

Indigenous students will be the first to confront the government's recent investment into the celebration of the anniversary of the arrival of the first fleet.

The national Union of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students (UATSIS) condemns the government's recent \$48.2 Million investment into the celebration of the 250 year arrival of the first fleet, and is gravely concerned with the direct effects this has on Indigenous students.

The UATSIS National President explains "the arrival of the first fleet represents the beginning of the genocide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, a historical event that brings much trauma to today's Indigenous people.

"UATSIS is concerned that Universities will be key hosts to celebrations that arise from the government's recent investment, deterring Indigenous people from studying at Universities.

"Universities present the resources necessary to host art exhibitions, museum events, and commemorative showcases that celebrate Captain Cook's settlement of Australia and the subsequent genocide of Australia's Indigenous people.

"These celebrations will contribute to long standing issues with Universities glorifying genocide. Indigenous students continue to voice that being faced with buildings, events and academic programs named after genocidal figures is confronting, frightening, and contributes to a gap in retention (in which this budget fails to fund any measures to close).

"Indigenous students already face financial and social disadvantage while at University - Indigenous students living in residential settings with the AbStudy 'costs option' are living on \$41.60 a fortnight to cover travel, study essentials and toiletries/personal items.

"The government issued a five point plan for 'a stronger economy' that prioritises 'keeping Australians safe', however the commemoration of the first fleet and the likelihood that such events will be hosted on campuses across the country puts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and our families at significant risk of emotional and physical harm."

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