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By email: newtaxes@aph.gov.au

Committee Secretary
Select Committee on the Scrutiny of New Taxes

SUBMISSION TO SENATE INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED STUDENT FEES

Thank you for the opportunity to make this personal submission to your inquiry into proposed student fees

I am an external 3rd year Politics and International Studies student at Murdoch University, Western Australia.

I wish to focus on the impact of compulsory student unionism (CSU) on external students.

It is fair to say that the majority of external students are mature aged students who have a full-time job and are studying to further their careers (helping our economy grow as a result).

Recently there has been a national focus on the impact of the higher cost of living. As an external student who has the pressures of full-time work, a mortgage, household fees and charges and a young family, it is simply unacceptable that this Government seeks to slug me with an additional tax of \$250 per year.

Any benefits that pro-CSU supporters state will not benefit non-campus attending students. I do not attend the university campus and complete all academic work remotely from home. I will have no opportunity to access the services student organisations claim they will provide with the compulsory fee they take from me.

The Federal Government acknowledges that there is a need for more skilled labour. How can they expect people who are motivated to further their education to be encouraged to study at Australian universities when on top of course fees and book costs they can now expect an additional \$250 fee for services they will not use?

I encourage the committee to focus on the impact of external students that compulsory student unionism will have and ask whether they believe this will help encourage more Australians to become better skilled for the benefit of the our economy.

Yours sincerely

Ben Allen