



ANU STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

2020 END OF YEAR REPORT

ANUSA acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people, on which our organisation is located. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present.

ANUSA is committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.



MESSAGE FROM 2020 ANUSA PRESIDENT LACHLAN DAY

Welcome to the 2020 ANUSA Annual Report. My name is Lachy Day and I've had the privilege of being your President this year. This is a new initiative to collate some of the work that ANUSA has done for the student body throughout this year. While this has been an exceptionally difficult year for so many in our community, ANUSA has been sure to be on the front foot to hear your concerns and to work to help ANU students get through this year. From being one of the only community groups in Canberra left distributing masks over the summer bushfire to distributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to students in need throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, ANUSA has been there to support students all year round.

It's important to credit however all the students that have gotten through this year in spite of all of the challenges 2020 has put up. A record number of students couldn't make it to campus resulting in learning shifting to remote delivery. Through this, students rallied against attempts by the university to prevent the roll-out of invasive software like Proctorio being used for final exams. Alongside this, hundred of students put their hands up to be course representatives and provided grassroots support and advocacy for their classmates. ANUSA also helped to successfully deliver the non-GPA counting CRS/CRN all year round. This was only possible because of the engagement that students gave this issue to show that collective action can work.

As if this year wasn't tough enough, the Australian Government also made the decision to increase the average cost of degrees (including arts degrees by over 100%). Working together with peak representative groups like the National Union of Students, ANUSA representative organised rallies at Parliament house to make sure student voices were part of the conversation. Actions like these helped to build momentum for the student movement around Australia.

This has been a difficult year for many in our community and this will likely continue next year. Rest assured however, that no matter what happens ANUSA will be there to help. Whether this means fighting against course cuts, staffing reductions or just help to get groceries that week, ANUSA is here and always happy to represent you.

All of this work by ANUSA is only made possible by the trust and backing of the student body. So, on behalf of the 2020 ANUSA team, thank you to you all and I hope you have a restful end of year break.

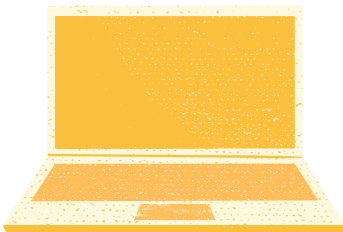
WHAT WE DID IN 2020



In 2020 we assisted with thousands of cases and administered over 1800 grants.



We spearheaded a number of campaigns such as Save our SSAF, as well as having involvement in No to Proctorio, Kill the Bill and many more.



Due to the global pandemic and University Shutdown we successfully made all of our services accessible online, including the creation of the Virtual Student Space (BKSS)



Our admin team alone assisted with over 2000 enquiries since December 1st 2019



ANUSA campaigned against the fee hikes for university degrees in humanities, communications, creative arts, law, economics, management, and commerce.

2020 CAMPAIGNS AND ACTIONS



In October 2020 we coordinated the campaign "Not a Dollar Less" to campaign against a reduction in SSAF funding for ANUSA. A protest, petition and other actions were organised.



From April onwards, ANUSA, along with other student groups, campaigned hard against the compulsory use of Proctorio to monitor examinations.



ANUSA was one of many organisations to campaign to save the Tenants' Union ACT, a not for profit organisation dedicated to supporting renters in the ACT.



ANUSA campaigned against the fee hikes for university degrees in humanities, communications, creative arts, law, economics, management, and commerce.



Vice-President Madhumitha Janagaraja

Fire, smoke, hail and pandemic were not the end of the hurdles we faced this year, but the resilience of the community and the solidarity, strength and victories borne from these struggles reaffirmed my deep belief that student unionism can and does win.

My name is Madhu and it's been a privilege to be your Vice President this year, ANU. I approached my role with a passion for structural reform and increasing resourcing to university services - in 2020, that meant something completely different, especially in the context of a world so shaped by COVID-19.

ANUSA was the sole organisation that was distributing thousands of P2 masks to the community during the height of the bushfires, over the course of several mask drives and with significant volunteer assistance. We successfully helped establish the CRS/CRN grading system for both semesters, secured documentation leniency for academic accommodations throughout the year, postponed census date for Semester 1 and advocated against Proctorio - much of my work on this was through the Teaching Continuity Taskforce. We also secured \$1 million in funding - and more - to provide financial assistance to students through our student assistance team and worked with the IHC in securing early cancellation of accommodation contracts. These are the achievements I am most proud of in their direct impact on students in times of crisis. Just as importantly, however, is the progresses we made in the structural advocacy space - I am happy to see the online disclosure tool launch, the finalisation of the student code of conduct and other progress in the space of our work related to sexual harassment and sexual assault, in collaboration with the Womens' Department.

