



29<sup>th</sup> August 2012

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SAFETY**

The Council of International students Australia (CISA) welcomes the report published by our founding member organization International Student Department - Newcastle University Students' Association (ISD - NUSA) on violence and abuse against international students.

NUSA's President Heather Richards has also been the Vice President of CISA since its inaugural year and is currently dealing with national issues as Welfare officer of CISA. "Safety has been a concern for international students for years. This is a problem across the country with the report highlighting the need for more information and a community response," said Aleem Nizari, National President of CISA.

The pilot survey that took place over a year collected hard statistical data directly from 163 students in Newcastle. The report is based on 123 incidents related to verbal abuse and 40 related to physical abuse. It also helped in identifying the specific locations and types of incidents that impact the safety of students such that the authorities and the institutions can take necessary action to improve the safety of students.

"These high numbers of incidents over a period of one year is a big concern for the international student community", said Mr Nizari.

"Families of international student put in a lot of trust and faith in the education providers as well as the local government, believing that their children would be safe and well looked after while they are completing their education here in Australia," added Mr Nizari.

CISA will be working with all the international student organizations to implement similar survey tool at their institutions to have a better understanding of safety concerns facing the international student community.

#### Media Contacts

Aleem Nizari  
National President  
0414 842 329

Heather Richards  
Welfare Officer  
0424439332