



The Chairman,  
The Senate Committee on Compulsory Student Unionism,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra. ACT.

Dear sir,

I have heard in the radio news today the arguments put forward by representatives of the unions and of universities in favour of compulsory student memberships of unions. I would like to put forward an argument against that, which you may not be aware of.

Compulsory unionism is quite unfair to a large proportion of students, those who are Evening Students. These only go to their university campuses at night because they work for their livings during the daytime and they have no opportunities to use any of the facilities provided by university unions. Their two or three evenings each week on campus consist in rushing to lectures, rushing to libraries for books and rushing home late to study. There is no time for anything else and there is little else late at night on campus, anyhow. Evening students get nothing from union memberships.

Evening students are nearly all of mature age and take twice as long studying for a degree as Day students. They have no time or interest to indulge in student politics, clubs, societies, child minding, debating, student newspapers or sports

The proportion of Evening students of the total student numbers is nearly one half, meaning a huge number, and they are virtually impotent concerning a say in how the unions spend their funds because Evening students cannot be on campus to attend daytime union meetings.

I feel sure you will not have been told by the universities or the unions about the impost of compulsory unionism concerning Evening students. Compulsory Student Unionism is, for them, sheer robbery

Yours faithfully,

*Russell H Carter*  
(Russell H Carter)