

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**14 December 2018**

### **INTERNS AUSTRALIA WELCOMES LABOR'S DECISION TO BAN UNPAID INTERNSHIPS**

Interns Australia welcomes NSW Labor's decision to ban unpaid internships. Under the policy, a Daley Labor Government will require the Industrial Relations Commission to set pay and conditions for all internships (except for those that result in or contribute to a recognised qualification).

"Interns Australia welcomes Labor's decision to ban unpaid internships. It is a positive step to bringing this critical issue to the spotlight." said Sarah Ashman-Baird, Executive Director of Interns Australia. Interns Australia calls for a ban on all advertising of unpaid internships (unless they are linked to a course credit).

Interns Australia's research shows that the vast majority (87%) of internships are unpaid, and the problem is growing. Unpaid internships deny opportunities to those that can't afford to work for free, which can have long-term systemic impacts on social mobility. Research from the US also shows that unpaid internships do not lead young people to paid jobs. In addition, interns that do undertake an unpaid internship are left, on average, \$6,000 out of pocket according to Interns Australia's annual report.

Another growing problem is the rise of internship brokers charging young people fees of up to \$10,000 to place them in an internship.

"Interns Australia does not support the existence of internship brokers that charge a fee for internship placements. We have already seen the Morrison Government make interns work for \$4 an hour. We do not want to see a future Labor government that allows internship brokers to charge interns \$10,000 to work for free." said Sarah Ashman-Baird, Executive Director of Interns Australia.

"Interns Australia calls for a national Parliamentary Inquiry to examine the growing rate of unpaid internships in universities and the rise of internship brokers."

Interns Australia is the peak body representing interns in Australia. Interns Australia has been advocating for the welfare and rights to fair pay for interns since 2013.

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For more information, interviews or comment:

Sarah Ashman-Baird  
Executive Director, Interns Australia  
[sarah@internsaustralia.org.au](mailto:sarah@internsaustralia.org.au)  
0433 975 778