

16<sup>th</sup> June 2005



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The Secretary  
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations  
and Education Legislation Committee  
S1. 61 Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

**Re: Inquiry into the higher Education support amendment  
(Abolition of compulsory up-front union fees) Bill 2005.**

The Northern Inland Academy of Sport has had a long and close relationship with the UNE Sports Association (trading as Sport UNE) since the Academy commenced in November 1992.

Since inception the Academy has been able to attract many of our member sports to conduct their training camps and activities at SPORT UNE due to the fantastic facilities the Association has. The Academy conducts Talent Development programs for the talented athletes throughout the whole of the Northern Inland area of NSW covering Tenterfield to the North, Ebor to the East, Quirindi to the South and Coonabarabran in the West.

Currently we have ten member sports active with the Academy and all Sports utilise the facilities offered at Sport UNE. The facilities are second to none in the region and this location is our first choice when we are looking for venues for our athletes.

SPORT UNE has also been a very strong supporter of the Northern Inland Academy of Sport and has assisted in the growth of our organisation and is currently the sponsor of our boys and girls Soccer Program.

If the Higher Education Support Amendment Bill is passed than our organisation will suffer, as we believe that the very high standard of facilities offered will be impacted upon adversely. We therefore urge the senate enquiry to amend the legislation to permit the University of New England to levy a compulsory amenities fee that will enable UNE's sport facilities to be developed and maintained for students and then make available to community sports groups such as NIAS.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Annis-Brown', is written over a white rectangular area.

Peter Annis-Brown  
NIAS Executive Officer