## VSU – A Dagger Through the Art

The Federal Government's proposed Voluntary Student Unionism legislation prohibits universities from charging compulsory fees to support services for students.

The arts community of Australia calls on the Federal Government to consider the severe impact of this legislation on the arts and cultural services offered to students through student organisations across Australia. It will effect:

- The viability of facilities including theatres, art galleries, cinemas and band venues.
- Production of student magazines, newspapers, student radio and television stations.
- Employment for performers, bands, filmmakers, designers and visual artists.
- Access to workshops, master classes, mentorship schemes, forums.
  Creative, technical and administrative support crucial to the development of skills.
- The acquisition of cultural skills: social development, communication, creative problem solving, emotional empathy and lateral thinking all highly valued in the work force.
- The development of audiences for the wider arts sector.
- The ability to support new plays, new performing and visual works, new writing, new musical composition, new media concepts and programming.

The ability to tell our stories in a unique Australian voice is too precious to waste. Our universities run the risk of becoming cultural slums and a national disgrace if financial support for arts and culture is removed. The impact will be dire – now and into the future.

Student theatre, arts, and music have produced a huge array of talent that has enriched the nations culture and in many cases, have become national and international icons.

We, the undersigned, urge the Prime Minister and members of the Coalition to abandon this Bill as arts and cultural services in universities benefit ALL Australians.

Cate Blanchett - Actor, Andrew Upton - Playwright, David Williamson - Playwright, Jackie Weaver - Actor, Wil Anderson - Comedian, Corrine Grant - Comedian, Rebecca Dunsdon, Lisa Merante, Christina Chiam, Anthony Crowley – Artistic Director St Martins Youth Arts Centre, Dennis Watkins, Bernadette Byrne, Damien Fotiou, Matt Chable, Gabrielle Baker, Gideon Obarzanek – Artistic Director & CEO of Chunky Move, Jamie McKew – OAM Festival Director Port Fairy Folk Festival, Donald Horne – Writer/Academic, Mary E. Kenneally, Andrea Moor, Avril McQueen – Cultural

