

# Students take action

*“Reconsider cuts and make higher education a priority”*

The National Union of Students held a National Day of Action on August 20 to support increased public funding to higher education and to call for the reversal of the \$2.3 billion cuts announced in April this year.

The National Tertiary Education Union and the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations joined the call to have staff and students participate in the day, that involved state and campus actions across the country.

“In the lead-up to the Federal Election, it is more pressing than ever to call upon the two major parties to reconsider the cuts they have promised to make, and to make higher education a priority”, student union president Jade Tyrrell said.

“Our recent survey of over 1800 students across the country found that funding for

high quality education is the number one concern for students and young people, and our voice needs to be heard on this issue.

“Students in universities and TAFEs across the country feel sidelined and are devastated by the cuts announced earlier this year. Funding for higher education has now become an election issue, and we need our politicians to fight harder and find the funds for a desperately needed increase.

“Without an injection of more funds, the quality of our education will suffer and we are concerned the solution to make up the shortfall will be more student debt, particularly if the Coalition wins government.

“Converting the Student Start-up Scholarships into loans will unreasonably burden students most in need, so it’s extremely unfortunate this cut has not yet been reversed for the benefit of those we want to see coming through the system,” Tyrrell said.



## Monash Muggles mugged

Monash recently played host to the Melbourne MudBash, which saw 150 players converge onto Clayton campus armed with their broomsticks. Third year Bachelor of Science student and Minister for Sports of the Monash Muggle Society, Manuel Thomson said the event was a huge success.

“Unfortunately the Monash Muggles came fifth, but it was a hard fought battle for a newly formed team,” Thomson said. “The whole tournament was a great success in terms of attracting Quidditch players from all over Australia – we got a lot more than we expected, and everyone enjoyed themselves. It was great fun all around.”

Thomson said the society has come a long way since its formation in 2011, originally created to bring together Harry Potter fans to discuss the movies and books.



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