



Overview of Student Housing Issues

Presentation to
More Than Just a Roof Over My Head

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CONTEXT



- **Universities Australia 10 Point Action Plan – June 2009**
- Action Plan Point 3
 - Cooperate with governments, local authorities and housing industry representatives to ensure the availability of sufficient affordable and secure accommodation for all students including international students upon arrival. Consider innovative finance mechanisms to assist both the students and the construction arrangements e.g. a Fund akin to the Education Investment Fund to support this at appropriately sustainable levels.
- Measure
 - Universities Australia to coordinate a stock-take of available housing on and off campus detailing capacity
 - Work in partnership with business organisations and real estate institutes to develop best practice guidelines for the provision of accommodation and employment support to international students
 - Liaison with government on Public Private Partnerships for building accommodation and access to government involvement in specific funding for student accommodation.

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Stock Take



- Australia has 39 universities – 36 completed the survey
- ALL formally provide accommodation including 29 with sole ownership options
- 23 provide international student priority
- 36 provide associated housing information for students
- 18 universities provide comprehensive housing support services across placement, follow-up scrutiny, references for students etc.
- In all, universities provide 50,125 beds, approximately 26,000 being one bedroom provision in shared facilities, and 8000 being fully self-contained.
- **This equates to approximately one bed for every 20 students.**

Source: 2010 Universities Australia survey of members.

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Good Practice



- Measure 2: Work in partnership with business organisations and real estate institutes to develop good practice guidelines for the provision of accommodation and employment support to international students
- First year accommodation guarantee – The Australian National University
- Emergency housing – Adelaide University

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Role of Government



- Measure 3: Liaison with government on Public Private Partnerships for building accommodation and access to government involvement in specific funding for student accommodation.
- NRAS
- EIF

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MORE IS NEEDED



Universities Australia seeks the following policy initiatives to better support student housing provision:

- Increase the quantum of support for **student income support** to at least match the OECD average of support relative to average incomes.
- Establish Income Contingent **Loans for domestic student living costs**
- Develop Income Contingent **Loans for international students** (using bilateral income taxation agreements).
- Ensure State and Territory and Local governments effectively regulate **private housing provision** especially with respect to health and safety requirements and given some significant private sector indifference.

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More information



- www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au
- Search under international or the student experience for any of the documents and policies mentioned.
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