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Magee, Curtis Lachlan Riddington, Maggie McCormick, Melissa McVeigh, Susan McClements, Leon Teague, Geoffrey Rush – Doctor of Letters, and seasoned varsity thespian, Chloe Gordon, Brendan Annear, Edwina Entwisle, Lea O'Dea, Kerry Walker, Rosa Ellen, Charlotte George, Toi-Lan Hung, Fiona Todd – Freelance actor, member of Eleventh Hour Theatre Company, Anna Dolma Feldman, Kelly Tracey, David Tredinnick, Irene Haas, Anne Graham – Professor, Head School of Fine Art, Newcastle University, Vanessa Pigrum, Paul McCarthy, Emma J. Leaver, Anne Radvansky, John Ford – Lighting Designer, Irene Dios, Andrew Goodone, Pauline Whyman, Brett Adam, Heather Bolton, Steve Harrison – Ceramics Teacher, Gymea TAFE College, Sydney Institute of Technology, Quentin Grant – Composer, David Symons, Geoff Paine, Graham Pitts, Vanessa Gore, Rohan Jones, Shayne Hill, Dr Sean Fabri, Tracey Boyd – Queer Officer, Interim Student Representative Council, University of Melbourne, Frances Lee – Artist, David Craven – Architect, Sarah Kinsella, Rosemary Hinde, Mark Hennessy, Jessica McPhee, Oliver Wigg, Kit Lazaroo, Elly Varrenti, Dr. Helen Molnar, Ann Tonks, Alexandra Warn, Aneke, McCulloch – Administrative Assistant, National Institute of Circus Arts, Lachlan Plain - Independent artist, Jasmine Powell - Independent artist, Laura Hamilton, Lydia Brown, Ros McMillan, Rachel Levitch, Mike Finch – Artistic Director, Circus Oz, Michael Graf, Karen Davitt, Anne Levitch – Director, Levitch Design Associates, Jessica Little, Rinske Ginsberg, Sian Prior – Arts journalist and broadcaster, Victoria Verdon-Roe, Kevin Murray – Director, Craft Victoria, Brenda Addie, Odilla O'Boyle – Marketing & Communications Manager Melbourne International Jazz Festival, Diana Georgeff, George Filev, Tania Bosak, Clare Keating – Director, Effective Change, Zoe Randell, Thomas Caldwell, Georgie Boucher, Stephanie Britton – Executive Editor, Artlink Australia, Nadja Kostich – Paradigm Productions, Cara Lo Iacono, Sam McGilp, Drew Roberts, Vanessa Richards, Edith Diana Kurzer, Richard Pyros, Andrew Bayly, Michael McCall, Amanda Love, Kristen Smith, Miriam Ceh – Kinetic Theatre Company, Ann McMahon – Freelance writer and arts writer, Stephanie Radok, Andrea Lemon – Writer/director/dramaturge, Anne Marshall, Sergio Tell, Andrea Rieniets – Gorgeousworld.com, Ned Collett, Elliat Rich, Julie Copeland, Mairead Hannan, Peter Farnan – Composer, Lisa Young, Anna Tregloan, Jane Bayly, Dr Susan Lowish – Lecturer in Australian Art History, School of Art History, Cinema, Classics and Archaeology, University of Melbourne, Charles Anderson, Madeleine Hodge – Live artist, Fiona Capp, Michael Portley, Hilary Crampon, Drew Echberg, Peter Woodward -Industrial Officer (entertainment and arts), Alliance, Barbara Campbell – Studio 8413, Cité Internationale des Arts, Mikala Tai, Kaira M Cabanas, Norbert Brunner, Larissa Pryce, Tanja Visosevic, Caroline Hamilton – Administrator, Strange Fruit, Dani Marti, Marcelle Schmitz, Alex Prior - Screen Hub, Nicole Hurtubise - Port Phillip Library Service, Anne Robertson - Executive Director, Craftsouth: Centre for Contemporary Craft & Design, Laetitia Shand – Arts Development Worker, RMIT Union Arts, Brunswick, Steph Jamieson, Dr Alison Richards – Hon Research Fellow, School of Creative Arts, The University of Melbourne, Kate Donelan – Deputy Head of Department Language, Literacy and Arts Education, University of Melbourne, Ben Johnson Audio Producers, Bolinda Publishing, Anna Burley – Audio Producers, Bolinda Publishing, Kelly Sexton – Researcher, Politics & Economics Section, Consulate-General of Japan, Anna Daly, Anthea Doropoulos, Hilary McPhee, Kerry Mullan - Dept. of Linguistics, La Trobe University, Owen Leong, Nick Verginis -Aubergine Theatre Inc., Dr Warwick Frost – Lecturer, Department of Management, Monash University, Humphrey Bower – Actor, Helen Warn, Mary Sexton, David Wilkinson, Sarah McCusker, Andreas Litras – Anthos Theatre, Nicholas Mercieca, Simone – Platform Artist's Group, Jane Lydon, Andrew Piskun, Claire Murray, Norman Leslie – Senior Lecturer (Photomedia), School of Communications & Multimedia, Edith Cowan University, Lucy Ann Dyson, Sarah Austin - Mudfest Coordinator, Margaret McCarthy – Writer, editor, teacher, B. Goldsworthy, Adrian Alexander – Alfred Brash SoundHouse Manager, The Arts Centre, Andrew Mac – Director, Citylights Project, Anna Roach, Alison Sexton-Green – Industrial Organiser, Australian Services Union, Helen Garner, Anderson Lauren – Acting Bookings Officer, Cultural Venues, Lu Sexton – Community Cultural Development Program Manager, Arts and Culture, City of Melbourne, Tom Callahan, Karla Pringle,

