

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAPU Charter passes 1000 signatories, UC Vice Chancellor Stephen Parker Signs

The National Alliance for Public Universities yesterday passed 1000 signatories to its [charter](#). Staff from all 37 Australian public universities have signed, including over 100 professors. See here <http://napuaustralia.org/signatories/>

Yesterday, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Canberra, Professor Stephen Parker, also signed; the first university head to do so. On his [blog](#) this morning, Professor Parker wrote:

“I was happy to join this cause at the weekend. I urge colleagues to visit the NAPU website and form a view whether they wish to become signatories”

He continued: **“Fortunately, academic and professional staff have found the motivation to stand up for the public university system**, and I hope further signatures will come from the many successful scholars in Australia who have built their careers writing about social justice, equity and public policy.”

Ben Etherington, a member of the NAPU organising group, commented: “Professor Parker's signature is a significant moment. It demonstrates that the split between VCs and university staff need is not as severe as it had previously seemed. We shouldn't assume that VCs will necessarily advocate from the perspective of narrow institutional self-interest.

“We call on all other vice chancellors to join the National Alliance for Public Universities and stand up for the values and institutional form that has served the Australian public so well.”

The NAPU charter can be found here: <http://napuaustralia.org/charter/>

Dr Ben Etherington (UWS): 0478 665 692 b.etherington@uws.edu.au
Can comment on the background of the alliance, the text of the charter and its underlying philosophy; UK/Australia comparisons.

Dr Julie-Ann Robson (USyd): 0419 608 723 julie-ann.robson@sydney.edu.au
Can comment on equity and institutional politics; long-time campaigner on academic freedom.

Dr Nick Riemer (USyd): 0481 339 937 nick.riemer@sydney.edu.au
Can comment on the political stakes involved and the social consequences; long-time commentator on HE.