***MEDIA RELEASE***

NUS CONDEMNS ABBOTT GOVERNMENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT AMENDMENT (SAVINGS AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL

21 November 2013
For immediate release

The National Union of Students (NUS) condemns the Coalition Government's Higher Education Support Amendment (Savings and Other Measures) Bill 2013 that was introduced into Parliament today by Education Minister Christopher Pyne as it spells bad news for students.

The Bill would rip $900 million from Commonwealth university grants over the next four years and carries no guarantee that the 'efficiencies' will be put towards bolstering another form of education.

"The Education Minister Christopher Pyne has also recently rejected a request by NUS to meet with him yet claims to stand for students," said Jade Tyrrell, President of the National Union of Students.

"The Minister claimed in his second reading speech today that the Coalition was the true friend of students, but one fails to see how this can be the case.

"As the peak body for university students in Australia the least we can expect is a meeting with the Minister for Education at a time when higher education is going through so many crucial changes."

"We have grave concerns about what these cuts will mean for courses, for staff and quality at our universities at a time when public funding to universities is in desperate need of an increase.

"This Government has nobody to blame except itself today. The Minister for Education needs to take full responsibility for the bill of cuts that he has introduced into Parliament. This is bad news for students and they are cuts that will keep on cutting."

For further comment:

Jade Tyrrell
0411 606 808
pres@nus.asn.au