



**National  
Liaison  
Committee**  
For International Students  
In Australia Inc.

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE . . . .

## International Students Demand Adequate English Language Support

*Wednesday January 31, 2007*

The National Liaison Committee and the National Union of Students are appalled at the results of the research that Professor Birrell has released this week. However both agree that merely increasing IELTS levels for entry into courses is not the answer to the problem.

Eric Pang, NLC National Convenor said, "International students are accepted into Australian education institutions with the understanding that their level of English is at a level good enough to successfully complete the course, with no poor availability of English assistance and low language levels, they are being misled."

Mr Michael Nguyen, NUS National President points out that "International students are paying full fees in Australian universities and should be provided assistance in this area, often the students are limited in the number of times they may access these services and what they may use them for. This is not good enough."

The testing and language requirements are determined in two areas, both by the Department of Immigration when students apply for student visas and by the education institution when students show all application material for their chosen course.

Mr Pang continues, "The lack of English language skills is created and then compounded by the use of non IELTS programs testing students English skills. This occurs in many institutions who have their own English language teaching and testing standards that are not equated to IELTS testing but are accepted both by DIMA and the education institution."

"The Government has recently completed a long review into the provision of education services for overseas students and a focus in this review was the requirement for all institutions to provide adequate English language assistance for overseas students. Currently, it is the students who are being misled into believing that they will be coming to Australia and supported as they acquire a level of English and achieving an academic qualification that are both recognized internationally as the highest quality." He adds.

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