



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

22 June 2005

Windsor calls on Nationals to support his VSU Amendment

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has called on the National Party members in the House of Representatives, to support his amendment on the controversial Voluntary Student Unionism Bill set down for debate tomorrow in the Federal Parliament.

Mr Windsor has circulated his draft amendment to the Bill and has been very pleased with the overwhelming constructive and supportive responses from Universities across Australia.

“My Amendment to the VSU Bill has received positive response about it achieving the Government’s real agenda of preventing the use of the ‘General Service Fee’ for political purposes.

Incoming National Party Senators after June 30 have been making the right noises about what my amendments will achieve and I call on the National Party members in the House of Representatives to show the same conviction as those yet to arrive here and support my amendments.

I have added a number of suggestions to my Amendment from the numerous groups affected by the Bill that better enables the delivery of student services and facilities but still achieves the prevention of the General Service Fee from being used for political purposes.

I thank all those groups and individuals who responded to my request for input and I trust that it will get the support of the Parliament,” Mr Windsor said.

Attached is the revised proposed Amendment

2004 - 2005

The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

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Draft 20 June

Higher Education Support Amendment (Abolition of Compulsory Up-front Student Union Fees) Bill 2005

(Amendments to be moved by Mr Windsor)

- (1) Schedule 1, item 1, page 3 (lines 9-17) and page 4 (lines 1-3) omit subsections 19-37 (1), (2), and (3), substitute
 - (1) A higher education provider must not:
 - (a) require a person to be or to become a member of an organisation of students, or of students and other persons; or
 - (b) require a person enrolled with, or seeking to enrol with, the provider to pay to the provider or any other entity an amount in respect of an organisation of students, or of students and other persons;unless the higher education provider has:
 - (c) established a fund to be applied by or on behalf of the university towards academic support, academic advocacy and international student services, student welfare, cultural, sporting, health, and artistic purposes; and
 - (d) provided that amounts from the fund may be applied:
 - (i) only to organisations and groups to which membership is voluntary; and
 - (ii) only for purposes related to academic support, academic advocacy and international student services, student welfare, culture, sport, health or art; and
 - (iii) only for the provision of facilities, services and amenities.