



## **AGENDA – ANUSA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) 1 2023**

Wednesday, 22 February 2023 6:15pm, Zoom and Marie Reay 2.02

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### **Item 1: Meeting Opens and Apologies**

- 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country
- 1.2 Apologies

### **Item 2: Passing the previous meetings minutes**

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### **Item 3: Executive Reports**

- 3.1 President's report (B. Yates) [Reference A]
  - 3.2 Vice President's report (G. King) [Reference B]
  - 3.3 Education Officer's report (B. Tucker) [Reference C]
  - 3.4 General Secretary's report (P. O'Neill) [Reference D]
  - 3.5 Treasurer's report (K. Ha) [Reference E]
  - 3.6 Clubs Officer's report (C. Carnes) [Reference F]
  - 3.7 Welfare Officer's report (K. Dreyfus-Ballesi) [Reference G]
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### **Item 4: Department Officer Reports**

- 4.1 Indigenous Department (A. Knack) [Reference H]
- 4.2 Women's Department (P. Denham) [Reference I]
- 4.3 Queer\* Department (J. Jayawickrama) [Reference J]

4.4 International Students' Department (P. Jamwal) [Reference K]

4.5 Disabilities Department (M. McCarthy and M. Robson) [Reference L]

4.6 Environment Department (R. Michelson) [Reference M]

4.7 Bla(c)k, Indigenous and People of Colour Department (P. Najafzadeh) [Reference N]

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#### **Item 5: NUS Delegate and Office Bearer Reports**

5.1 Azraa Hussain [Reference O]

5.2 Beatrice Tucker [Reference P]

5.3 Ben Yates [Reference Q]

5.4 Samuel MacRae [Reference R]

5.5 Skye Predevac [Reference S]

5.6 Luke Harrison [Reference T]

#### **Item 6: NUS President Summit Reports**

6.1 Ben Yates and Phoenix O'Neill [Reference U]

#### **Item 7: Discussion items/Motions on Notice**

##### **Motion 7.1**

##### **Confirming General Representative Appointment**

The SRC confirms the appointment of Luke Harrison to replace the General Representative vacancy left by Aidan Harris' resignation.

Moved: Ben Yates

Seconded: Charlotte Carnes

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##### **Motion 7.2**

##### **Campaign to Keep ANU Hybrid**

##### **Preamble**

ANU's plan to move classes in-person only disproportionately affects disabled and immunocompromised students, working students and parents and carers. Keeping classes hybrid will ensure all students have equal access to tertiary education. This petition will be presented to ANU once we reach 500 signatures, and will be the first step in our campaign to Keep ANU Hybrid.

### Motion

ANUSA endorses the DSA's petition to Keep ANU Hybrid.

ANUSA will post the link to the petition on Facebook with the above preamble.

Moved: Maddi McCarthy

Seconded: Mira Robson

### **Friendly amendment on notice**

#### Preamble

We Need Both! in person and remote learning now is a national campaign run by the NUS and various student unions across the country. This intersectional campaign aims to target the federal government to mandate hybrid learning and remove requirements for international students to study at least two thirds of their degree in person. We Need Both for carers, parents, D/disabled students and regional students. We need the Labor government to step up! Action points: ANUSA publicises and signs the petition We Need Both on their social media and the newsletter in separate posts from the Keep ANU Hybrid. ANUSA will publicise details of the campaign in the week of the 10th of March

#### Amendment:

ANUSA publicises and signs the petition We Need Both on their social media and the newsletter in separate posts from the Keep ANU Hybrid.

ANUSA will publicise details of the campaign in the week of the 10th of March

Moved: Isabella Harding

### **Friendly amendment on notice 2**

Add:

ANUSA opposes this being implemented in a way that would lead to job cuts or that would increase staff workloads without them being compensated

Moved: Wren Somerville

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### **Motion 7.3**

#### **The Campaign to restore the Daley Rd bus**

#### Preamble

In 2019 the 3 and 81 bus routes were axed by the ACT government, leaving students without safe, reliable or cheap means to go elsewhere in Canberra and back again. There is an ongoing petition drive to restore this bus route, to be presented in the ACT legislative assembly on the 20th of March. But before this point we must ensure that as many signatures are on the petition as possible, so as to give it the highest chance of succeeding.

“Are you an on campus student who struggles with lugging groceries to and from civic, finds it hard to get around Canberra or feels unsafe walking home at night? There was once a bus that solved all these problems, and there can be again.

If enough of us come together and sign this petition to restore the bus line we can win, and whether you’re on Daley rd, somewhere else on campus, or a sympathetic townie, this would be a huge victory for student welfare.

SIGN THE PETITION HERE: <https://epetitions.parliament.act.gov.au/details/e-pet-002-23>

Leave a comment if you want to get involved, or if you want to know more”

### Motion

The SRC calls upon ANUSA to post the quoted text from the preamble onto the facebook page and to include promotion of the petition in every newsletter until closing. The SRC also calls for contact to be made with the IHC, clubs and societies for them to promote the petition, and strongly encourages any ANU student to sign the petition.

Moved: Skye Predevac

Seconded: Mickey Throssell

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### **Motion 7.4**

#### Preamble:

There is no doubt that we are in the midst of a climate crisis. Thousands have already been killed or displaced due to natural disasters that are denoted as “once in a century.” From floods in New Zealand and New South Wales to bush fires in Chile, the climate crisis is here.

Despite this, the Labor government has proven itself to be on the side of corporations and fossil fuel companies. The Albanese Government have approved 114 new fossil fuel projects and have completely exempted exported carbon emissions from the reporting mechanism in last year’s climate bill, allowing coal mines and gas projects to feed emissions without public scrutiny.

What is needed right now is not new coal and gas projects, with some creative accounting and a heavy dose of greenwashing, but a rapid shutting down of existing fossil fuel infrastructure and a just transition to renewable energy production.

State Labor and Liberal governments have responded to climate movements in recent years by passing a spate of repressive laws designed to criminalise disruptive protest. It is incumbent on all climate activists to oppose this repression and defend the right to protest. Politicians won’t save us, we need to continue coming out onto the streets.

The upcoming National Day of Action called by the National Union of Students will be an important step towards rebuilding a climate movement willing to challenge the Labor government and unabashedly call for the kind of radical action required to avert worsening climate catastrophe.

Motion:

ANUSA supports the National Day of Climate Action and its demands.

ANUSA condemns the Labor Government's commitment to protecting and expanding the fossil fuel industry.

ANUSA will strongly encourage all students and staff to attend the rally. This includes sharing the event on all ANUSA social media pages and paying for those posts to be sponsored.

Members of the SRC are strongly encouraged to attend this rally. Those members of the SRC who cannot attend must send their apologies to the General Secretary.

ANUSA will publish the preamble to this motion in full on their facebook page and email list, with a link to the facebook event for the rally and the time, date and place of the rally, by the end of this week.

Moved: Luke Harrison

Seconded: Nick Reich

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**Motion 7.5**

Preamble:

**Motion against the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) and in solidarity with student fights for better housing across the country**

The Labor Government's Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) does not do enough to address the housing and cost of living crisis in Australia. The Fund will not give relief to the hundreds of thousands of students who are struggling with exorbitant rent prices.

The HAFF proposes that the government will invest \$10 billion dollars into a future fund, where the profits made will go towards housing. This means that the Government will be relying on returns from an investment fund for any funding to build 'affordable housing' over the next five years. Last year, Australia's Future Fund lost 3.7%. Their CEO called it a "tough time in investment markets". For the Government to propose that we begin to rely on investment funds to fix the housing crisis - and to do so the year after the instability of their other Future Funds - was proven is extremely irresponsible. The Government should be directly funding the building of public housing rather than gambling the money on an unreliable investment fund.

