
Dear Senate Committee Members,

I am a 31 year old male, who has returned to study after many years of work. I am currently studying liberal arts at Swinburne University of Technology TAFE division with a view to further my studies at the completion of my current course with Under-Graduate study, most likely in the area of the Media and Communications.

I wish to take the opportunity here to voice my opposition to the current legislation that seeks to effectively close down our student unions; the Education Support Amendment (Abolition of Up-Front Fees) Bill 2005.

As the name suggests, it is Education Support the Government wishes to tamper with. That is; Support for Education and Students.

I am not currently an active member of our Swinburne Student Union (SSU), as this is my first year back in study however, I am proud of, and grateful for the Union and the services it provides and intend to nominate for an elected position next year to contribute to the community not just in the University, but hopefully in the long run, outside the University too.

Our Union has helped me acclimatise to the University way of life, on campus and off, and has offered me opportunities to do practical things I never thought I'd be able to do so soon in my "new life" (that is, in the academic life). I have a position in the student run press here at Swinburne, the funding of which comes from the Union. This has proven invaluable to me in many ways.

I have met and made friends in the University Community, made contacts that may be mutually beneficial in the future and found avenues to explore my "new life" and my own creativity.

Student press itself is a major part of University life, not just for what it has done for me. It is the life-blood of student news, views, information, and entertainment and for student culture in general. No doubt many of our Nations thinkers, writers and Journalists have learned their craft through student press – Not that I put myself in any of these categories.

Now, I implore you to have a good, good, hard, long look at this proposed Bill before making any further decisions. I'm sure if you do take one more look, you will see that it in no way benefits our education system, our educational institutions or more importantly our *students*, and that you will do the only logical and sensible thing that there is to do with this Bill, which is to send it back to where it came from.

To pass this Legislation would be a major step back for our Country, not just for now, but for generations to come, and not just for students, but for the community in general.

Thank you.
Vincent Piatek.