The Disability Action Plan was passed in February, and lectures have gained Echo 360 captioning since the start of the year. These things are far from perfect, and while much work remains to be done in these spaces, they deserve celebration. After 17 big meetings, dozens of paper submissions, a thousand emails and a hundred Schmidtposting comments, my term has drawn to a close. It's been a complete honour to be your VP this year, and I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the student body for your trust and support which made any of this possible.



General Secretary
Taylor Heslington

From election reform, to constitutional changes, to a move to online meetings, it's been a busy year in the world of ANUSA governance. We only had one in-person SRC before campus shut down due to COVID-19, and the SRC moved smoothly (and suddenly) to meeting on Zoom. Despite everyone being spread across Australia and the world, significant governance reforms were still successfully implemented this year.

The Electoral Reform Working Group passed several changes at a General Meeting, including limiting the election period and clarifying the campaigning exclusion zones. ANUSA also experienced the most significant constitutional reform that has occurred in several years, spearheaded by the Governance Review Working Group. This reform included changes to the structure of the ANUSA Executive (to come into effect at the end of 2021), with the addition of a Welfare Officer, and the replacement of the Social Officer with a Clubs Officer.

The institutional memory of the Association was also improved, with changes being implemented for the recording of Executive decisions and the publication of Executive meeting minutes. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the many improvements to ANUSA's structures that have occurred this year. Being your 2020 General Secretary has been wonderful, and I wish the best of luck to next year's SRC.



Education Officer Skanda Panditharatne

As it did for so many areas, 2020 saw unprecedented challenges for student activism, in the face of a shift to online learning, massive proposed funding cuts, an economic crisis that left many students out of work, and job cuts to ANU staff. In the face of these challenges, students united in response, as ANUSA joined a wide array of local and national groups to stand up for student rights.

We began the year focussing on wage theft, hosting forums at ANU in conjunction with the Young Workers' Centre to highlight the issue. In initial response to the pandemic and the shift to online learning, we ensured the situation to be taken into account in leniency in academic deadlines and grading, as well as advocating against the use of invasive invigilation software. We also focussed our lobbying and protest attention on the government, and the student union movement successfully ensured that Youth Allowance recipients received the Coronavirus Supplement.

In the second half of the year, we fought against increased course fees and funding cuts in the Kill the Bill campaign, hosting weekly actions in the leadup to a massive protest outside Parliament on the day the bill was passed. We also continued to host actions against the winding down of Jobkeeper and the Coronavirus Supplement, as well as protesting against University staffing cuts.

It's been an incredibly busy year, and I'm very grateful to every student who came to a rally, joined an email campaign, signed a petition, or otherwise engaged with our efforts. While it's been challenging in terms of some of the outcomes, the energy we've seen this year has been inspiring, and I'm particularly grateful to the whole ANUSA team and the other organisers we worked with.



Social Officer Sophie Jaggard

This year has been quite a rollercoaster in the social portfolio. O-Week ran incredibly smoothly and provided new students an opportunity to engage in the wide variety of services ANU and ANUSA has to offer. Friday Night Party was also a huge success and was one of the safest FNP's and I will continue to build its reputation into the future.

Following a very successful O-Week, the global pandemic caused a lot of events to be cancelled and also moved online for online alternatives. We were still able to run an online Less Stresstival in Semester 1 and an online Bush Week, incorporating some of the classic Bush Week events into an online format. Thank you to all the volunteers for O-Week and everyone in SRC and other ANUSA bodies who have helped out with all the Social events, whether that be online or in-person.

I would also like to extend a massive thank you to ANUSA's Community Life Officer, Erin, who has provided me invaluable support and dedicated herself to looking after clubs this year. I look forward to another year of being ANUSA's Social Officer and building on the great work of this year's executive and adapting to the challenges that we have faced this year.



Treasurer
Maddy Wang

A particularly interesting year in terms of our financial state, 2020 presented unique challenges. The situations surrounding COVID 19 meant we were limited on our abilities to seek external revenue for this year. As a result, I spent much of this year on the Ethical Sponsorship policy which was passed at SRC 7. This policy will help future ANUSA executives make informed decisions around partnerships to enter as we seek to become less dependent on SSAF.

The policy was a long project, which was shaped by the feedback of many, and I am grateful to everyone on the SRC and particularly on this executive who had input into it. We were fortunate enough, also, to receive a generous amount of COVID 19 relief funding from the ANU to distribute out to students in these challenging times.

We distributed over 700k in student assistance grants, and are glad to be able to support students at the times that they need it most. In disrupted times, it was essential that ANUSA was financially stable and we were able to offer our students support and stability too. Going into 2021 and beyond, I have high hopes for the capabilities and wisdom of incoming Treasurers and trustees.