Even in the scenario that the fund does manage to make the money that the Government proposes it will (\$500,000 p.a.), it is still not nearly enough of an investment in affordable housing. The target of 30,000 social and affordable homes – emphasising that this is merely a target, not a promise – over five years from 2024 is far beyond what is needed in Australia. Statistics cite the shortage in social and affordable housing in Australia as being somewhere between 437,000 to 640,000 homes. It is expected to go up by 75,000 over the next five years. This means that the HAFF will not even meet the growth in supply - creating a worse social housing crisis than our current one. On this note, the lack of definition of what the 'affordable housing' funded refers to is highly concerning. There is a

lack of any real commitment to public housing receiving the funding, rather than property developers. To call this fund an ambitious housing policy is a complete misnomer.

Combining this with a complete lack of funding or support for renters, the HAFF will completely fail to alleviate the pressure for students in the housing crisis. Students at the ANU overwhelmingly are occupants or renters who have been hit with enormous rent/tariff increases in the past few years. There is a severe lack of public housing in Canberra and our rental market is currently the worst in the country for both cost and vacancy rates. The HAFF will see this crisis become worse in Canberra, which only strengthens the ANU's monopoly on student housing. To improve housing for students, the Government needs to focus on people, not profit. For a start, this would look like directly funding public housing, rent reductions and freezes, and for ANU an end to privatized student housing.

Motion:

1. ANUSA condemns the Labor Government's Housing Australia Future Fund as a solution to the Australian housing crisis
2. ANUSA will make a Facebook post supporting opposition to the HAFF, which will highlight the Fund's failure to address students' needs in the housing crisis
3. ANUSA will commit to fighting for real housing reform that prioritises people over profit.

Mover: Phoenix O'Neill

Seconder: Kai Dreyfus-Ballesi

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## **Motion 7.6**

Preamble:

ANUSA calls on the ANU to repeal the lock-out fee for students at ANU residences. The ANU has just raised the lockout fees for students who lose access to their rooms during business hours from \$15 to \$100. The fact that such a fee existed in the first place was already objectionable, but this fee hike is entirely unjust and unreasonable.

This massive hike in the fee has come in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis. Students at the ANU are already struggling, many living below the poverty line. On-campus fees are already prohibitively expensive, with fees being hiked every year. Many students will have to choose between paying this fee and their groceries, rent, textbooks, or not be able to pay it at all.

The impact of this fee on student safety is paramount. Phoebe Denham, Women's Officer, stated: "The increased lockout fee shows a disregard for the sexual violence and student safety issues that we have on our campus. I am concerned about students who have experienced trauma being put at greater risk of further trauma, or being forced to disclose their experiences to have the fee waived".

The risk of students leaving their doors unlocked or sleeping in public spaces/other students rooms and putting themselves at a safety risk is increased by a lockout fee.

Disabled students are also disproportionately affected by lockout fees. The DSA put it that “symptoms such as brain fog are common among multiple disabilities, and with the increasing prevalence of long COVID, this symptom is significantly more frequent. This can easily lead to students forgetting room keys. Furthermore, asking students to justify why they were locked out in order to waive the fee puts a huge burden on these students, who already have to fight for accommodations in so many other aspects of university life”.

The fee increase is often justified by the university by pointing out the strain that is put on Senior Residents (SRs), who have to let students in when locked out outside of business hours. However, SRs are being overworked and underpaid by the university, not by the students at their halls. This hundred dollar fee increase does not go towards paying Senior Residents more, whose scholarship compensation denies them access to the same job protection that other workers enjoy and pays them well below minimum wage. Furthermore, having to implement this fee is actually placing more stress on SRs, not less as it creates a power dynamic that is antithetical to their role of providing pastoral care. Consultation by the Interhall Council (IHC) found that “SRs will do what they can to avoid reporting lockouts.”

Motion:

1. ANUSA opposes lockout fees at ANU residential halls, and finds the recent increase to \$100 completely unreasonable and unjust.
2. ANUSA will share a petition against lockout fees on its Facebook page and in its newsletter.
3. ANUSA will work with the IHC and residential hall leaders to fight the lockout fee

Mover: Maddi McCarthy

Secunder: Phoebe Denham

**Friendly amendment on notice:**

Add to the end of action 3:

and will seek to run a campaign on this issue.

**Motion 7.7**

**Motion to change the ANUSA logo:**

Logos and the overall brand make a huge difference to the perception of a group. ANUSA as the student union should project an approachable and inclusive image.

The current ANUSA logo comes off as corporate and void of soul. It gives more of the impression that ANUSA is a service and that students aren't an active part of. ANUSA as the student union, only gains power from the collective action of its members and current corporate styled logo doesn't reflect that. The logo is also outdated, with the design being created around 2011, the changes that have been made to both the student union and overall design trends should be reflected.

Furthermore, if a student does not know what the acronym ANUSA stands for, the logo gives no assistance and provides no further details.

The ANUSA logo should be fresh, interesting, and meaningful. ANUSA being a student union means that all parts, including the logo should be student oriented. Having a logo that is designed by a student as a part of a competition, and voted on by the elected representatives of ANUSA, ensures that ANUSA is student inclusive and that the logo accurately reflects the stance of a fighting student union.

### **Motion**

1. ANUSA holds a student competition, starting in semester 1 of 2023 to create a new logo, judged by the ANUSA Executive and to be endorsed by the SRC at an SRC meeting.
2. ANUSA pays the winner of the competition a minimum of \$400 for the usage and rights of their design.

Moved: Mickey Throssell

Seconded: Luke Harrison

### **Motion 7.8**

#### **Accessible abortions now! March 8 International Women's Day protest**

##### **Preamble:**

Attacks on women's rights have been on the rise across the world. From the overturning of Roe v Wade in the US and the near-total banning of abortion rights in Poland, to the proliferation of violent sexism by popular figures like Andrew Tate, the misogynistic far-right have every reason to be confident.

Last year, national protests were called by socialists in solidarity with the rallies against the Roe v Wade ruling in America. This brought out over a thousand people in Canberra, and tens of thousands around Australia. Clearly, there is a general sentiment that there is a need to fight for women's rights.

In Canberra this protest created pressure on the government to finally legislate subsidised, free abortions within the territory and initiate an inquiry into abortion accessibility. However, even here, abortion remains inaccessible.

Despite being touted as one of the most progressive governments in the country, the Labor/Greens coalition still allows institutions to deny treatment on religious grounds. Calvary Hospital, one of two major hospitals in the ACT, does not provide abortions on this basis, despite being publically funded.

Additionally, in the ACT, procedures after 16 weeks are completely unavailable without travel to an interstate clinic due to a lack of specialists. This is part of a broader crisis of funding and



accessibility for womens and trans health procedures here. There is still so much to fight for, and an urgency to keep up the momentum from last year.

In light of this, an International Women's Day protest has been called in Canberra on the 8th of March. This will be in conjunction with protests across the country.

We also need to reclaim the radical roots of what was once International *Working Women's* Day, a day initially founded by the revolutionary socialist wing of the workers movement. In Melbourne, this day continues to feature a march organised by Trades Hall. But in Canberra, much like the rest of the world, IWD is a day of posh, corporate brunches celebrating the ascent of an elite group of women while the rest still suffer the scourge of sexism.

The protest has been called by Equal Love Canberra and is cohosted and endorsed by the ANU Women's Department. ANUSA should also support and help build the upcoming rally.

Motions:

4. ANUSA endorses the March 8 International Women's Day protest and its demands.
5. ANUSA will promote the protest on their Facebook page with \$100 spent on paid advertising in the next week, as well as in their upcoming newsletter.
6. ANUSA encourages all SRC members to attend the protest.

Moved: Yerin Park

Seconded: Phoebe Denham

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**Item 8: Other Business**

**8.1**

**Solidarity with Cherish Kuehlmann, Oppose NSW's anti-protest laws**

Preamble:

UNSW Education Officer Cherish Kuehlmann was arrested last Friday after a housing and cost of living protest. She faces charges of trespass. She has also been made subject to extreme bail conditions designed to inhibit activism. This is just another instance of NSW's overzealous and anti-democratic laws being used to punish and discourage activism. Violet Coco, a climate activist, was sentenced in December to 15 months in prison for a climate protest that blocked traffic on the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

ANUSA must stand resolutely against anti-protest laws and stand in solidarity with a fellow student activist. The housing and cost of living campaign should be disruptive and it is our democratic right to protest without intimidation.

