



Hungry Students Policy

5th April 2011

Hungry Students is fully funded by Yourimbah Student Association which is located on the Ourimbah Campus of the University of Newcastle.

This program is designed to assist students of the University of Newcastle Ourimbah Campus and TAFE students of the Hunter Institute Ourimbah Campus.

Hungry Students will provide groceries to students who have been referred to the program to assist in defraying their weekly living expenses. This program acknowledges there are many challenges facing students that directly impact on their study and their ability to stay engaged with the University of TAFE. Accordingly, Hungry Students program will work in conjunction with other programs offered on Ourimbah Campus to directly address the issues that may be impacting on the students.

Only students of the University of Newcastle Ourimbah Campus and TAFE students of the Hunter Institute Ourimbah Campus are able to access the Hungry Students program. Proof of current enrolment and courses being undertaken must be shown to Yourimbah staff to access the program.

Students can be referred to the program by any staff member of the University of Newcastle or Hunter TAFE Institute; or may self-refer. All referrals are to be made via the Hungry Students Referral form which can be obtained from the Yourimbah office or downloaded from the Yourimbah website.

Students referred by staff members who have met the eligibility criteria, can access the program for an initial period of six weeks. Self-referred students who have met the eligibility criteria can access the program for an initial period of four weeks. Students accessing the Hungry Students program will receive a grocery parcel once per week during this period. Extra groceries will be supplied to those students who have dependants.

Having completed the period of initial referral, students may access the program for further periods of six weeks at a time with a referral from the Student Support staff **only**, this applies to all students regardless of the initial method of referral. This measure has been put in place to ensure students are given access and opportunity to address any other issues that may be impacting directly on their financial situation such as: homelessness, loss of income, family issues etcetera.

During the period of secondary referral, students will also be required to attend a one-off financial counselling session which will be provided free of charge. Again this measure is designed to give students access and opportunity to address any issues around finances that may be impacting directly on them. Currently there is no limit to the amount of times any student can access this service, however, they must continue to meet the eligibility criteria, have a current six week referral from Student Support staff and must have undertaken a minimum of one session of financial counselling.

All referrals to the Hungry Students program will be treated in the strictest confidence by all Yourimbah staff.