Ben Carroll
&Labor

6 November 2026

Janice Boey
Executive Officer
Monash Graduate Association
janice.boey@monash.edu

Dear Janice,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Monash Graduate Association on behalf of Victorian Labor.

Victoria's 30,000 Monash Masters and PhD students make an enormous contribution to our state, from the research that drives new industries to the teaching, nursing and allied health placements that support our communities. But like so many Victorians, graduate students are feeling the pressure of rising living costs while they study.

Labor is focused on easing that pressure, so students can focus on their studies and their future.

Cheaper travel: Labor delivered half-price public transport for everyone until 1 January 2027, and free public transport for under-18s from 1 January 2026. A re-elected Carroll Labor Government will cap public transport fares at $30 a week for two years from 1 January, so no one pays more than $30 a week to get to campus, work or home. We will also cap tolls at $30 a week for drivers.

Backing international students: Victorian Labor says yes to international students. We know they enrich our campuses and communities, drive jobs and economic growth, and strengthen Victoria's reputation around the world.

Fairer renting: We have introduced more than 155 reforms to make renting fairer, including banning rental bidding, ending "no reason" evictions, and strengthening minimum standards and privacy protections.

We are also lowering the upfront cost of moving. Our Portable Rental Bond Scheme lets eligible renters transfer their bond to a new property instead of paying two bonds at once. This is backed by our $98 million Victorian Renter Rights Program and an almost $8 million Rental Stress Support Package.

More affordable homes: We have invested $6.3 billion to deliver more than 13,300 social and affordable homes, so more people can live closer to where they study, work and access services.

Fighting *for* working people.

Authorised by Steve Staikos, Australian Labor Party (Victorian Branch), 438 Docklands Drive, Docklands.

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A stronger student voice: Students deserve a real say in how their universities are run. Labor has committed to increase student and staff representation on university councils to two representatives in each category.

Our message to graduate students: The choice on 28 November is clear. The Liberals and One Nation plan $40 billion in cuts, and One Nation wants to scrap the penalty rates that so many students rely on to make ends meet. Only a re-elected Carroll Labor Government will keep backing graduate students with cheaper travel, a stronger student voice, fairer renting and more affordable homes.

Yours sincerely,
Victorian Labor

Fighting *for* working people.

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