



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Coalition and Opposition Candidates must answer why they imposed full GST on textbooks!!**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor will be seeking an explanation from the Liberal and National candidates and the Labor candidate over their parties' decision to impose the full GST on textbooks as of 1 July this year.

“The decision by the major parties to impose the full GST on education textbooks for students from kinder to university has effectively put a tax on the tools of learning.

I was dismayed when both sides at the time were trying to out do each other on education issues that neither side supported the continuation of the exemption of full GST on textbooks when it was agreed back in 2000 that there should not be a 10% GST on textbooks.

Students now have to pay full GST on textbooks thereby increasing the cost of learning.

Unlike HECS fees which are deferred, the cost of textbooks is immediate and impacts greatly on students and their supporting families.

The Candidates will have the opportunity to let the community know why they believe it is a good idea to tax the tools of learning,” Mr Windsor said.

The UNE Candidates Forum will be held at 1.00pm in the Bistro with the public very welcome to attend.