

**Submission**

**No 12**

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ACCOMMODATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

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To: The Social Policy Committee  
Re: Supply, Operation & Regulation of Affordable Student Accommodation in NSW  
3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2011

From: Neil Yakalis

[REDACTED]

I was fortunate to be included in the GML Social Research workshop organised by Ryde Municipal Council on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010. During this workshop many worthwhile points were raised with the aim of easing the student housing problems for Macquarie University students. The majority of these students are from overseas.

A long term solution is to provide the students with affordable high rise housing close to the university campus. The ANU in Canberra has already done this using a company called "Quicksmart" to erect the buildings. These are built at low cost overseas & shipped in modular form with plumbing & electrical already fitted ready for connection.

The link to the 6 page article on Quicksmart student housing is published in the June 2010 copy of Virgin Blue Flight magazine. <http://voyeur.realviewtechnologies.com/> Go to the bottom tool bar & click on "Archive", then click on the June issue with Richard Branson's photo on the front cover. Go straight to the Student Housing article cover page 95 then pages 108 to 112. We are not alone in Australia with this housing problem.

The State Government should be encouraged to give university students passes for free or concession travel on public transport allowing them to live outside the back door step of the university. This would greatly ease the housing congestion close to the university & allow students the opportunity to rent more reasonably priced accommodation. It is much easier to run with now that an extra 500 red M54 Metro bus services a week have been put on the Parramatta, Carlingford, Epping, Macquarie University and Macquarie Park route in place of the promised rail link to Epping. Also the M41 Metro bus service which started on 19 December - connecting Hurstville, Bexley North, Campsie, Burwood, Concord, Ryde, North Ryde and Macquarie Park with an extra 840 services a week. This is in addition to the existing bus services & train link to Macquarie University.

In summary a 2 pronged approach to overseas student accommodation. Firstly by starting approvals for construction of suitable budget accommodation close to campus as done at the ANU in Canberra. Secondly by allowing students the freedom to commute easily using the numerous excellent transport links already in place. Perhaps the cost of funding a transport concession arrangement could be built up front into their Uni fees?

Marsfield residents want this crisis resolved in a win/win manner. A win for the students & a win for the residents presently putting up with student overcrowding in former residential homes.

Regards,

Neil Yakalis