Motion:

1. ANUSA condemns the arrest of Cherish Kuehlmann and supports the campaign to have the charges dropped.

2. ANUSA will share the petition to drop the charges on the ANUSA Facebook <https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/drop-the-charges-against-cherish-kuehlmann>
3. ANUSA opposes NSW's anti-democratic anti-protest laws.

Moved: Ben Yates  
 Seconded: Chris Morris

Friendly amendment on notice

Add

4. ANUSA calls on ARC, the student union at UNSW, to fully support the campaign to drop Cherish's charges and to commit to a political campaign for housing justice.
5. ANUSA endorses the student movements for housing justice in Sydney, including the upcoming snap rally on Friday at Town Hall.

Friendly amendment:

Add

- 6) ANUSA SRC signing on this motion in solidarity with Cherish <https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/drop-the-charges-against-cherish-kuehlmann?source=rawlink&share=9cec7477-3833-4b92-aa1e-6aae67b6686f>
- 7) The SRC takes a solidarity photo and posts on FB page

**8.2**

**Clubs affiliation**

The SRC ratifies the Clubs Officers' decisions on the following club affiliation requests:

Approved	Rejected
ANU Science Society ANU Engineering Students Association ANU AFEC Students' Society ANU Psychology Society ANU Biology Society ANU Chemistry Society ANU Singapore Students' Association Asian Students in Australia Association ANU Computer Science Students' Association ANU Korean Pop Culture Club ANU Society for Arts and Social Sciences Malaysian Students' Organisation at ANU ANU Earth and Marine Science Society ANU Fifty50 ANU Za Kabuki ANU Vietnamese Students' Association ANU Debating Society ANU Labor Left ANU Middle Eastern Studies Association ANU College of Asia and the Pacific Students' Society Australia-China Youth Association @ ANU ANU International Law Society ANU Astronomy Society	

<p>ANU Musical Theatre Collective ANU Japan Club Anthropology, Biological Anthropology, Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies National University Theatre Society ANU Anime and Gaming Society ANU Taiwanese Student Association ANU Physics Society ANU History Society ANU Intrepid Landcare ANU Esports ANU Classics Students Society ANU Cooking Club ANU Indonesian Students' Association ANU Actuarial Society ANU Society for the United Nations ANU Democracy Society ANU Improv Society ANU Latin American Students' Association ANU Croatian Cultural Society ANU Regional, Rural and Remote Students Society ANU Italian Cultural Society ANU Korean Student Society ANU Mathematics Society ANU Navigators Society ANU Refugee Action Campaign ANU Board Games Society ANU Muslim Students' Association ANU Self Care Society Christian Students Uniting ANU Fighting Games Club Korea Australia Alliance ANU FOCUS ANU Jewish Students Society ANU Literature Society ANU Solar Racing ANU Rural Medical Society ANU R3 society Effective Altruism ANU The ANU Socialist Alternative Club ANU Greens MySupport ANU ANU Choral Society (SCUNA) ANU Coffee Society ANU Hope on Campus Robogals Canberra</p>	
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ANU Volunteering Society ANU Catholic Society ANU Vinnies ANU Dance Club ANU Auslan Club ANU Quant Traders ANU German Society ANU Labor St Mandarin Bible Fellowship udents Club ANU Women* in STEM Society Amnesty ANU ANU Ekta Indian Students Association- ANU ANU Taylor Swift Society ANU Red Cross Uniclub ANU Bible Fellowship ANU PPE Society ANU Music Society Rocketry Appreciation Society ANU Consulting Society UN Youth ACT Artifex ANU Overseas Christian Fellowship ANU International Relations Society ANU Formula Sport ANU Mutual Support Society ANU French Collective ANU Law Revue Black Mountain Pictures ANU Criminology Society TABOO ANU ANU St Vincent de Paul Student Society ANU Arts Revue The ANU Knit&Flix Society ANU Dining Society	
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Moved: Charlotte Carnes

Seconded: Ben Yates

### 8.3

#### **Motion to suspend standing orders**

##### Motion

The SRC will suspend standing orders so as to allow for an introduction and explanation of the SRC, its purpose, and the standing orders.

## 8.4

### School Strike for Climate NDA March 3

#### Preamble:

The School Strike for Climate's (SS4C) regular rallies over the last few years have been hugely instrumental in raising struggle in the fight for a climate safe future and are instrumental in building the large movement we need to win.

Additionally, promoting a culture of activism and fighting for rights, at primary and secondary school levels, is vital. It's important for tertiary students to support younger students in our fight and is instrumental in raising future generations to fight for the right to protest.

The Labor Government's policies in continuing and promoting the fossil fuel industry, needs to be met with organisation and mass building. Tanya Plibersek only just approved another Gas project in Towrie, meanwhile the department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water's carbon offset scheme has recently been under major public scrutiny. This scrutiny can be seen in the recent four corners episode last week, as well the Australia Institute condemning and are now moving to sue 'Climate Active' for its 'offset' schemes that have been shown to be a farce.

#### Motion:

- ANUSA supports the School Strike for Climate National Day of Action and its demands.
- ANUSA continually condemns the Labor Government's expansion of the fossil fuel industry.
- ANUSA will promote the March 3 11am-2pm rally. This includes sharing the event on all ANUSA social media account pages, adding it as the top priority of this week's email newsletter for promotion.
- ANUSA will assist in the costs for printing posters and flyers and provide equipment where requested/needed.
- Members of the SRC are encouraged to attend the rally and encourage their classmates and academics to join too.
- ANUSA will support building a uni contingent / walking group from Kambri, to Glebe park, and offer assistance with first aid and marshalling where available.
- ANUSA will publish a link to the Facebook event for the rally, the time, date, place and route of the rally, by the end of this week, and again at the beginning of next week.

Mover: Rex Michelson

Seconder: Beatrice Tucker

### **Item 9: Meeting Close**

The next meeting of the Student Representative Council is scheduled to be on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March at 6:15pm at Marie Reay 2.02.

Expected Close of Meeting: 10pm

Released: 20 February 2023 by Phoenix O'Neill

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Reference A



# President's Report

Student Representative Council 1, 2023

Ben Yates

[sa.president@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.president@anu.edu.au)

## Welcome and Shoutouts

Hi all, welcome to our first actual SRC of the year. Since SRC Zero, the two big high points have been ANUSA's support of Invasion Day and O-Week. These were both hugely successful. On Invasion Day, we continued our habit of providing timely and necessary logistical support to the Aboriginal Tent Embassy. The Invasion Day rallies have swelled year after year and this year was no exception.

O-Week was outstanding: a huge congratulations to Charlotte and the Mias, our fantastic O-Week Coordinators. It was also fantastic to see the Womens Department, DSA, Enviro Collective and Education Action Group stalling on University Avenue through O-Week.

I was super proud of the launch of the legal observer program on Invasion Day. The volunteer observers were amazing and the training was excellent. Thanks to all the participants as well as the ANU College of Law Law Reform and Social Justice program and Crystal from Legal Aid ACT who ran training. I want this to dovetail with past work like Grace's abolitionist reading groups and our solidarity with the Aboriginal Tent Embassy's anti-police brutality activism.



Also, Grace deserves a huge shout out for organising a huge amount of essential logistics for ANUSA over the break. Representative and staff training, BKSS staff induction and coordination and the executive planning retreat were all arranged by Grace. She's done an outstanding job.

Over the coming weeks, I intend to see more action on residential hall lockout fees, as well as working closely to support the DSA's mixed mode learning campaign.

## Activism & Advocacy

### **Invasion Day**

I reached out to the Tent Embassy in early January and offered ANUSA's support. On the day, we provided resources such as megaphones, food, water, marquees and more. We also provided logistics in terms of transport. We promoted the rally to students. I was pleased to work with Aleisha as Indigenous Officer as well as Bella Humphreys from the Indigenous Department. ANUSA has a long history of solidarity with the Embassy and we should be very proud of this.