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Durban – Senior Lecturer in Performing Arts, Arts Academy, University of Ballarat, Charlie Pickering Comedian, Eddie Paterson, Sarah Toohey, Lee Christofis – Coordinator of Arts Management Studies and Multicultural Arts Marketing, University of Melbourne Dance Writer; The Australian, Dr Scott Drake - Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning, University of Melbourne, Rosemary Myers – Artistic Director, Arena Theatre Company, TIM WAMALA – Youth Events Officer, Moonee Valley Youth Services, Tobias Sherson, Vanessa Brady Plug PR, Carol Jackson Event Co-ordinator, Brimbank Youth Services YMCA, Jessica Leski, Dr Peter Eckersall – Coordinator of Theatre Studies, University of Melbourne, Christy Dena, Tracy Merchant, Kirsty Wilson – Writers on the Road Coordinator, State Library of Victoria, Nathan Thompson – Design Director, The Flaming Beacon P/L, Phil Edwards – RMIT Painting, 3rd Year Co-Cordinator, Gavin Youngs, Emma Goldsworthy, Graeme Counsel, Chris Kohn, Craig Barrie, Johann Ruth – General Manager, University of Melbourne Postgraduate Association, University Of Melbourne, Anja Kanngieser, Mike Shuttleworth, Lili Wilkinson – Event Coordinator, Centre for Youth Literature, State Library of Victoria, Dr. Sandra Kaji-O'Grady – Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne, Rachel Young, Tilly Legge, Matthew Kennedy, Brett Robertson – Team Leader/Workplace Trainer, Ballarat Communications Centre, Josephine Byrt – Mudfest Administrator, Union House Theatre, Hayley K. Burnett, Liam Cody, Laura Smyth – Lawyer, Antony Loewenstein, Anne Stansfeld, Tom Rigby – Media Officer, Interim Student Representative Council, University of Melbourne, Matthew Salter, Caroline Lee, Andrew Saunders – Lawyer, Selena Papps, Lorien Devitt – Solicitor, Robyn McGregor – Marketing Manager, Circus Oz, Konrad McCarthy, Tracey Ambrose, Matt Nicol – Channel Manager, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, Chris Tomkins, Amanda Kerley – Liaison Officer, Course and Careers Services, La Trobe University, Angela Ferguson, Mark Woodward, Tony Le Nguyen – Actor/Writer/Director, Eloise Hinkley, Libby Noblet, Neil Armfield – Artistic Director Belvoir St Company B, Naomi Hogie – Advertising Manager, Artlook magazine, Jessica Na, Neha Khanna, Zoe Coombs Marr, Catherine McClements – Actor, Jacek Koman – Actor, Julie Ogden, Barrie Kosky - Director, Kara Jacob – Executive Assistant, Office of the Executive Dean, Faculty of Communications & Creative Industries, Edith Cowan University, Liz Baulch – Assoc. Lecturer, Media Arts, Deakin University, Natasha Stott Despoja – Senator, Democrats Higher Education Spokesperson, John Wregg, Stuart Bailey – Program Manager, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Lisa Byrne, Lefa Singleton, Jack Migdalek, Anna Muscara, Michelle Croker – Community Facilitator Let's Read, Michelle Munden, Lindy Bartholomew – Director, Regional Arts Victoria, Yoni Prior, Santha Press, Ned Lander, Nick Media Ouchtomsky – Studies, Methodist Ladies' College, Alma Tooke – Director of Visual Arts, Haileybury College, Kirsten Fairfax, Leah Chapman, Mark Phillips, Geoff Rose, Jemima Key, Ian Breden, Josephine Key, Richard Tamplenizza, Ben Sumner – Programme Director (Production, Design and Arts Management), Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Julia Tamplenizza, Stuart Murdoch – PIC Web Coordinator, Anne Boyd – Professor, Chair of Music, University of Sydney, B. Walker, Joanna Chambers, Tim McNeilage, Liam O'Sullivan, Leah Bloch, Lisa Dethridge, llan Abrahams, Elham Monavari, John Cumming – Lecturer, Film & Video, School of Communications and Creative Arts, Deakin University. Professor Percy Allan AM, Professor Rufus Clark, Professor Vaughan Carr, Matt Laffan, Mr Laffan, Bob Hughes, Ros Strong, Bob Gaussen, Dennis Watkins, Stuart Khan, Jim Coombs, Ted Marr, George Maltabarrow, Craig Bauman, Adam Spencer, Peter Fitzsimon, Anna Booth, Tim Friedman, John Schaeffer, John Eriani, Justice Jim Macken, Dr Ann Daniel, Professor Emeritus, Associate Professor, Jan Mears, Bruce Meagher, Professor Ken Hillman, John Bell OAM – Artisitic Director Bell Shakespeare Company, Michael Gow – Playwright/ Artistic Director of Queensland Theatre Company, Professor Fiona Cowie, Anita Hegh, Henry Szeps, Faculty of Communications & Creative Industries, Edith Cowan University, Perth (comprising the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, the School of Contemporary Arts, and the School of Communications & Multimedia), Mia Dyson - Musician, Michael Kantor - Artistic Director of Malthouse Theatre, Stephen Armstrong - Executive Producer of Malthouse Theatre, Rhys

