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MEDIA RELEASE

“Government policy will force more students below the poverty line”

The Newcastle University Students' Association (NUSA) is disturbed to learn that the Federal Government is pursuing a reform that would see students and job-seekers under 25 moved from the Newstart benefit to Youth Allowance - and would see young people wait a month before accessing financial support.

The cost of living is already too high as a student, and many will not be able to afford this drastic change in their income. NUSA calls on the government to abandon this destructive and dangerous policy.

Quotes attributable to Madelaine Knight, NUSA Welfare Officer

"The week-to-week budget of the average student is already precarious at best."

"Students in Newcastle are going to struggle to find \$45 to save every week."

"We are going to see students skip meals and withdraw from their social lives in order to make ends meet."

"It's getting to the point where it's simply not feasible for many people to go to uni."

END

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