BRIAN KENYON STUDENT SPACE

The ANUSA Brian Kenyon Student Space (BKSS) has always been a place for students to come together, hang out, and study.

Following the 2020 campus closures, staff at the BKSS wanted to continue offering students a relaxed environment that they could share with other students.

So, they created the ANUSA virtual student space, an online social space for ANU students. The virtual student space is a Facebook group where BKSS staff host weekly online events, and self-care tutorials.

Since opening in April 2020, the ANUSA virtual student space has gained 600 members.

A graphic with a dark purple background and colorful, wavy, abstract shapes in shades of yellow, orange, pink, and teal. The text 'ANUSA VIRTUAL STUDENT SPACE' is centered in a white, outlined, sans-serif font.

ANUSA
VIRTUAL
STUDENT
SPACE

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STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Since 1st December 2019 our Student Assistance Team have assisted in **thousands of cases**. These included issues such as welfare, financial, academic, advocacy, accommodation and so much more.

Due to the Global Pandemic and University shutdown, the student assistance team switched to helping students via online meetings.

97.86% found ANUSA financial support useful*

100% found ANUSA Student Assistance useful*

1819 total successful grant and program applications

\$670,000 total financial assistance provided to students



*based on 2020 ANUSA Undergrad Survey

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LEGAL

96.97% found the ANUSA legal service useful*

180 individual students helped

140 students attended our free Migration Workshops

The ANUSA Legal Service provides free and confidential legal advice to undergraduate ANU students and ANU student clubs and societies. During the lockdown we switched to zoom appointments which has been extremely successful.

During December 2019- Nov 2020 we helped over 180 individual students and 5 student clubs and societies with different legal queries. The greatest areas of demand were advice regarding tenancy and migration and visas. We also ran ten migration workshops open to all students during semesters 1 and 2. Total attendance was 140.

*based on 2020 ANUSA Undergrad Survey



ANUSA 2020 SURVEY

Each year we run the ANUSA Survey to hear what's important to you and how you feel about everything ANUSA! Here's what you told us this year.

