

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **AMSA: Removal of Full-Fee Paying Cap is Outrageous**

With the release of the 2007 Federal Budget comes the announcement that the cap on the number of full-fee paying places at universities will be completely lifted.

AMSA National President Mr. Rob Mitchell said, “this decision is absolutely extraordinary. The government has set higher education as a key priority, but with one swift move will deny thousands of students access to tertiary education.”

While the Government maintains universities must fill their quotas of Commonwealth-Supported Places (CSP) before filling Full-Fee Places, Mr. Mitchell said this concession is laughable. “This heralds a new, sinister era in higher education. The removal of the cap on Full-Fee paying places is simply deplorable.

“With this move the Government is sending a clear message to the Australian public: ‘gone are the days of equity of access to education’.”

With some Domestic Undergraduate Full-Fee (DUFF) places in medicine costing upwards of \$240,000, the removal of the 25% cap will mean more and more students across the country are faced with the prospect of severe financial hardship.

“Completing a medical degree is a long, hard road whichever way you look at it. But Full-Fee paying students have the added burden of serious financial strain. It is shocking to think about how many more students will be forced to consider paying a quarter of a million dollars for a medical degree,” said Mr. Mitchell.

“With the removal of the cap on full-fee places the Government has also removed equity of access to the Australian education system. Students who dream of studying medicine will now be forced to pull out their calculators.”

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