

MEDIA RELEASE
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The Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA) is one of the largest postgraduate organisations in Australia, representing over 15,000 students.

The long wait is nearly over: International students to get decision on transport concession

Tomorrow the Administrative Decision Tribunal will hand down its decision on whether or not preventing international students from accessing transport concessions is a breach of the Anti-Discrimination Act. Almost four years ago SUPRA, representing a number of international students, lodged a complaint with the Anti-Discrimination Board challenging the NSW State Government's decision to cease granting international students travel concessions.

Jenny Leong, President of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association, said:

"Tomorrow will be an important day, not just for the over 3000 international postgraduate students at the University of Sydney, but for the thousands of international students throughout the state of NSW.

"The current NSW Government made a decision sixteen years ago to cease granting transport concessions to international students. This discriminatory decision has been the focus of endless frustration and concern for international students.

"I consider the fact that I can have a shiny sticker on my student card which gives me subsidised train, bus and ferry travel but international students can't as inherently unfair. We are all postgrad students at Sydney Uni and so we should all receive access to the same benefits and assistance no matter what nationality we are.

"Discrimination on the base of race, including nationality is unacceptable in all aspects of society. History has shown that often these inequalities come to a head on public transport. Rosa Parks progressed the civil rights movement in America from her actions on a bus and now it is our hope that these international students will take the issue of racial discrimination to Sydney's trains as well.

"At any time the NSW Government could have altered this decision and reopened access to transport concessions to all students. Despite endless lobbying and encouragement from students and student associations over the past sixteen years for them to put an end to the discrimination no action has been taken.

“Tomorrow when the ADT hands down its decision SUPRA will be keen to see if the NSW Government will finally hop on board and join us on the road to equality.

For more information:

Jenny Leong

President

0412 145 215

SUPRA: STUDENTS WORKING FOR STUDENTS

BUILDING G10 RAGLAN STREET, DARLINGTON CAMPUS
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006

Phone: 9351 3715 Fax: 9351 6400

www.supra.usyd.edu.au

admin@supra.usyd.edu.au