Muldoon - Actor, Kaz Cooke – Cartoonist/Writer, Wolf Heidecker - Director/Producer (Vice President CAA-Wyndham Community Arts Alliance Inc), Malcolm McKinnon, Don Mackay - Director, Luis Childs, Katherine Giljohann, Jessica Robinson, Andrew Crook, M. Confoy, Phillip Garbe, Domine Trescowthick, Vashti Kenway, Carly Pearce, Lena Ozolins, Chris Cowen, Christopher Cohen, Saeed Saeed, Dougal McNeill, Anneine Stockton, Lucie Burns-Warr, Anna McIldowie, Elizabeth Walsh, David Mence, Anne Graham, Paul Wilson, Jen Brook, Jessica Brown, Doone Lamb, Geraldine Bate, Charlie Sublet, Ray Davis, Bridget Stewart, Dhruv Malhotra, Wendy Lapsley, Ellen Sandell, Lloyd Davies, Amy Lee, Karen Pickering, Scott Gavens, Geoff Berry, Julia Zemirs -Actor/Comedian, Felicity Harkress, Bruce Tucker, Sarah Thomas, Libby Gott, Laureen Barnes, Matthew Sanders, Kitlana Crisp, Alison Richards - Actor/Academic, Marco Mercadante, Paul Ernst, Fran Bryson, Peter Plane, Vincent Ramos, Julia Griffith, Alice Dixon, Owen Beaton, Tegan Jones, David Gyarlin, Thuraya Eid, Rihab Sultan, Alexandra Collier, Marty Grimwood, Lesley Hall, David Harris, Kate Smith, Kitty Billings, Nicole Kelleher, Janet Greason, Shasta Stevic, Thomas Arup, Linda Harley, Pamela Chambers, Tom Rigby, Clare Chandler, Paul Donegan, Casey Nicholls, Steven Denifer, Henry Gardner, Paulina Olszanka, Daniel Kinsey, Ruth Lonie, Iain Finlayson, Thomas Battersley, Paul Ryan, Lizzie O'Shea, Michele Johnson, Patricia Coutts, Alex Aldrich, Marion Crooke, Max Thomson, Matalie Pestara, Matthew Gregson, Maurice Alexander, Austin Brady, Tom O'Connor, Janet Coutts, Lorraine Davis, H L Alexander, Daniel Robins, Thea Saliba, Graeme Dale, Dian Agentu, Caroline Lee (actor), Adrienne Paterson, Dean Hallett, Cheryl Coulson, Juan Minoz, Claire Stockton, Elise McCredie, Susan Hewitt, Claire Dobbyn, Anna Barnes, Michael Claranells, Sian Smith, Andy Miller, Craig Barrie, Sarah Pheasant, Latif Baris, John Ford, Laurie Benson, Meredith Lewis, J D McMahon, Danielle Pullin, Alexis Herbert Townsend, Katherine Payne, Paul Michael, Judy Crozier, Justin Randle, Rebecca Shaw, Claire Butler, Martin Harris, Zoe Holman, Bruce McNeill, Laura Stitzel, Josh Grose, Margaret Paul, Ellen Heyward.