

Media inquiry and response: 21 April 2016

s 22

s22

DSS response to MO:

s  
2  
2

s 22

**Sensitivities**

- There has been previous media coverage around international students utilising NRAS accommodation.
- The NRAS Act (2008) and Regulations prescribe the Scheme; neither of these stipulate any requirements on residency provisions for tenants.
- From Round Three onwards, special conditions requiring tertiary student housing providers to give priority to domestic Australian students were put in place.
- The policy intent of the special conditions is to ensure that domestic students are given preference where possible. In practice, where

there is insufficient demand from domestic students, NRAS dwellings may be allocated to international students.

- Ten approved participants are subject to these special conditions. The other three tertiary student housing providers received their allocations in earlier rounds, before the special conditions were put in place.

s 22

Media inquiry & response 1 November 2016				
NRAS and international students s 22	I'm inquiring about a studio apartment in <a href="#">Camperdown</a> . I understand it's listed under the National rental affordability scheme and in order to be eligible one must be single and not earn more than \$48, 527 gross annually. They also cannot own or part own any property within Australia or overseas.	<b>DSS Media response to MO on 1 November 2016:</b> s 22	Stewart Thomas Housing Programs and Homelessness Branch	<b>(MO cleared) DSS Media response to journalist on 1 November 2016:</b> s 22
Questions:	<p>s 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the real estate agent, there has been a lot of interest for the property from International students. Are they eligible under this scheme?</li> </ul> <p>s 22</p>			

	<p style="text-align: right;">s 22</p> <p><i>According to the real estate agent, there has been a lot of interest for the property from International students. Are they eligible under this scheme?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no citizenship restrictions in the NRAS Regulations.</li> <li>• Conditions were put in place in Round Three requiring tertiary student housing providers to give priority to students from elsewhere in Australia. This ensures domestic students are given preference. If there is a circumstance where there is insufficient demand from domestic students, tertiary student housing providers may rent dwellings to international students.</li> </ul> <p>s 22</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">s 22</p> <p><i>According to the real estate agent, there has been a lot of interest for the property from International students. Are they eligible under this scheme?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no citizenship restrictions in the NRAS Regulations.</li> <li>• Conditions were put in place in Round Three requiring tertiary student housing providers to give priority to students from elsewhere in Australia. This ensures domestic students are given preference. If there is a circumstance where there is insufficient demand from domestic students, tertiary student housing providers may rent dwellings to international students.</li> </ul> <p>s 22</p>
--	---	---



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**

## TALKING POINTS

<b>Subject</b>	NRAS consultation
<b>Date</b>	11 October 2016
<b>Intended</b>	Minister Porter
<b>Media Officer</b>	s 22
<b>Brief Number</b>	n/a

**ISSUE: NRAS consultation**

**TALKING POINTS:**

S  
2  
2

S  
2  
2

DRAFT COPY.

FIN.

'ERS' NS

- 45

SEE MEDIA ADVISORS

s 22

s 22

. The ANAO's

**NRAS audit, tabled in November 2015, found that s 22 s 22, half of the 3800 or so units held by unis in 2013-14 were let to foreign students rather than working poor or even Australian students.**

**What is the Government doing about this?**

**A:** Conditions were put in place from Round Three onwards requiring tertiary student housing providers to give priority to Australian students. This ensures domestic students are given preference.

If there is a circumstance where there is insufficient demand from domestic students, NRAS dwellings may be allocated to international students.

s 22

s 22

**CLEARANCE:**


<b>Drafted by</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
s 22	Communication and Media Branch	19 September

<b>Cleared by</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Time/Date</b>
Roslyn Baxter	Group Manager, Families Group	11 October 2016

DRAFT ONLY. FOR FINAL VERSIONS PLEASE SEE MEDIA ALERTS



## For Official Use Only

	<b>Australian Government</b> <b>Department of Social Services</b>	<b>Event Brief</b>  MB16-000035
---	--	---------------------------------------

**To:** Minister for Social Services, the Hon Christian Porter MP (for information)

**Name of Event:** Opening of Deakin University's Geelong Student Accommodation Project

**Date of Event:** 26 April 2016

**Time and Location of Event:** 10am to 11.30am, 155-161 Moorabool Street, Geelong

**Recommendations:** That you

1. Note the information contained in this Brief.	Noted / Discuss
Minister's signature .....	Date...../...../.....

s 22

### Sensitivities

s 22

- There has been media coverage over the last two years regarding NRAS dwellings being tenanted by international students. From Round Three onwards, special conditions requiring tertiary student housing providers to give priority to domestic Australian students were put in place. The policy intent of the special conditions is to ensure that domestic students are given preference where possible. These special conditions are in place for the allocations attached to this project.

s 22

**For Official Use Only**

s 22

Position: Branch Manager  
Branch: NRAS and Gambling  
s 22

Date Sent to MO:

s 22

s 22

**For Official Use Only**

**For Official Use Only**

**For Official Use Only**

s 22

**For Official Use Only**

## For Official Use Only

### PART 3 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CURRENT ISSUES / SENSITIVITIES

s 22

There has been media coverage over the last two years regarding NRAS dwellings being tenanted by international students. From Round Three onwards, special conditions requiring tertiary student housing providers to give priority to domestic Australian students were put in place. The policy intent of the special conditions is to ensure that domestic students are given preference where possible. These special conditions are in place for the allocations attached to this project.

s 22

**For Official Use Only**

s 22

**For Official Use Only**

## National Rental Affordability Scheme

### Background and Context

- s 22
- There has been ongoing criticism of the design, implementation and prior administration of the Scheme regarding s 22 s 22 and the use of NRAS allocations for international student housing. The Department took steps to address this last issue by prioritising housing for domestic students, but further changes would require retrospective changes.
  - On 18 November 2015, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) released the first of two planned reports on the operation of the NRAS. The first report deals with administration of selecting participants and dwellings in the Scheme and managing delivery of dwellings into the Scheme. s 22 The Australian covered the ANAO report on the Administration of NRAS on 19 November and 20 November 2015. These two articles relayed the key findings of the ANAO report, but focused on past and ongoing criticisms in the media of the Scheme s 22 s 22 and made available by universities to foreign students.

s 22

s 22

Contact: Stewart Thomas  
Group: Families Group

s 22

Cleared by: Roslyn Baxter  
Date last updated: 3 November 2016