### **National Day of Action**

ANUSA is cohosting the National Day of Action on March 17 with NUS and Uni Students 4 Climate Justice. We have promoted it in the newsletter. We printed around a thousand posters and hundreds more leaflets. Leaflets were also included in the O-Week bags. Online ads on Instagram should be rolling out now.

### **Rights, Relationships and Respect Module** ([SASH](#))

The new consent module has rolled out. I have generally heard positive feedback on this module although students have raised concerns that it is exceedingly basic. Phoebe and I had a productive meeting with the Respectful Relationships Unit to discuss the module and the in-residence training sessions that complement it. I was pleased to hear an appetite to discuss topics like alcohol and consent that have historically either been avoided or communicated poorly. The RRU is running a study on the impact of the training and have committed to making this data available to residential communities to feed into work like cultural action plans.

### **Student critical incidents** ([Death, traumatic injury, suicide](#))

The University changed the Student Critical Incident policy in 2022. Some matters relating to University responses to student critical incidents have been raised to me by members of the broader ANU community. There is goodwill from the relevant divisions of the University on this matter, particularly regarding supporting families of students who have passed away. I've passed feedback on and have been pleased by the responses I've received. I'm happy to receive further correspondence on this matter.

### **Discipline Rule Review** ([SASH](#))

I met with the Manager of Office of the Registrar to discuss the review of the Discipline Rule. The ANUSA Student Assistance Team also met with them and provided feedback on the rule. It is timely and appropriate to review the Discipline Rule and I'm glad it is taking place. The person doing the review is the former Dean of Students and I have a high degree of trust in her work. In my personal capacity, I remain a member of the ANU Appeals Panel where I hear appeals to disciplinary matters. This provides a good opportunity to see the Discipline Rule 'in action'.

There is opportunity to grow the policy foundation for restorative practice under the Rule. Moreover, there is an important opportunity, identified by the reviewer, to introduce a threshold to activate the rule to prevent matters being unnecessarily dealt with under the onerous requirements of the Rule. This proposal matches best practice. Finally, we have emphasised the important role of student decisionmakers in the process, such as already happens with the student members of the Appeals Panel.

More broadly in the Appeals space, I had a discussion with the Registrar regarding increasing the legal skill base on the panel to ensure that panels are well equipped to deal with legally complex matters.

## **Lockout Fees**

I'm continuing to work on lockout fees in residential halls. I remain confident we will get to a win in this space. I hope to have an update by SRC or soon after.

## Committees

Committees are only just starting up for the year.

Grace is going to be representing ANUSA on a working group investigating recording of teaching activities, in consultation with the DSA.

## Internal

### **Postgraduate Services and Representation**

*[This section is the same as SRC Zero. All info remains correct. This project is presently in a phase of document preparation]*

In late December, Grace and I met with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student and University Experience) and the Director (University Experience). They advised that, as negotiations between ANUSA and PARSA had reached an impasse, they would now facilitate a process for ANUSA to present a 'business case' to the University to run postgraduate services and provide representation to postgraduates. PARSA, they advised, would not directly be involved in this process however the process would be oversighted by a group made up of ANUSA and ANU reps plus non-PARSA postgraduate reps. The 'business case' is almost complete. Grace, Phoenix, ANUSA staff members and I have been working on consultation with postgraduate focus groups to develop a representative model. This will ultimately need approval by the ANUSA membership before it commences. It is broadly consistent with the guardrails that were set by the 2022 SRC in early discussions of representative models.

The destination is a three-year SSAF agreement signed mid-year 2023, entailing funding for ANUSA to provide postgraduate services and representation. I am very confident we will be able to arrive at this point. In the meantime, I, and ANUSA staff, are closely monitoring the status of PARSA's services. PARSA has repeatedly indicated they intend to run 'business as usual' until the end of June 2023. Given the University's clear indication that PARSA will not receive further funding, if staff attrition or other challenges come in the way of PARSA's service continuity, ANUSA is the only stakeholder that is well equipped to stand up service offerings to postgraduates. I should emphasise that, until June 2023, in such areas that PARSA maintains a credible service offering, there is no reason for ANUSA to duplicate this service.

I can confidently, although not certainly, say the end is in sight for what has been a remarkably challenging chapter for our independent student organisations.

### **O-Week**

Charlotte kicked O-Week out of the park. We had impressive turnout at almost every single event. Logistically, the week was smooth and Charlotte navigated through the inevitable challenges skillfully. The Party at Wamburun was equally excellent. Tickets sold well and by all accounts attendees had fun. The event went off more or less without a hitch. Congratulations also to the staff at ANUSA who made O-Week possible. Mia, Mia, Erin, Eleanor, Kate and the whole team make O-Week possible. Also a huge shoutout to all the volunteers, including SRC members, who made the week possible. The week was boiling hot and manual labour in that heat was unforgiving. Thank you to the people who voluntarily signed up to do it.

### **Legal, WHS and Staff Matters**

I maintain active oversight over any and all matters involving legal risk, WHS concerns, staff issues and so forth. By their nature, when they arise, these matters tend to be confidential.

## **Casual Vacancy**

Aidan Harris, a gen rep elected on Power in Community, resigned in late January. As convenor of the ticket, I administered a nomination process that concluded with Luke Harrison being elected to fill the vacancy. Congratulations Luke!

## **ANU Council**

I am the Undergraduate Member of ANU Council. This role is separate to my role as ANUSA President however, per the ANUSA Constitution and Standing Orders, I am invited to attend and report to SRC meetings. For the sake of space, I intend to compact this reporting into my President report.

My role on ANU Council is notoriously difficult to reflect on publicly. This is regrettable as it diminishes the extent to which students can hold me accountable for the representations I make in the forum of Council. The substantive decisions and the deliberations of Council are strictly confidential. What I can share is only the broadest strokes of how I am using the role.

Besides attending Council meetings and attending to other requirements of the role, I have, in my Council capacity, met with a number of senior staff members around the University. These meetings are primarily in relation to the areas of University affairs where there is not existing student oversight. For instance, ANUSA and PARSA are well represented in the academic decision making forums. Matters relating to commercial affairs are far less visible to most students and, as a Council Member, few students besides me have access to some of this information.

## **Student Safety and Wellbeing Committee** ([SASH](#))

In my Council capacity, I have attended the Student Safety and Wellbeing Committee. It has the independence from management and the critical outlook that has been desperately needed for a long time. I am pleased to work with other students on the committee, namely Luke Harrison, Avan Daruwalla and Josh Green as well as Will Moisis, the Postgraduate Member of Council.

# Other

## **Legal Observer Program**

I was pleased to organise the inaugural ANUSA/ANU Law Reform and Social Justice Legal Observer Program. We trained a dozen students in collaboration with a solicitor from Legal Aid ACT. On the day around 8 students participated. The protest was peaceful and mostly uneventful from a policing and security lens (which is of course excellent). The wonderful LRSJ team are very enthusiastic about the program and I think it is a great opportunity to build connections with like-minded faculty and inculcate critical perspectives regarding policing. Going forward, I want to run the training again and continue to get out to observe rallies and build student awareness of the encroachment on protest rights.

## **Stakeholder engagement**

I maintain regular contact with a number of key student representatives and groups including:

- The Interhall Council of Presidents' Chair and many of the hall presidents individually
- Student Media
- Will Moisis, the postgraduate member on ANU Council
- A number of student club leaders
- ANU Sport
- The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU)
- National Union of Students ACT Office-Bearers

If you feel like ANUSA is not doing right by you or a group you represent, shoot me an email and I'd be glad to chat.

## **National Union of Students Presidents' Summit**

Phi and I have authored a report on Presidents' Summit. I was disappointed by the conference compared to the conference in 2022 that I also attended. Last years conference was a great opportunity to have important political discussions. I can't

completely say why this was. I suspect a greater number of attendees meant that the discussion was more circumscribed.

## Timesheet

Since December 1 I have worked 472.5 hours. I have taken two half days of leave.

