

11 February 2013

To whom it may concern

The Council of International Students of Australia (CISA) is the peak national body representing international students studying at tertiary institutions in Australia. CISA was founded in Hobart, Tasmania in 2010 by the founding members who voted democratically to elect one body to represent international students studying in Australia at a national level

The board of CISA is made up of elected international students from tertiary education campuses across Australia. The National Union of Students, (NUS) and the Council of Australian Postgraduate Association (CAPA) are also represented on CISA's board to ensure that all campus based student associations affiliated with these two national student organisations are represented on the board of CISA.

The establishment of CISA, as an organisation representing students at university, VET and TAFE institutions has enabled a collective international students' voice to be heard throughout Australia by all state and federal governments.

By working closely with campus organisations, NUS and CAPA, CISA provides an avenue for international student representatives at campus level to communicate important information to international students, such as legislative changes.

CISA, CAPA and NUS do not recognise the organisation currently known as NLC. "This organisation is not affiliated or associated with the three national peak organisations currently representing international students studying at Australian tertiary education institutions." said Mr Aleem Nizari, CISA president.

"In addition to this, CISA is currently satisfied that all universities in Australia are compliant with the SSARA Guidelines in the Higher Education Support Act that require institutions to support the election of an overseas student representative. CISA is concerned that the NLC may currently be trying to misinform university staff and international students about their obligations under the HESA."

Mr Nizari suggests that "university staff contact Universities Australia if they are concerned about their obligation under the HESA in relation to the SSARA guidelines or their obligation to allow NLC involvement in institution events or organisations on their campus, any international student with such concerns may contact their campus student association or CISA directly."

Sincerely,

Aleem Nizari, CISA president