

Submission

No 21

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ACCOMMODATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Julie Ferrari

Date Received: 7/10/2011

The Committee Manager
Social Policy Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney, NSW 2000

To whom it may concern

I write to you to voice my concerns over the lack of suitable student accommodation within the area surrounding Macquarie University.

Due to the extremely limited amount of onsite accommodation and affordable rental properties close to the University, the only choice for many students is illegal boarding houses. The health risks associated with large numbers of people, living in such confined spaces, is a major concern. Students are required to pay excessive rent for incredibly poor housing, with insufficient bathroom, kitchen and waste facilities.

There is also the real risk of death if proper planning and care is not taken, as these boarding houses often become firetraps with overcrowding and little means of escape. These homes often house up to 15 students, who are left with no alternative but to live in these deplorable conditions.

From the human side of this issue...these vulnerable students are trying to assimilate in a new country without family support, often have limited funds, and are expected to perform well in their studies. Some landlords will pressure these students to have sex in exchange for a roof over their heads. Abuse of this kind is soul destroying and should never be tolerated. To allow a landlord to have this sort of power over a tenant is totally unacceptable.

I feel this situation needs to be addressed immediately to help return dignity to these students. As a country we should be protecting them and give them 'the fair go' that our nation prides itself on.

Your Sincerely



Julie Ferrari

