

**Media
Release**

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Students step up fight against fees and loans

The student fight against fee increases and student loans will step up a gear this weekend at the July Conference of the New Zealand University Students' Association (NZUSA).

"It seems government action on making the loans scheme fairer and giving more students allowances is finally on its way, " said NZUSA Co-President and Conference Spokesperson Fleur Fitzsimons. "This weekend we will be planning how to make sure that the changes are big enough to make a difference, and that the student support review doesn't lead to any nasty surprises for students and graduates."

"Concern about student loans and their impact on our society goes far beyond student groups," said Fitzsimons. "The Quality Public Education Coalition is also meeting this weekend, and they are a key group working against privatisation and user pays at all levels of education."

"The wider community needs to be heard about the student loans issue. We'll be talking about how to work with others to make sure that Labour delivers on its election promise to make education more affordable," said Fitzsimons.

The conference will also discuss how students can stop the fee increases threatened by the ludicrously high fee maxima, said fellow Conference Spokesperson and University of Canterbury Students' Association President, Richard Neal.

"Fee maxima could lead to massive fee increases for thousands of students," said Neal. "Steve Maharey may have abandoned student fees, but student associations will not do the same. We'll be lobbying councils hard, campaigning on campuses and doing everything in our power to ensure that fees don't raise for next year."

ENDS

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