

**Subject: LMM 22/10/2019 - Lord Mayor's University of Newcastle Scholarship**

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## **MOTION**

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes that *the Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women* was established on International Women's Day 2015 to assist women facing hardship to achieve their educational goals;
2. Notes that University of Newcastle Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alex Zelinsky AO has written to City of Newcastle to advise that the scholarship has been an outright success noting that the scholarship now attracts the highest number of applications for a single scholarship and that there is significant opportunity to expand the program further to provide additional support for disadvantaged students;
3. Accepts the proposal from the University of Newcastle, by supporting the expansion of the scholarship program to create *the Lord Mayor's Scholarship*, open to all students facing disadvantage, in addition to the *Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women*.

## **Background:**

The Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women was established on International Women's Day in 2015 and announced with then University of Newcastle Vice-Chancellor, Professor Caroline McMillen to support disadvantaged women achieve their tertiary educational goals.

On 10 October 2019, University of Newcastle Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alex Zelinsky AO, wrote to City of Newcastle to advise of the success of the Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women, noting that the scholarship now attracts the highest number of applications for a single scholarship.

Professor Zelinsky further advised that the University of Newcastle believes that expanding the scholarship program would assist more students facing disadvantage.

## **Related Previous Decisions**

- 24 March 2015 – LMM: Lord Mayor's Women's Scholarship
- 24 January 2017 – LMM: Lord Mayor's Women's Scholarship

## **Attachments:**

- Letter from University of Newcastle Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Alex Zelinsky AO, regarding the expansion of the Lord Mayor's Scholarship Program.

**PROFESSOR ALEX ZELINSKY AO  
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT**

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10 October 2019

Councillor Nuatali Nelmes  
Lord Mayor, City of Newcastle  
City Administration Centre  
282 King St  
NEWCASTLE 2300

Dear Lord Mayor,

On behalf of the University, I am pleased to advise you of the success to date of *The Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women*. The scholarship has gone from strength to strength, and now attracts the highest number of applications for any single scholarship, receiving 200 applications in 2019.

As you know, equity of access to higher education is a fundamental pillar of the University of Newcastle, with 27% of our students coming from low socio-economic backgrounds, well above the sector average of 16%, and more than half of our students are first in family to study at university. It is significant to have the Lord Mayor and Council work with us to help students facing disadvantage achieve their educational goals. It sends a wonderful message to the community about your commitment to the power of higher education.

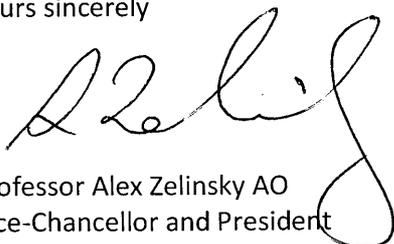
Based on the current demand and success of *The Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women*, we would be pleased to work with you to expand the program further to offer additional support for students.

There are a number of potential options that my team would be happy to discuss further with you:

- Increase the number of *The Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women* in 2020
- Establish a new scholarship to complement the current scholarship; for example, this might be named *The Lord Mayor's Scholarship* and could be open to any student facing educational disadvantage
- Increase the duration of *The Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women* to support students for longer than one year of their degree and/or increase the annual amount of the Scholarship

Thank you again for your generous support, and I look forward to speaking with you about this opportunity to expand the current scholarship program.

Yours sincerely



Professor Alex Zelinsky AO  
Vice-Chancellor and President