]

Reference B



# ANUSA Vice President SRC One Report

Grace King (she/her)

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## **1. Introduction**

Welcome to SRC One! How exciting, fresh, fabulous!

My name is Grace (she/her), and I am the ANUSA Vice President for 2023! ANUSA is the ANU student union, run by students and for all students. I hope you have all had a lovely O'Week and a safe start to the year. I know there has been a lot of upheaval and struggle related

to the start of the university year, particularly for international students, first-year on-campus students, disabled students and low-income students. I want to take the time to acknowledge that and to express my firm opposition to the profit-driven, corporatized, and bureaucratic nature of this university. I stand in solidarity with those who feel the university has prioritized profit over their safety, housing security, finances and quality of education,

It has been a busy summer! My attention has been focused on a lot of preparation, induction and administrative work – particularly related to the new SRC representatives, the Brian Kenyon Student Space and O’Week. I am acutely aware of not getting so caught up in those everyday tasks that I fail to make progress on other goals and issues. I do feel that has been the case to some extent but I am determined to work through and against this.

The role of the Vice President is an interesting one and its definition changes year-on-year. It is often based on a division of duties between the President and the Vice President that is arbitrarily based on strengths/capacity/interests. This report will cover the main tasks and issues I have been working on, but it is not exhaustive or static.

If there are any questions or comments about this report, things I may have forgotten or any aspect of ANUSA, I would love to chat! I can be reached at [sa.vicepres@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.vicepres@anu.edu.au)

## **2. O’Week**

O’Week was so good! Everyone agrees!

But for real, massive shoutout to Charlotte, the O’Week Coordinators, Erin, all the wonderful volunteers and volunteer coordinators and the Wamburun residents’ committee! Every day and every event ANUSA ran was incredible! I think it was a fantastic start to the year.

In terms of my personal contribution, I assisted in the preparation for O’Week in the months leading up to it and in the running of the week as well.

I was so excited to see the turnout we got throughout the week, especially with the relocation of Market Day!

I want to thank and shout out everyone that was involved in O’Week being so successful!

## **3. SRC Inductions and Training**

I organised and conducted several inductions for members of the SRC. I appreciate everyone who attended and assisted with these.

I also organised several trainings for ANUSA staff and representatives:

- First Aid and CPR
- Vicarious Trauma
- Accidental Counsellor

I am also planning to organise further trainings, such as anti-racism and facilitation trainings.

I have also organised a training run by the Australian Institute of Company Directors for board directors of a non-for-profit.

This training is being conducted for the board members of:

- ANUSA
- PARSAs

- Woroni
- Observer

This training was previously run in 2022, and I attended it in my capacity as Welfare Officer. I found the training very useful and thought it was valuable to run it again.

Although I have organised this training, it is paid for by the university. It comes at no cost to students or our organisations.

#### **4. Brian Kenyon Student Space**

The Brian Kenyon Student Space (BKSS) is a free space for all students. It is open weekdays from 8am-8pm. The BKSS is a place for students to eat, relax, study and socialise.

The BKSS offers:

- Free breakfast, coffee, tea and other snack items
- Toasters, kettles, sandwich press, microwaves etc.
- Free pads, tampons, condoms and pregnancy tests
- Chargers that are available to be borrowed
- Art and craft supplies
- Stationary supplies
- Information on ANUSA services
- Information about ANUSA
- Information on upcoming events, campaigns etc.
- So much more!

#### **A) Employment**

I hired three new BKSS staff members! The application and interview process for these roles was incredibly competitive, with over 130 students applying for three positions. I am so excited and pleased with the three successful candidates.

#### **B) Upgrades**

I spent a substantial amount of time conducting renovations and upgrades. I still have a few more things to do, but the majority of the work has been done. Shoutout to Ben, Katrina and Kai who were massively helpful! I couldn't have done it without them.

My plans for the space include increasing the politicisation of the space and making the space more sensory-friendly. If you have any suggestions, please email me at [sa.vicepres@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.vicepres@anu.edu.au) or you can email the BKSS staff at [sa.studentspace@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.studentspace@anu.edu.au)

#### **C) Policies**

I wrote several policies for the BKSS, including a food safety plan and allergy awareness guide.

#### **D) Personal Training**

I undertook about 12 hours of food safety training to fulfill legislative and governmental requirements about food safety at the BKSS.

#### **E) Induction**

I conducted two days of induction for all the BKSS staff prior to O'Week. It was great!

## **F) Student Bites**

Student Bites has resumed for 2023 as of last Friday! Student Bites occurs every Friday during the semester. It is free groceries and items from OzHarvest. It is given out on the ANUSA balcony as a first-come, first-serve system.

## **5. Mutual Aid**

The mutual aid shelves were an initiative that I started as Welfare Officer in 2022. I am so happy to be continuing mutual aid this year! A mutual aid system is where members of a community voluntarily collaborate to provide for each other's needs. It is rooted in anti-capitalism and anti-consumerism. Mutual aid is centred around the knowledge and lived experience that governments, organisations and charities are inadequate providers of support and material goods. They only attempt to address the consequences of economic inequality, rather than the roots of the inequality – capitalism creating divides, suffering and inequality despite there being more than enough resources and labour for everyone.

How does mutual aid work at ANUSA?

- ANUSA as a centrally located, organisational body to help facilitate the mutual aid system
- The foyer next to the BKSS is the home base
- Welfare only made available 9-5 is reflective of how little the university engages with working students. Items are available for donation and collection outside of ANUSA business hours (BKSS hours)
- Anyone can pick up anything! No need to tell anyone, say anything etc. No limits on what to take or how often to visit!
- It relies on donations, services and help from the community

## **6. Universal Lunch Hour**

Universal Lunch Hour is a free barbeque run on Fellows Oval during lunchtime. During O'Week, it was run every day. During the semester, it is run every Thursday lunchtime by a club or a society. Affiliated clubs and societies can apply to run ULH via the new QPay system. I have already booked a club or society for every week except for Weeks 7, 11 and 12 (at the time of writing) which is excellent!

## **7. Parents' Room**

I spent time conducting renovations and making purchases related to the Parents' Room. The Parents' Room is located next to the ANUSA office and the BKSS and is accessible between 8am-8pm weekdays.

My purchases and upgrades were made in consultation with the ANUSA Student Assistance Team who are both parents.

There are still a few renovations and purchases to be made, but overall, the space is much more functional, enjoyable and aesthetically pleasing!

## **8. SRC Representative Support**

I spent a significant number of hours each week supporting Department Officers, General and College Representatives, as well as the ANUSA Executive. This encompasses all sorts of issues, queries and types of support.

## **9. Incident Response**

I responded to several incidents since the start of my term on December 1<sup>st</sup>. These all related to students and primarily occurred during O'Week. I followed all the relevant procedures and escalation lines to respond appropriately. O'Week tends to be a peak time for incidents — its hot, people are adjusting, there's so much going on and e-scooter use is at an all-time high!

## **10. Sovereignty Day**

In the lead up to and on Sovereignty Day, I worked with the Aboriginal Tent Embassy to provide support and materials. I think that ANUSA should have a strong relationship of collaboration and solidarity with the Aboriginal Tent Embassy and I was keen to see that we could use our time, labour and resources to do so in this way.

## **11. Committees**

In my approach to my role as Vice President, I have been cognisant of the burden of committee involvement. I think that there are a lot of committees that ANUSA is invited to attend that are not that relevant and/or require a high burden of time and commitment. I also think that committees do not need to be the sole purview of the ANUSA Executive and should be open to the rest of the SRC.

For that reason, I have purposefully limited the number of committees that I am involved in to those that I believe are important for ANUSA to be represented on, and for the representative to be a member of the ANUSA Executive.

### **A) Student First**

I am the ANUSA representative for Student First, which is a project that ANU is running. I receive regular updates on the progress and activities of Student First. It has been a little quiet owing to the shutdown period and O'Week, so I do not have anything substantive to report back on, but I will advise the SRC once I do.

