



Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations Incorporated

18 February 2008

The Hon Kate Ellis, MP  
Minister for Youth; Minister for Sport  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Youth and Minister for Sport.

I am responding in regard to your comments in the House of Representatives 13/2/08. I would like to commend the importance you have placed on ensuring students in Australia have access to adequate services and representation on campus, and the consultative approach you have adopted in seeking to respond to the damage caused by the former government's VSU legislation.

The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) represents over 270,000 postgraduate students in Australia. In 2009 CAPA will be celebrating 30 years of advocating for postgraduate students' interests. As highlighted in our report, *The Impact of VSU on Postgraduate Students* (2007), independent representation and services for postgraduate students were among the first casualties of VSU.

I would therefore like to extend a standing invitation to yourself to visit any university campus and speak with postgraduates about the impact of VSU. Please contact our office if you would like to arrange a meeting or discuss other opportunities for consultation.

CAPA and its affiliates are keen to work with the new government in reversing the devastating effects of the former government's VSU legislation, and look forward to working with you in making that happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Palmer', written in a cursive style.

Nigel Palmer  
National President, 2008  
Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA)