



## **Media Release**

**22 September 2004  
Attention: Education and  
Political reporters  
For Immediate Release**

### **Government should listen to NZEI and introduce a living allowance for all students**

The New Zealand University Students' Association (NZUSA) is calling on the government to listen to the concerns of New Zealand Educational Institute (NZEI) members who today voted to adopt a resolution supporting a living allowance for all students.

“The Government should listen to the concerns of teachers about the destructive impact of student debt on the teaching profession, and immediately introduce a living allowance for all students to start dealing with the student debt crisis,” said Fleur Fitzsimons, Co-President of NZUSA.

“Our teachers play a crucial role in the education of the next generation, government should recognise this instead of forcing them into massive debts that they will spend decades repaying.”

“Teacher graduates arrive in the classroom with a huge debt to pay off and ten percent of their income services student loan repayments, it is not surprising that they travel to countries where the important role that teachers play is properly valued.”

“A living allowance for all students would be a fair way to start addressing the student debt monster.”

For further information contact:  
Fleur Fitzsimons,  
NZUSA Co-President  
Phone 04 498 2500  
Mobile Phone 0274 86 86 77