### **B) Postgraduate Services and Support Program Control Group**

I am a member of the Postgraduate Services and Support Program Control Group. I have made and contributed to submissions and documents related to ANUSA becoming the single student union and service provider.

### **C) Childcare Liaison Committee**

I am continuing as the ANUSA representative on the Childcare Liaison Committee. It met on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February but unfortunately, I could not attend. This committee meets a few times throughout the year to report on and discuss the condition and nature of ANU's childcare facilities. From ANUSA's perspective, I believe that the usefulness of this group is to learn about these issues and others that relate to parents and carers, but even more so to advertise and communicate about the Parents' Room, ANUSA services and other activities related to parents and carers.

## **12. Upcoming**

This is everything that I am currently or soon to be working on!

#### **A) Your Rights at Work Week**

I am leading the organisation and facilitation of a week that focuses on work and workplaces. Official title and dates TBD, but it will likely be held in the first half of semester one. I am starting to work on this now that O'Week is over.

This is an ANUSA-wide project. I would love to hear about any ideas for the week and extend my desire to collaborate with anyone who is interested in helping out!

The week will include events, presentations, discussions and the like from a range of leftist unions and unionists, lawyers, workers' rights organisations and similar.

The purposes of the week may include:

- Informing students of their rights as employees
- Advising on where and how you can seek support if you are having issues in the workplace or experiencing abuse and violation of your rights. Support available from ANUSA, Fair Work, Safe Work and other government bodies, unions, workers' rights' centres, community legal centres and other organisations
- What unions are, why they are important. How to join your union and unionise your workplace
- The changing role, presence and functions of Australian unions. Union history. Unions and young people. The future of Australian unions

#### **B) Working Group on Recording of Teaching Activities**

On Friday, a working group will meet for the first time to discuss the recording of teaching activities. I'm the ANUSA representative on this working group. It is my position that, for numerous reasons, the recording of teaching activities for student use is vital.

#### **C) SASH Prevention Campaign**

In collaboration with other Department Officers and the Interhall Council (the committee of the residential committee presidents), Phoebe, Ben and I are working on an anti-SASH prevention campaign.

The purpose of this is to produce communication and promote discourse that is informative, critical, honest, independent and empowering.

It will be campus-wide and have a strong residential hall presence.

#### **D) Class Representative Training**

I will be working with the College Representatives and ANUSA Student Assistance Team to conduct a training for all class representatives for coursework. This will be held around Week 3 or Week 4. I will also create resources and communication materials for class representatives.

#### **E) Night Café**

I am taking a leading role on the establishment of a Night Café run by ANUSA. I cannot give much detail at the time of writing, nor do I have any specific plans or timelines to share. As soon as I do, I'll inform the SRC. But so exciting! This is going to be fabulous!

### **13. Timesheet**

Between December 1<sup>st</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> of February I have worked approximately 436.5 hours. This works out to a rough average of 45.5 hours per working week. The Vice President is paid for and expected to work 24.5 hours per week.

I have taken one day of personal leave to sit an exam and no sick leave.

### **14. Sparkle of the SRC**

There are two sparkles of the SRC! And those two are Maddi and Mira, the wonderful, fabulous, competent and kind Disabilities Officers! Their work is such high-quality and so meaningful. Maddi and Mira are a pleasure to work with and to represent and lead the disabled community at ANU (speaking as a part of that community).

## **Executive Summary**

1. Upcoming Events
2. O-week events
3. EAG Meetings
4. Deputy Education Officer's
5. Counter Course Guide
6. BKSS Clean-up and O-week as exec
7. Total Hours

## **Upcoming Events**

- Next Education Action Group (EAG) Meeting, 1pm Wk 3 06/03/23
- ANUSA should attend the School Strike for climate strike on March 3rd.

## **O-week events**

### Market Day

- Wednesday 15/02/23
- Great chats with students overall, especially the cuts to degrees that happened last year and explaining the Undergraduate Curriculum Review (UCR) and its potential changes, raised a lot of interest in the EAG as a space to organise.

### Stalling

- Monday 13/02 3-5pm, a good stalling day and time/
- Friday 17/02 10-12pm, far quieter, probably better to choose a different day/time for future O-weeks.

### Screenprinting

- Friday 2-4pm held in the amphitheatre, A successful event although a very hot day. Created and gave out / sold around 30 shirts. The event was pay as you feel/can so it was either \$0, \$5 or \$10 to have a shirt screen-printed and then collected. Last year when EAG ran the same event there were more like 60 shirts handed out so I also think that the Friday time wasn't the best day for it, will pass that along to the next officer.

T-shirts



- Ordered 150 blank black shirts for the EAG merch and Screenprinting, coming out at around \$9 per shirt including GST and shipping costs.

### **EAG Meetings**

EAG meetings in Semester 1 will be held at 1pm on Mondays every odd teaching week.

Semester 2 meetings will be held 1pm on Mondays every even teaching week.

### **Dep Ed's**

- Ran three workshops for the 2023 Deputy Education officers,
  - Workshop 1 was about federal higher education cuts over the last 50-60 years
  - Workshop 2 was an analysis of the ANU, understanding the Academic structures at play.
  - The final workshop was on stalling and how to have chats with strangers about campaigns. I ran this and invited other people along such as some department officer's who had articulated to me their interest. Will run more of these in the future if people are keen/interested.

### **Counter Course Guide**

- Looked real good, although was late from the print so the Dep-Ed's, volunteers and I spent a lot of monday filling the bags with the Counter Course guides. There was a total of 4000 Guides printed at a cost of around \$2700 incl GST. Which was the cheapest quote we could find by a long shot, printed by CanPrint in Fyshwick. The same printing service that Woroni use. They were great to work with and dealt with our time-pressures very well
- Big thank you to all those who submitted articles and an extra thank you to Remi Prica, last year's ANUSA Queer Officer, who came up with the design concept for the layout and designed the front cover. It's one beautiful course guide.

### **BKSS clean-up and O-week as Exec**

- Cleaned up the balcony, Phi and I spent a lot of the 3hrs on the balcony and taking rubbish down to the cage, we re-arranged the

store room downstairs too as it was semi-dangerous and moved all electronics to the front

- O week was a huge week with tonnes of work included running various events, helped set-up the tuesday movie, ran Monday's ULH and worked Friday night's 'The Party' and clean-up.

### **Total Hours**

So far to the date of Monday 20/02 I've worked 338 hours in the role.

Reference D

## General Secretary

SRC1 report - Phoenix O'Neill

Hi everyone! My name is Phoenix O'Neill (they/them) and I'm your General Secretary for 2023. A General Secretary's role is to make sure that the Association is not only following and upholding the governance that has already been created, but also facilitating its improvement when it's not good enough. I am a believer in governance being a facilitator for our activist, social, and welfare purposes. I also am concerned with governance as a mechanism for the Association's accountability to our students. I am very excited to work on all of this this year!

I also want to begin my first report with an acknowledgement of the huge workload that went into O-Week by Charlotte. I was Clubs Officer last year, so I know the experience first hand. It's absolutely exhausting and a hard role, and I can't congratulate Charlotte enough on the best O-Week that ANUSA has run.

7. Meetings
  - a. Student media
8. Meeting safety
9. Governance reform
  - b. Governance and Election Working Group
  - c. Election reform
  - d. Constitution reform
  - e. Policy register
10. NUS Presidents' Summit
11. Representatives
  - f. Resignation
  - g. BKSS pre-meetings
  - h. Working bees
12. Interpretations
13. Training
14. O-Week
15. Activist work
16. General ANUSA executive
17. Timesheet
18. Policy register

## Meetings

The notices for all meetings this semester are out on the ANUSA website and our door. I'll have the Facebook events for all of them up sometime soon.

## Student media

I've met with Woroni to discuss their presence at our meetings as well as ANUSA representation in student media, and I intend on meeting with Observer soon. I'm passionate about student media being an important way ANUSA connects to the student body, so I am very keen to work with the student media team this year :)

## **Meeting safety and accessibility**

Meeting safety and accessibility is a huge topic to take on, so bear with me this year as I'm sure that there will be a lot of different approaches. This year, I am committed to improving the safety and accessibility of meetings.

