



Whakaora i a tātau mahi!

Update for NZNO student members

The Voluntary Student Membership Act and how it will affect you.

Why it is important to retain your membership of your student association.

The Voluntary Student Membership Act (officially known as the Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Act 2011) has recently been passed by Parliament.

It will have a big impact on your life as a student and the support you can expect to get from your students association in future.

At present, nursing students belong to both NZNO and their local students association. NZNO provides indemnity insurance and advocacy and your students association provides welfare and academic advocacy, student representation on institution committees, financial assistance, legal help, health services, counselling services, student social events (including Orientation week), student clubs and societies, campus recreation facilities, and university sports and more.

The Voluntary Student Membership Act forces all students associations to be voluntary and that will severely limit the services they can provide. We don't believe this is scaremongering. Australia's experience with voluntary student membership shows considerable evidence of how voluntary student membership has led to significantly negative effects on student representation, campus social life, the provision of advocacy services, and on student engagement. The Australian government is now trying to return and restore much of what was lost following the introduction of voluntary student membership.

And it's more than just the usual services you think of; the Act will also have a big impact on the Māori community. Māori Roopu and Māori Support Services receive funding and support from students' associations across the country and work in partnership to ensure every Māori student is welcomed and supported. Whanaungatanga, manaakitanga, tuakana-teina mentoring, academic support, welfare, advocacy, representation, social activities and sport are just some of the services they provide.

Voluntary Student Membership will silence these voices and stop that work.

NZNO urges you to retain your membership of your students association.