



To the inquiry

I am strongly opposed to the bill to abolish student unionism. I have experienced great benefits from being a member of the student union that would not be available without the funds received from compulsory student unionism.

Being a member of the clubs at Macquarie University has completely changed my perception of my education. When I began my Arts/Law degree in 2004, I found university to be very unsatisfying both intellectually and socially. Towards the end of first semester I became more and more involved with a range of clubs and societies on my campus. These completely changed the way I felt about university. Not only did it allow me to meet a wide range of people of differing perspectives, but it also challenged me intellectually and physically.

Through being involved in the Basketball club I have made some great friends and been able to further my skills while continuing to lead a health lifestyle that many people would neglect if these facilities were not available. Also as a member of the Law society I have a support network to help me with assignments and other opportunities such as law competitions and internships that will give me practical experience for when I enter the workforce.

Furthermore even for those students who do not participate in these or similar activities the student union provides many useful resources in time of crisis such as representation on the academic senate, which allow the students a way to challenge unjust university decisions. Without the union there would be no way that we could be represented.

Being an active member of the student union has made me enjoy attending university and has enriched my educational experience. I fear that if student unionism is abolished these organisations will lack the necessary funding to continue. It is important to offer these opportunities to the student community.

Yours Sincerely

Holly Kendall