I've been working with Kai on finding a new space for meetings as the Graneek room is small and often cramped. It's a really bad space for GMs because it can't fit our quorum (40), and it's a difficult space to get in and out of in general if you need breaks during meetings. We've been looking at buying microphones so that we can use a larger room like Marie Reay 2.02. Unfortunately time caught up with us (hence the use of the Graneek room for the first few meetings), but we're hoping to get that sorted asap :)

I've also been consulting with Department Officers on what can be done to make meetings better. As many of the Department Officers and the current SRC haven't been on the SRC before, I would like to pick up this consultation after a few meetings have occurred to get thorough consultation. I have also been reflecting on how I'd like to approach chairing to make SRC as nice as possible.

I am also planning on undertaking a Code of Conduct rewrite throughout the year. The current ANUSA Code of Conduct was developed for staff members. Though it applies to student representatives, clubs, and students engaging in ANUSA spaces such as the BKSS, the framework that it is built on is for our office as a workplace. It is unfair and unrealistic to have the same expectations in behaviour of such a variety of groups.

I want to make a note on what I consider to be the importance of a code of conduct. It absolutely should not be about regulating people's behaviour or creating a corporate style document that is used to punish people behaving differently. It is about holding ourselves accountable to conduct that matches our values. I think that the biggest value that comes out of a code of conduct is identifying the values and culture that ANUSA wants to build, which can be used as the groundwork to build said culture. At the core of this policy's significance is consultation and the valued conceptions of cultural change that arise from those discussions.

## **Governance reform**

### Governance and Election Reform Working Group

I'll be running a Governance and Election Reform Working Group Friday 3-5 for the first few weeks of semester, and then assessing the need for that frequency after a few weeks. The main focus of these working groups in semester 1 will be the Election Reform projects. You can find the facebook events here: <https://fb.me/e/3htQW9c90> . I'll be uploading a standing agenda there once the workload of meetings this week lightens.

I strongly encourage everyone in the SRC to consider coming! The meetings are open to all students at the ANU. These are really big topics that will impact how our campus looks during election season and the democracy & accessibility of your union elections.

### Election reform

At the final OGM last year, the 2023 General Secretary (that's me!) was bound to consider multiple topics relating to our Election Regulations at Governance and Election Reform Working Group. The largest two are Exclusion Zones and Spending Caps.

We are discussing changing the system of Exclusion zones as well as reconsidering what is and isn't an exclusion zone. We are also revisiting the exclusion of photography and graphic design from the spending cap to try to balance ensuring that student artists are paid fair wages without disadvantaging tickets that may not be able to afford paying high rates.

I've been working on writing models for consideration on these topics and updating the models that were developed in last year's working group. I've done a consultation with every ticket convener from the 2022 election that has accepted my request for a consult, emailed the Interhall Council (IHC), talked to the DSA and I am currently in contact with Probity Officers to bring as much reflection as possible to the Working Group. Otherwise, I expect these matters to be handled in the WG - I promise it will actually be super interesting and we'd appreciate as many perspectives as possible.

As a heads up, I'll be moving a motion at OGM1 to give me an extension until AGM1 on updates for spending caps. The motion at OGM3 specified that models for reform would be presented at OGM1. I have been working really hard on these topics but I believe that the working group needs more than two weeks to come up with a good model, and also all of the election reforms being presented together at the AGM is what makes the most sense to me.

### Constitution reform

I've drafted some basic constitution reforms that are just fixing up outstanding errors and changing the name of CECC reps in line with the College's name change. Notice for these changes was put out on February 15 and will be voted on next week. Shout out to the Disabilities Officers who have also put forward an amendment for the definition of Disability in the Constitution.

### Policy register

The policy register is a document that contains all of ANUSA's policies and most motions passed. I've added the 2022 motions that impact ANUSA policy and procedure (thanks Ben ☺ just kidding xx). However I intend to do some work later this year on splitting it into a register of policy and procedure motions passed and a register of ANUSA's political stances, and allowing staff-related policy to be stored separately.

## **NUS Presidents' Summit**

I attended the NUS Presidents' Summit in Melbourne on February 2nd and 3rd in my capacity as Gen Sec. See my separate report for a summary on that.

## **Representatives**

### Resignation

I have received one resignation from General Representative Aidan Harris. We followed the replacement process (outlined in an interpretation from 2020) and have appointed Luke Harrison as General Representative.

### BKSS-pre meetings

### Working bees

## **Interpretations**

I have made one small interpretation to date. I am currently having the ANUSA lawyer look over it, so I will attach it's full text at a later date.

## **Training**

I presented Governance training to Department Officers at the same time that Katrina presented Financial training. I've also been having one-on-one meetings with the Department officers to ensure that they're on top of their governance/know how to get governance help when they need it. I also did a presentation at SRC Induction on the constitutional responsibilities of representatives - if you don't know what they are, please feel free to reach out!

## **O-Week**

As I've already said, a massive congratulations to Charlotte and the O-Week team on their amazing job organising such a massive, pandemonium week. It was so exciting to see the return of Market Day to University Avenue and to see the amazing turnout at all of the events. I had a fairly large week in O-Week and the lead up to O-Week helping out with organising Volunteers and helping set up/run events. Thank you so much to everyone who volunteered - you mean that the week can run and we are so thankful! I want to give a specific shout out to the volunteers who were there for Market Day - there is a 0% chance they are reading this report but I just need to let everyone know how absolutely amazing they were!!! I swear they can give the ANUSA spiel better than the exec can. So much love.

## **Activist work**

I worked on an article for the Counter Course Guide that was included in every O-Week tote bag. My article was on the history of student occupation at the ANU - it was actually an essay I had already written for a course, but edited down from 4000 words to 1000 and generally edited for the purposes of the guide. I also helped pack the counter course guides into the tote bags. I also did some help with stalling during O-Week.

I intend on dedicating significantly more of my hours to activist work - with the amount of leave I've taken I felt like I spent a lot of the summer catching up, so I am keen to knuckle down this semester.

## **General executive work**

I've completed/helped with various activities as a member of the ANUSA executive:

- I helped Grace out with a variety of tasks getting the BKSS ready to open

- Minuting and preparing agendas for weekly Executive meetings
- Executive retreat in late January
- Driving the van for various activities
- Meeting with and supporting buddies
- Completed legal observer training to assist with protests

## Timesheet

I have done 161.25 hours from 1/12/22-16/2/23. I've taken a week of sick leave and a week of personal leave. Excluding my leave and Christmas shutdown, I've worked an average of 17.9 hours a week.

## Policy register

Project	Content	Update
Election Regulation Reform	Reforming parts of ANUSA's election regulations, with a particular focus on exclusion zones and spending caps.	See the section on election reform
Meeting safety and accessibility	Increasing the safety and accessibility of ANUSA meetings.	See the section on Meeting safety and accessibility
Code of Conduct rewrite	Making a new Code of Conduct for conduct at ANUSA meetings, as well as looking into ones for club spaces with Charlotte and student spaces with Grace.	I have talked to a few SRC members who I know are interested in helping later in the year, but on the whole no work has been done yet.
Buddy system reform & representative support	I will be working with Grace King (Vice President) on making an alternative system to the buddy system for representative support.	See section on Working Bees and BKSS pre-meetings
Policy register reform	Create different registers for ANUSA's political stances, policy requirements, and staff related policy.	See the section on policy register
Representative governance reform	Create a representative structure for ANUSA that guarantees representation of postgraduate students	Ongoing.

## Treasurer Report SRC 1

Katrina Ha

### Executive Summary

1. **Introduction**
2. **Expenditure Report**
3. **SSAF**
4. **Completed Projects**
5. **Ongoing Projects**
6. **Timesheet**

#### 1. Introduction

Hi all, I'm Katrina (she/her) and I'm your 2023 ANUSA Treasurer. Through this report, I'll give a summary of what I have done after my term started on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and an overview of what I'll be working during my term. The main role of the Treasurer is to oversee ANUSA's finance affairs, to create the budget and monitor all expenditures within the Association with the other trustees (President and Vice-President). The details about my long-term goals in 2023 are specified in my SRC 0 report, so you can check it! If you have any questions, feel free to ask during SRC 1 or email me at [sa.treasurer@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.treasurer@anu.edu.au).

