

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to ask the Senate Committee to recommend that the Senate dismiss the Higher Education Support Amendment (Abolition of Compulsory Up-front Union Fees bill).

I am a student at the University of Queensland and have participated in 3 University Games competitions representing the University of Queensland in tennis. I am aware that Australian University Sport who organises inter-university sport in Australia gets much of their funding from student organisations and sports associations around Australia, which are funded by student fees. The sports associations and student organisations around Australia organise and manage the tours to the inter-university sporting competitions. Without universal fees being collected to help fund university sport in Australia, it either would not exist at all or the amount that a student would have to pay to participate would be unaffordable for many students. In the USA the universities pay for sport. At primary and secondary school in Queensland, the Government funds inter-school sports. A user pays system for inter-university sport will be detrimental to sport in Australia.

I also support keeping a universal fee to student associations. It is incredibly important that all students are represented on university boards and committees and while I am not interested in sitting on these committees, I appreciate the work that the students who are elected do to ensure that students are treated fairly at university. The University of Queensland Union does a wonderful job to support and represent UQ students and provides many commercial services on campus at UQ that I use every day. The UQ Union employment service has also been a great help for me when looking for casual work during my time at university.

Sincerely,

Rachel Smith