

The Student services amenities fee would without a doubt revolutionise the student experience and life at my campus. I'm a student at University which while a very large university has virtually no real student services for the students.

Firstly there are only a handful of fully active and large clubs at my University with the majority being sporting clubs. This is partly due to the abysmal funding given to clubs meaning that clubs outside generic sports are rarely set up and regularly attended to. A clubs only means of money is the 20 cents per member they get, which is a drop in the ocean. This cripples clubs so it is incredibly limited to what they can do. But what makes the situation even more unfortunate is that my University is one of the Highest with International Students, meaning that they never really get a chance to socialise beyond their degree. I have had many international students tell me that they don't even feel like they're in Australia because there is nothing outside of lectures and tutorials for them. This only increases the divide between domestic and international students, but if clubs could receive proper funding through this important legislation we would be the closest we have in years to making a better university experience.

There are other merits that come from more money being put into clubs and that is youth mental health. Clubs are a great opportunity for students to create larger social groups and friends. In multiple studies it is shown that a vibrant and healthy social life can help prevent depression which is especially prevalent in youth today. This legislation has the potential to regain campus life but most importantly the chance to save lives.

The revitalising of campus culture and life is also significant for Australia's international credibility. Overseas students look for a worthwhile student experience when considering what university they are to attend. It is also a factor in signalling what is a quality education. Cambridge will continue to be seen as a high quality institution because of its Alumni and academics but also for its long standing Footlights group, giving their students to expand as people and performers while also further boosting their international reputation. If the students amenities fee is not passed it is sending out the message to the community that Australia does not care about uniqueness of student experience but rather carbon copy education. This legislation gives the opportunity to really grow in the eyes of the world again after removing funding years ago.

Furthermore adequate services are essential to the actual retention of students. If students are not feeling engaged in the community and well looked after they will drop out. The same phenomenon can also be seen in secondary education and through the SSAF we can reinvigorate students to stay to get their degree. This is especially relevant to rural universities which have been the worst hit by the VSU legislation. Increasingly in today's society it is essential to have a degree in order to obtain quality permanent work, already rural students have been put at a further disadvantage by the VSU legislation. The SSAF legislation is a opportunity to put rural students back on par with urban students.

As a dyslexic student doing Law I've also found that the lack of funding is effecting my chance at getting the same quality education as everyone else. Students with a disability should not be put at a disadvantage but further the groups most in need are being marginalised. There is a distinct lack of support and resources that I can access as such a student. There are many other students across Australia in the same or worse situations as me, such as indigenous students , women students and queer students. Never have our higher education system been do divided and the SSAF finally gives us the chance to give everyone a fair go.

In closing the SAFF would really reignite the traditional principles of education, that of experience, quality and equality. I as a student do not see this as a tax but rather a fee on services, those services which are greatly needed.