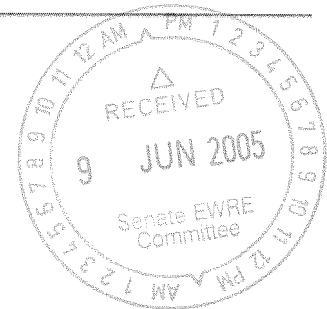


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**From:** Phillip Ablett [pablett@usc.edu.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 June 2005 4:04 PM  
**To:** EET, Committee (SEN)  
**Subject:** Voluntary Student Unionism



Dear Senators,

I know that nothing will stop this legislation and the reckless way in which it will damage student services on-campus, adding costs to our already cash-strapped Tertiary institutions. I would, however, like to make one point, particularly to the Government Members on your Committee.

That is, I want to ask where is the constituency demanding this change? What evidence is there that great sections of the Australian public will benefit from this onerous piece of Government intervention? Where are the petitions calling for an end to General Service Fees? Where are the teeming masses of protestors demanding this change?

I just want to remind the members of the Government about what the Prime-Minister has said about hubris.

Whether it be on the industrial relations front, tax cuts for the rich, the abuses of DIMIA or the pettiness of Voluntary Student Unionism, there is a growing awareness amongst ordinary Australians that here is a Government that has gone too far and is operating in terms of ideology and vindictiveness, not responsible public policy. Such "un-mandated" and divisive zeal will re-visit you at the ballot box.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Ablett