

Senate Commission Submission On New Student Taxes

A new tax on university students should not be levied upon Australian university students, as it would go against all Australian people's freedom to choose whether they want to join a student union or contribute to their operations.

Currently Australian tertiary students can choose whether they want to join their student union/ association or not, however if this 'Great Big New Tax' on Australian University students goes ahead, we will all end up paying money through our student contribution tax to the student union's operations whether we approve of them or not.

This is a tax, whichever way it is worded! Contribution fee, assistance fee; they all mean a 'great big new tax' against Australia's university students!

In my situation, I would not even be on campus anyway, to use the student services that I would be required to pay for. I live in regional Victoria in Bendigo, however I attend Deakin University in Melbourne. I am on campus one day a week, but also study several units from my course online. Why should I be stuck paying for student services which I won't be using? I already have to pay more to travel from my home in regional Victoria to my university campus in the city of Melbourne, as well as having to knock back shifts at work in Bendigo so that I can travel to University.

The travel to Uni takes one whole day out of my working week at least, why should I have to pay a new tax, while losing days to work, just because I lose a day in transit to Uni?

In summing up, students like myself already have other things to pay for whilst studying; textbooks, travel, course fees to name a few. Student services have not suffered that much since VSU (Voluntary Student Unionism) was introduced. In fact at Deakin, the student union seems to have enough money to run their own book store, bistro and cafes on campus!

Apart from being opposed to a new tax, would the student fees actually be used on necessary and vital infrastructure and services, or would it be squandered by the university student unions that couldn't care less what they do with "other people's" money?