

Submission

No 45

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ACCOMMODATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Strathfield Council
Name: Ms Carine Elias
Position: Planning Coordinator
Date Received: 11/10/2011

7 October 2011

Parliament of New South Wales
Legislative Assembly
Social Policy Committee
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission: Inquiry into international student accommodation in NSW
Your reference: LAC11/179

Council is in receipt of your letter dated 22 September 2011 in relation to the inquiry into international student accommodation in NSW. Information on the background to the inquiry has not been provided and therefore, limits the information commented on in this letter. Furthermore, it is considered that insufficient time has been provided to properly provide a formal submission on behalf of Council on this matter. Further comments would be provided in the event that further submission time is provided to this inquiry.

Notwithstanding the above, Council has been invited to provide a written submission relating to the six (6) specific terms of reference attached to your letter and presents the following observations based on the information provided to assist with your inquiry.

Strathfield Council is home to the Australian Catholic University - Strathfield Campus. The campus does not provide for on-campus accommodation, however, does provide assistance students who are looking for accommodation during their enrolment period with the University. As a result, this inquiry is considered to be an important local topic.

It is acknowledged that the Bill is a response to the increase in the number of illegal boarding houses. It is understood that the objectives are to provide for the regulation of places of shared accommodation through amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* and the *Ombudsman Act 1974*. Furthermore, it is understood that the definition of 'boarding house' may change as part of this amendment however, the amended definition and other information has not been provided.

Although the objectives behind the Bill are justifiable, A 'Plan of Action' should be considered for existing residents in shared accommodation and residents in any unregistered boarding houses as there are likely to be social and community impacts as a result of evictions. Considerable attention should be given to the social, economic and environmental factors affecting the supply of and demand for affordable student accommodation.

Should you require further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 9748 9999 during normal business hours.

Yours faithfully,



Carine Elias
PLANNING COORDINATOR