

I am writing this submission on behalf of my fellow university students, many who will not make a submission as they wish to not get involved personally but have clearly stated their position to me. They have outlined their concerns that they have if this compulsory fee is introduced. Through speaking with many students around my campus I have come to the conclusion that the compulsory fee is strongly opposed especially amongst the silent majority who I am representing. I am making a stand against the \$250 compulsory because I feel it is unjust. This fee is a tax on students. Students already shoulder a massive financial burden with university study. There is the cost of the course, transport, textbooks etc. University study is costly enough without the new tax. Students do not need to be taxed and be imposed with further costs. A tax will negatively affect students, the future workforce who we depend on. Students should not have to incur a tax to get a degree and then have the cost hanging over their heads until they begin work, HECS is enough. The student services have not collapsed at university with voluntary student unionism. They have in fact improved. Services have had to compete for student payment making them more tailored to what the student actually requires and results in effective and efficient services. How could this not be good and in the interest of the students? This will be lost with the introduction of a tax, we will see a waste situation develop. Do not tamper with a system that is working well. This tax will hurt the poor students the most. It is a further blow to those who are already struggling to make ends meet. These students have no time to enjoy the subsidised activities because they are trying to survive by working every spare minute they get. What is point forcing students to pay for something they will not benefit from? Do not inflict further pain on them by introducing this regressive tax. Applying it equally regardless on a students situation is deeply unfair. Students should be given a choice. We live in a democracy and students deserve the right to freely choose if they wish to pay this or not. Please consider the students, the future of this country, and their current situation as well as the future implications that this tax will have on them and Australia. Oppose the compulsory fee. Keep voluntary student unionism.