need greater support when they move away from their friends and family,” Ms Burke said.

“The student services fee will allow universities to provide services that help promote university, community and social networks.”

Under the new laws universities will be able to charge a fee of up to \$263 for 2012.

Ms Burke said students will be involved in the consultation process with universities on the specific uses of the proceeds of any fees.

“While students can pay the fee upfront if they wish, payment can also be deferred through the HECS system until they are earning a decent income,” Ms Burke said.

“The previous Coalition Government’s approach to on-campus student services stripped more than \$170 million in funding for student services and amenities, Ms Burke said.

“Many universities have been forced to redirect funding out of research and teaching to make up for the shortfall in resources available for student services, and students have been hit with increased prices for child care, parking, bookshops, computer labs, sport and food”.

“Students are entitled to better services when they start university next year, and under Labor, those services will now be rebuilt.”

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