

28 October 2010
Committee Secretary
Select Committee on the Scrutiny of New Taxes
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600
Submitted Electronically

Proposed Student Fees

As an education professional, working in the tertiary sector, I find it hard to believe that the government is proposing to reintroduce a \$250 levy on all students with regards to Student Unionism.

Since the last raft of changes to student funding, I have seen repeated cases of prospective students and their families having to opt for additional time away from study, or simply to forego study completely due to financial pressures. Many of those who do make it over those initial hurdles have to work long hours to fund their studies, and to make ends meet. It therefore seems ludicrous that the government would propose a further levy on these hard working individuals, when voluntary student unionism has been shown to work, and to work well, over recent years.

If we grant our tertiary students the respect they generally deserve, then surely we have to admit that they have sufficient understanding to be able to choose for themselves whether or not they sign up for Student Union membership, and need not be dictated to by a nanny state which seems set and determined to inflict its own views on students, and to see its own models of university life promoted. Such a move would be a step backwards, and I urge the committee to side with choice over dictat, and informed decision making over mandatory membership.

Yours sincerely,

C R Buchanan