



Hindu Council of Australia

To
Prof Geoff CRISP
Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice-President Academic
University of Canberra

Dear Sir

Re: COVID 19 Appeal for support to Overseas Students

Hindu Council of Australia has taken initiatives to help and support overseas student in Australia who are experiencing tough challenges due to this COVID 19 crisis.

As the universities and borders are closed, the students are not able to return to their home country. With business and shop closures most of the students have lost their part time jobs and their survival has become difficult.

Every year the contribution of the international students to the Australian economy increases significantly and it directly boost Australian jobs and wages – especially in regional Australia. Now it is time for Australia to support students who are desperate for survival.

HCA through its Hindu Benevolent Fund team is providing the following support:

- Basic grocery supplies
- Counselling for students
- Sourcing casual employment

The universities in Australia have been very supportive of the students and they really appreciate all the help they have received.

Considering that the teaching is now done in distance mode, it is a request that if the University of Canberra can consider a reduction in their tuition fees in line with the typical fees charged for distance education courses and refund the difference to the students who have paid full fees, it will assist them to survive in this unprecedented crisis.

This is an extremely trying time for international students and any help they can receive now will be greatly appreciated. Please do consider that as the economies of many countries slow down, the capacity to pay for their education in Australia will also be impacted. A little help now will go a long way in making it easy for everyone to be a part of the recovery process.

The HCA team is available for further discussion with you.

Together we can act on this social responsibility to help the students.

Thanking you kindly and best regards,

Prakash Mehta
National President
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6 April 2020