

Media Release

**9 October 2002
Attention: Education and
Political reporters
For Immediate Release**

Students Forgotten In Politician's Point Scoring

The New Zealand University Students' Association (NZUSA) is calling on politicians to focus their attentions on the financial situation of students in the wake of the release of the student loan scheme annual report.

"While the politicians are arguing about who said what when, two thirds of next year's students are thinking about how they will get by without a student allowance, " said NZUSA Co-President Andrew Campbell.

"NZUSA believes it's time to stop trying to promote the student loan scheme – it doesn't work and no one believes the government's spin. What they should be doing is work on eliminating the need to borrow through increasing student support instead."

NZUSA is also calling on National to stop attacking the no interest on loans while studying policy. "National are insinuating that students are out playing the stock market with the \$150 per week they get to pay rent and buy food, " said Campbell. "There is no evidence to support this. Students are borrowing more because less are eligible for an allowance as parental income thresholds remain unadjusted for CPI."

"Students are sick of being used as a political football. Labour promised to increase access to allowances, and a review of student support; all we want is some action on both."

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