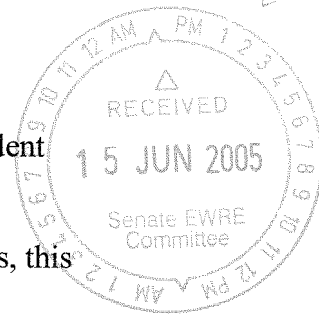


A few points I wish to convey about Voluntary Student Unionism, from a Student Club perspective.



- The proposed VSU legislation will bring market forces into universities, this will have various implications on students
  - o As students are no longer forced to pay for union membership, Student Unions will have less funds to spend
  - o Clubs and societies, like the one I am involved in receive a small proportion of the Student Union's annual revenue, and are likely to have to look for other sources of funding other than the Student Union
- VSU legislation proposed by the Government will cause divisions within the Government's Senate majority
  - o Industrial relations and tax legislation reforms rely on support from the National party senators and Liberal party senators, it'd be a risk to divide members Coalition Government over VSU legislation
  - o Barnaby Joyce, a bloke from the Nationals, reckons that VSU would mean that students on rural campuses like my own, would be disadvantaged as they rely on subsidies from their city counterparts
    - **It is recommended that the Government help subsidise the costs of rural student associations when implementing VSU, to replace the city campuses, who will be strapped for cash. This would help bolster support from dissenting National Party Senators like Mr Joyce.**
- Several Liberal party members run student associations in the Monash and Victoria University campuses. Introducing VSU would result in losing the support of young Liberal Party members. This would further deepen the generational divide within the party and may result in reduced membership numbers for the Liberals.
  - o Young liberal party supporters are the future of the Liberal party
- A user pays system doesn't work for essential services provided by Student Unions like advocacy and english teaching
  - o This is why we don't see a privatised Armed Services, some services are simply not profitable

Thanks for your time and the opportunity to voice my views and recommendations.

-Paul Rogers

A student of Deakin University – Geelong Campus

A voluntary and paid-up member of the Liberal Party