

**Submission**

**No 37**

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

**Name:** Mr and Mrs Chedra

**Date Received:** 10/10/2011

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

7<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.

**Re: Boarding House Update**

Dear Sir,

As encouraged by our Member for Ryde, The Hon. Victor Dominello, MP, a tireless worker on behalf of his constituents, I would like, as a long standing owner resident, in the Marsfield area, to strongly register our opposition to the conversion of family homes to 'boarding houses' for students. (Unfortunately, this is happening now, beside me).

Already, we are overwhelmed, in this area, with former family-occupied residences, surreptitiously being converted into 'boarding houses' for university students from nearby Macquarie University. This conversion is an abhorrent one to us, as we feel it erodes our Australian way of life, our values and standards, and impinges on our basic premise – that of being able to own a family home, and participate in, and contribute to, our local community.

With this 'affordable housing policy' introduction, with no consideration of the needs and desires of the residents, the following points are some of the reasons why this policy is not welcome:

- a) increased traffic – already a problem in our small streets
- b) danger, as students from the boarding houses insist on using the road as a thoroughfare, instead of using the footpath provided, or, else, taking a short cut across residents' lawns
- c) refuse scattered across property areas, grassed areas, footpaths and road, attracting vermin
- d) unwanted possessions left on verge areas, often for a long time, after students vacate premises
- e) low, or non-existent maintenance of house and grounds. This neglect reduces the value of adjacent properties and gives the appearance of 'non care' to the locality
- f) Australian values, previously encouraged, and followed, are being undermined, as investors (the real culprits), eagerly buy and convert family homes into boarding house accommodation (usually surreptitiously) for students, who have no local involvement, and who, therefore, care little about the condition of the property
- g) fire hazard, as the houses contain many bedrooms, with often only one means of exit
- h) exploitation of students

The local community has already changed in character. from a pleasant family one, to one of a transient population of young adults, who have no local interest, and many former residents, not liking this forced situation, have moved away.

We hope that these concerns will be taken into consideration.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. M. and E. Chedra.

Copy forwarded to  
The Hon. Victor Dominello, MP