



The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP

Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education

Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

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Ms Minran Liu
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Minron + Liam

Dear Ms Liu and ~~Mr~~ Donohoe

Thank you for your earlier correspondence regarding the welfare of international students. I am writing to provide an update on recent changes to the NSW Government's \$20 million package to further support international students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Changes to the eligibility criteria for crisis accommodation mean more international students in need can now receive assistance.

These changes include:

- removing the requirement to demonstrate job loss
- removing the requirement to have less than \$1,500 in savings
- replacing the requirement to demonstrate eviction with a requirement to simply confirm the student has lost (or is at risk of losing) access to secure accommodation
- allowing applications from international students who have moved from a student visa to a bridging or visitor visa.

To be eligible under the amended criteria students must:

- hold an international student visa
- have lost, or be at risk of losing, access to secure accommodation
- have no other avenues of support.

Students can apply for COVID-19 crisis accommodation at:

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-international-student-covid-19-crisis-accommodation>.

I ask that you please circulate this new information to your relevant contacts and stakeholders. This information will help vulnerable students in need of support.

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For more information on support and other services, students can contact the COVID-19 hotline by phone on 13 77 88, or visit the International Student Welfare Hub on the Study NSW website at <https://www.study.sydney/news-and-stories/news/covid-19-international-student-welfare-support>.

Thank you for assistance in helping to support these students at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely



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