96.97% found the ANUSA legal service useful

97.86% found ANUSA financial support useful

100% found ANUSA Student Assistance useful

22% of students use an ANUSA diary

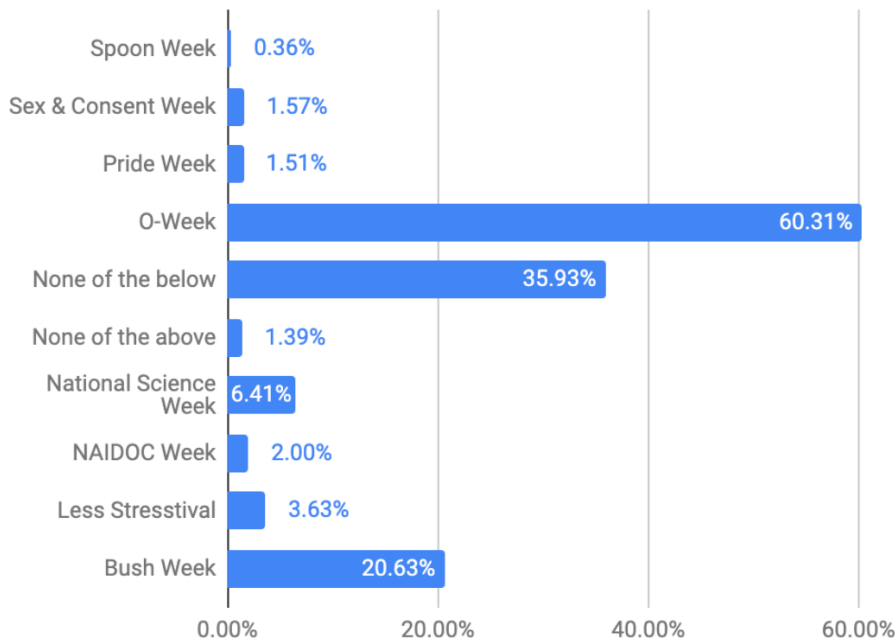
25% of students use an ANUSA notebook

43% of students use at least one type of ANUSA merch



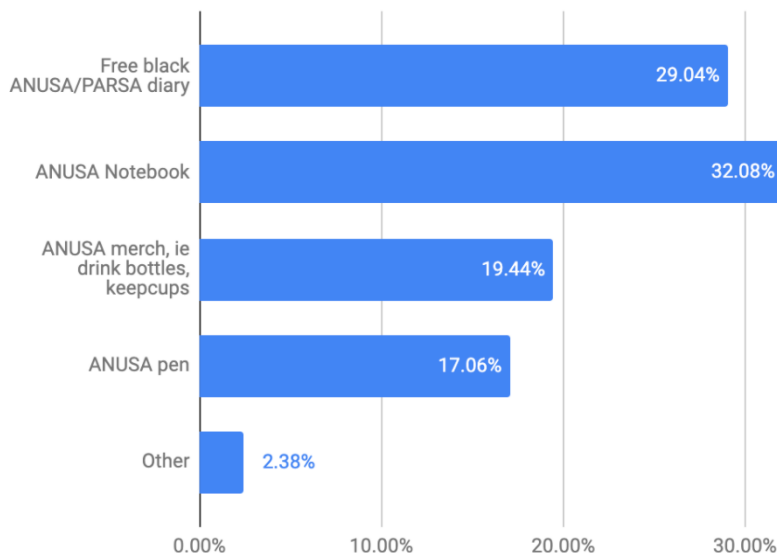
ANUSA 2020 SURVEY

Which ANUSA events did you attend in 2020?



60% of students attended O-Week in 2020

Which of the following ANUSA merch do you use?



Over 30% of students used an ANUSA Notebook

ANUSA WEBSITE STATS

78,000 website users (up 90% from previous year)

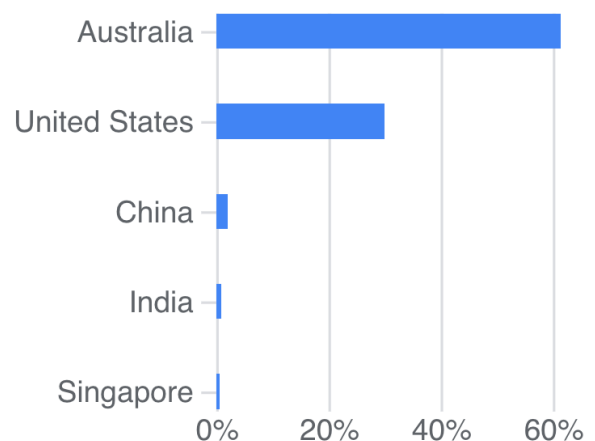
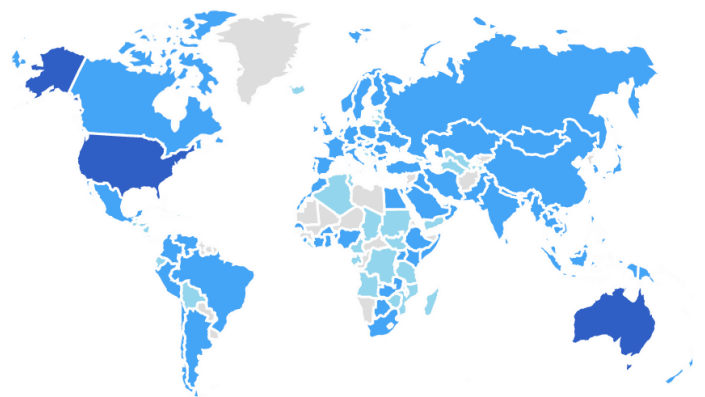
108,000 website sessions (up 50% from previous year)

490,830 pageviews

Our most visited page was the Clubs list with **43,000 visits**

Our Emergency Grant page was visited **23,000 times**

Visitors from Australia made up 60% of website visits, followed by United States, China, India and Singapore.

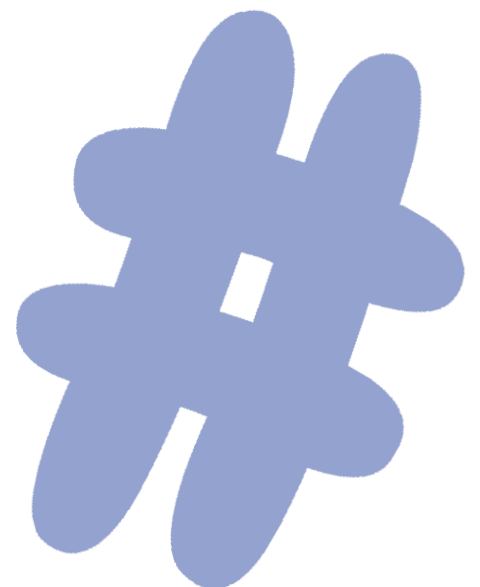


ANUSA SOCIALS STATS

357 people messaged us for help through our Facebook page

16,566 Facebook page followers

1,708 Instagram followers





Don't forget that if you ever need help
during your time at University,
ANUSA is here for you.

anusa.com.au