



**Media Release**

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## **Tax Bonus Waste, Better Spent on Regional Students Higher Education**

Tens of millions of dollars worth of tax bonus payments have been sent overseas and to non Australian residents, said Nola Marino, Federal Member for Forrest.

“Up to 540,921 non Australian residents may be eligible for the \$900 tax bonus payment,” she said.

“Around 27,252 payments have been made to Australians living overseas, totalling an estimated \$24.5 million. The main destinations for the payments were the United Kingdom and New Zealand. The tax bonuses were supposedly designed to stimulate the Australian economy not other countries economies,” said Nola Marino.

“The current Government is making regional and rural students pay for it’s debt and deficit through proposed changes to the Youth Allowance criteria, yet sending millions of dollars overseas to people who may have worked or lived in Australia for only a few months!” said Nola Marino.

Nola Marino stated, “The Government said the tax bonus payments were intended to stimulate the Australia economy, to keep jobs in this country and to help Australia avoid or manage a recession. To have tens of millions of dollars missing the target defeats the purpose – all at a time when we are being burdened with record debt and deficit - \$315 billion at last count.

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