

To whom it may concern,

I'm currently a student at the ANU and have been working for the last two and a half years to put myself through it without CentreLink support. This is because

A) I see the contempt my friends that do receive youth allowance have for those taxpayers in the workforce

B) Through some weird glitch in the system, I'm not eligible for even the bare minimum I need to live

C) I enjoy being independent

The government's proposal for compulsory student unionism will hurt those like me who do not support the activities of all the affiliated clubs on campus.

While I do not see the harm in allowing these clubs to exist, forcing all students to pay for them is clearly a conflict of interest, especially if these groups are engaging in activities others at the university may find offensive. VSU negates this by forcing a user pays system, thus removing all involvement except by those involved and also moves ownership of any problems that may arise from the backs of the universities.

Creating a politically connected group of students is a very dangerous activity. When my education is held to ransom until I pay fees to a union I never wanted to be a part of in the first place, I feel as if my natural right to NOT associate myself with such an organisation has been violated and left me without a voice, not to mention a lighter bank account which I struggle to keep in the black anyway.

Please consider these points very carefully when advising on this policy, there will be a lot of unhappy students in Australia if you bring back a mandatory regime.

Thank you for your time,

Stephen