

MEDIA RELEASE
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NSW GOVERNMENT GUILTY OF SIXTEEN YEARS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Today the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal handed down its decision against the NSW Minister for Transport, the Director General of the Ministry of Transport, the State Rail Authority and the State Transit Authority finding them in breach of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act for their failure to grant travel concession passes to International Students.

“Today the Administrative Decisions Tribunal has handed down a decision which finds the NSW Government in breach of its own Anti-Discrimination Laws. This is a great win for international students and a tragic reflection on the current State Government.” Jenny Leong, President of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association said.

“SUPRA has been involved in this matter for over four years and today we are celebrating the decision as a vindication of our long held concerns.

“The Minister for Transport, John Watkins, must now immediately put an end to this Government led racial discrimination by using his ministerial powers to grant international students with access to transport concession passes.

“In a letter to the Ministry of Transport in 2004 the Vice Chancellors of UTS, UNSW and Sydney University claimed that each international student studying in NSW represents at least a \$33,000 gain to the NSW economy. In 2005 there were 59,000 international students enrolled in NSW Higher Education. This equates to almost a \$2 billion boost to the NSW economy each year.”

The solicitor in the matter, Aristotle Paipetis said: “The decision confirms what we have always known, sadly, the State of NSW has been engaged in wholesale discrimination against international students since at least 1989. The message from the decision is that it is time to treat our guests fairly.”

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