

## HEAR OUR VOICES

By Rachel Loveday

A contentious law could rob many first time voters of the chance to have their voices heard at the 2010 election.

Under the current Electoral Act, voters only have until 8pm on the day that an election is announced to enrol to vote, in previous years, voters had seven days until the Howard Government made changes to the act in 2006.

Advocacy group: *GetUp!* are challenging the validity of the changes to the Electoral Act in High Court.

A poll conducted with the University of Wollongong students, who have not voted at a federal election before resulted in mixed reviews, with some agreeing with *GetUp!* that more days are needed, some disagreeing and others indifferent.

"I'm at work all day and wouldn't have the time to go to the post office to get a form and it would be too crowded, seven days (to enrol) would be better," Nadine Wakeford, 20 said.

"It's too much pressure for one day, with seven, you have a few days to get to the post office (to enrol)," Adriana Micevska, 21 said.

"With our age, one day or seven days isn't going to make a difference," Jocelyn Bailey, 19, said.

"If we have to enrol, we'll enrol," Belinda Jolly, 18, said.

Stephen Romanovski, 18, believed that meeting in the middle of the current timeframe and the previous timeframe to enrol, would be a better solution.

"More than one day would be good, it doesn't have to be seven, but only one day (to enrol) is ridiculous," he said.

The hearing commenced at noon yesterday.