

**Media  
Release****30 May, 2001  
Attention: Education and  
Political reporters  
For Immediate Release****Students back call for more tax  
money for education**

The New Zealand University Students' Association (NZUSA) is today backing the call of the Deputy Prime Minister Jim Anderton for greater government investment in education through high earners making a larger tax contribution.

"University Vice Chancellors have been very vocal about the under-funding of tertiary institutions in recent weeks. However none of them have been prepared to say where the extra money should come from. Given that all the VCs earn in excess of \$210,000 a year, they are all in a position to help improve funding to tertiary education by paying more tax," said NZUSA Co-President Andrew Campbell.

"The debate on tertiary education needs to shift from listing the problems to looking for solutions. The reality is that to fund a universal allowance, to cut fees, to better fund research and to increase staff wages the Government will need to increase the size of their revenue base," said Campbell.

"European and Scandinavian countries are often identified as examples of countries with well funded tertiary education. Let's not forget however that those countries fund their tertiary institutions through a system of progressive taxation," said Campbell.

"New Zealand needs to face up to the fact that core government services will continue to deteriorate until we have adequate taxation levels. Many of the social problems we face today such as student loan debt are a direct result of the tax cuts of the last decade," said Campbell.

"Universities should take the small funding increase they have been offered to freeze fees and lobby government to increase taxes so that increased investment can be made in tertiary education," said Campbell

**ENDS**

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