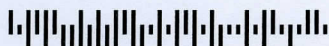


**NATIONAL OFFICE**

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Mr S & Mrs J Stone  
GPO Box 559  
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Mr & Mrs Stone

I write to you on behalf of concerned staff working at Charles Darwin University.

The outcome of the 2004 Federal Election will have a major impact on the opportunities you and your family have to attend university and TAFE.

Under the Howard Government:

- **HECS fees have doubled since 1996.**
- **If re-elected, HECS fees will increase a further 25%.**
- **More is now spent on private schools than publicly funded universities.**
- **Real funding per student has fallen by 13% since 1996.**
- **20,000 eligible students missed out on university places in 2004.**
- **Student's with lower marks can buy a place a university if they can afford to pay up to \$100,000.**

Charles Darwin University and the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education are an integral part of the Northern Territory community. Together they educate over 6,200 students and employ more than 1,500 highly qualified and committed staff.

By 2010, forty percent of all new jobs will require a university degree or equivalent. People living in the Territory should be given the same opportunities as other Australians to attend university and TAFE. This requires the Commonwealth to adequately invest in the future of higher education in the Territory.

We ask you to think about higher education before you vote on October 9. Getting into university should be based on merit not money. Don't let the Government price you and your family out of university.

## **UNIVERSITY PLACES ON MERIT NOT MONEY**

Yours Sincerely,

Alma Mir  
Secretary  
NTEU Northern Territory Division



**Shane & Josephine Stone**  
**GPO Box 559**  
**Darwin NT 0801**

14 October 2004

Alma Mir  
Secretary  
NTEU  
Northern Territory Division  
PO Box 1323  
South Melbourne 3025

Dear Alma,

You wrote to Josephine and me during the course of the Federal election campaign. I would like to thank you and your organization for the role that you played in the decisive re election of the Howard Government.

We don't know who you are, where you come from or whether you even reside and work in the Northern Territory as your letter bears a Melbourne address.

Your letter went far and wide, it hit the mark. Well done. The only problem for you and your organization was that you wrote to the wrong people – Territorians in the thousands.

We all remember the history of our struggle and yes ***"people in the Territory should be given the same opportunities as other Australians to attend University and TAFE"***. My friends and I resolved that I should drop you a note in appreciation of your sentiment and concern.

Perhaps you are not aware of the history of the Charles Darwin University (formerly NTU) and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (formerly Batchelor College). Neither would have come into existence were it not for the Northern Territory Country Liberal Party Government. The current post secondary sectors survival in the Territory today is due entirely to the intervention of the Howard Government.

Perhaps you are not aware that both the Hawke and Keating Governments subscribed to the view that Territorians could travel south for their tertiary education – a position they maintained relentlessly for 13 years before relenting

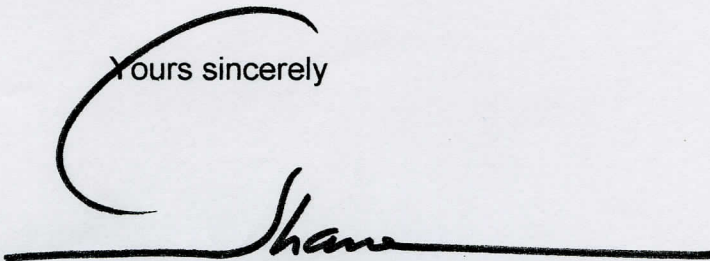
on capital works alone. That policy position was supported and endorsed by the then Labor Oppositions who fell into line with 'head office'. The Martin Government is a late convert to our post secondary facilities – better late than never.

Perhaps before you write such a letter again that you understand a little of the local history and who the real villains were when it came to Territorians wanting what other Australians take for granted – our own University.

The Australian Education Union should also be thanked for the role they played in re electing David Tollner and John Howard. Next time market test your ads before going to market, it's called Politics 101.

Thank you again for your assistance and please remove Josephine and me from your mailing list.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane', is written over a horizontal line. A large, sweeping, curved line starts above the signature and extends upwards and to the left, looping around the word 'Yours sincerely'.

Shane L. Stone