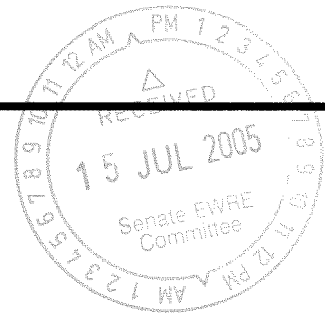


From: Al Borowski [al.borowski@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, 15 July 2005 5:06 PM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: sub191



RE: "Inquiry into the Provisions of the Higher Education Support Amendment (Abolition of Compulsory Up-front Union Fees) Bill 2005"

Hi,

My name is Alistair Borowski. I am a 4th year engineering student at the Queensland University of Technology. I am writing to voice my support for VSU.

The current system at QUT is unfair. Despite the student guild's claims, the current system is not voluntary. A student may object to automatic membership - however they are still required to pay a compulsory fee. This fee is equal to the union membership fee - in this case, there is no financial benefit to becoming a conscientious objector. Opting out of union membership is a net loss. Students lose what few benefits the guild gives them, but still must pay the fee.

I am aware that many petitions have been submitted opposing VSU. At my university at least, I don't think these petitions have been made in good faith. The student guild has bombarded noticeboards with posters aiming to turn students against VSU. That's fair enough, they are allowed their voice; however any pro-VSU posters are promptly torn down. Only the guilds version of events has been allowed to stand. Many students therefore have not had a chance to read pro-VSU arguments. Please keep this in mind when reviewing petitions.

VSU opponents like to compare VSU with voluntary taxes. This is not a fair comparison. Taxes pay for essential services like good roads and the health system. Without these services the quality of life for the average Australian would plummet. In contrast, the guild do not provide essential services to the vast majority of students.

Please be aware that many students do support VSU; we just can't be as loud as the unions.

best regards,

Al