#### 2. Expenditure Report

Please find the attached ANUSA's profit and loss statement starting from 1<sup>st</sup> December. This statement shows a summary of ANUSA expenditure as of 18<sup>th</sup> February. The important thing to point out from this statement is that we are having the negative net profit now, but it is because we have not yet received SSAF funding for 2023 yet. Also, as this report is being written right after O-week has finished, some expenditures made during O-week has not reflected. It will be reported at the next general meeting. If you have any questions about these line items or about the statement in general, feel free to ask.

### **Profit & Loss**

**The Australian National University Students' Association Incorporated**  
**1 December 2022 to 18 February 2023**

**18 Feb 23**

<b>Income</b>	
SSAF Allocation	\$187,201.91
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$187,201.91</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$187,201.91</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>	
Accounting/Bookkeeping - Xero	\$362.04
Bus expenses	\$515.00
Departments & Collectives	\$58,181.82



Education Committee	\$2,450.00
Fees & Subscriptions	\$441.79
Leadership and Professional Development	\$9,867.78
Meeting Expenses	\$34.91
Parenting Room	\$1,394.68
Printer	\$582.61
Stationery/General Supplies/Postage	\$372.12
Student Engagement	\$558.07
Utilities	\$921.78

**Bank Fees**

Bank Fees with GST	\$58.65
Bank Fees without GST	\$254.66
<b>Total Bank Fees</b>	<b>\$313.31</b>

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**BKSS**

BKSS Food/Consumables	\$3,018.21
BKSS Non-food	\$674.95
<b>Total BKSS</b>	<b>\$3,693.16</b>

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**Consultancy**

Legal Expenses	\$1,955.96
<b>Total Consultancy</b>	<b>\$1,955.96</b>

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**Equipment**

Equipment Expense	\$180.91
<b>Total Equipment</b>	<b>\$180.91</b>

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**Marketing & Communications**

Marketing & Communications - Diary	\$4,690.00
Marketing & Communications - Merchandise	\$5,300.00
Marketing & Communications - Software Subs	\$199.00
<b>Total Marketing &amp; Communications</b>	<b>\$10,189.00</b>

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**Other Employee Expenses**

Other Employee Expense	\$7,267.69
Staff Amenities	\$875.06
<b>Total Other Employee Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,142.75</b>

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**O-Week**

O-Week Events	\$51,778.58
O-Week Food purchases	\$71.51
O-Week Merchandise	\$27.18
<b>Total O-Week</b>	<b>\$51,877.27</b>

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**Salary and Wages**

Department - Stipends	\$29,534.12
Department - Superannuation	\$3,101.10
Salaries and Wages	\$195,348.74
Salaries and Wages - ANUSA Exec	\$46,607.55
Salaries and Wages - BKSS	\$3,730.64
Salaries and Wages - Event Coordinators	\$10,651.43
Superannuation Expense	\$32,107.48
Superannuation Expense - ANUSA Exec	\$4,893.72
Superannuation Expense - BKSS	\$410.37

Superannuation Expense - Event Coordinators	\$1,168.05
<b>Total Salary and Wages</b>	<b>\$327,553.20</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Student Assistance Team Grants</b>	
Student Assistance Team Grants	\$12,396.36
<b>Total Student Assistance Team Grants</b>	<b>\$12,396.36</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Student Assistance Team Purchases</b>	
SAT Purchases - Student Meals & Others	\$1,296.00
<b>Total Student Assistance Team Purchases</b>	<b>\$1,296.00</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$493,280.52</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>-\$306,078.61</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Non-operating Income</b>	
Interest Income	\$1,909.04
Miscellaneous (Sundry) Income	\$652.25
O-Week Income	\$41,245.00
<b>Total Non-operating Income</b>	<b>\$43,806.29</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>-\$262,272.32</b>
<hr/>	

### 3. SSAF

Some additional SSAF decisions regarding the extension postgraduate services are currently ongoing, but at this stage, I have not much thing that I can include in this report and there is much uncertainty about 2023 budget. As we passed two provisional budgets for 2023 at the last OGM, I will be able to consider the finalised budget for 2023 once all the decisions are made.

### 4. Completed Projects

#### a. Ethical Sponsorships Committee

The committee has already had the four meetings, as those were quite urgent during O-week. One of my policies during the election was to include department consultations regarding relevant matters, I met Phoebe and Rex to discuss some sponsors related to the departments. One thing that I realised during this January and February, is that the decision-making processes of the ESC should be little bit changed to enable prompt decisions for O-week sponsors. I'll try to figure it out before Bush week how the committee can improve the processes. Also shoutout to Skye, Abirami and Brandon for attending the meetings!

#### b. Department Officer Training

I have finished all the department finance trainings. This year, it has been done individually for each department, and I believe that these individual trainings were and will be even more helpful for the department officers and treasurers to understand and get used to their finances. I'm planning to have frequent regular finance catch-ups with the officers and treasurers throughout the year. In addition, some of the departments have not elected the treasurers, so I'll schedule some additional trainings if they are elected. Thanks all the department officers and treasurers for attending!

<b>Department</b>	<b>Date</b>
DSA	25/01
BIPOC	25/01
Womens	27/01
Queer*	31/01
ISD	02/02
Indigenous	04/02
Environment	11/02

**c. Audit**

The preparation for the annual audit is ongoing and being prepared mostly by our Financial Controller. As I mentioned in my previous report, the department finance reports were already submitted really quickly. Again, thanks to all the current officers and the past officers.

**d. Raising Awareness of Services Fee on Market Day**

Thanks to Bea and Charlotte, we could give out the stickers about Services Fee during the Market Day. While I was giving out those stickers, I could talk to a lot of first year students about how ANUSA is funded, and their services fee is used. I'm planning to have these opportunities with Bea during the semester. If you are interested in, let me know!

**e. O-week**

Unlike last year, there was not that much for me to do for O-week, as Charlotte did so well in everything including distribution jobs. I tried to make the ESC results as quickly as possible, but as I mentioned, the decision-making processes should be improved. In addition to ESC, I helped Charlotte sort out the O-week budget. In the next meeting, it will be updated on the profit and loss statement.

**f. Clubs Enquiries**

I was delegated some finance related questions from the clubs and societies. Some questions could not be answered at this point, so those were delayed in answering. I'm thinking of making a brief guide and distributing during the finance trainings.

## 5. Ongoing Projects

### a. Vending Machine

One of my plans to succeed Jaya is to replace all the campus vending machines with the ANUSA branded machines. Most of the plan is already completed by Jaya, and I need to implement it. However, due to O-week and ANU staffs' leave, it has been delayed. This plan is supposed to be implemented by June.

### b. Night Café

The big big project of this year continued from 2021 and 2022 is of course NIGHT CAFÉ! At this stage, I do not have that much to report, but my ambitious plan is to make it place by the end of this year!! Keep an eye on this <3

### c. Accessibility of Financial Reports

Currently, if anyone wants to check ANUSA's regular profit and loss statements, the only way is to check every meeting minute from ANUSA meetings (SRC and general meetings) except for the end of year financial reports. I want to improve this accessibility of the financial statements so that students can check how their money is spent in their Student Union without difficulties.

## 6. Timesheet

From 1/12/2022 to 18/02/2023, I've worked 155.75 hours. This excludes ANUSA Christmas shutdown. I have taken 4 days of sick leave because of Covid and the wisdom teeth removal and 2 days of annual leave because of moving. I've worked an average of 14.4 hours a week. For the detailed breakdown, please email me at [sa.treasurer@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.treasurer@anu.edu.au).

**Executive summary**

7. Introduction
8. O-Week
  - i. Market Day
  - j. The party
  - k. Budget
9. Clubs
  - l. Qpay
  - m. Affiliation
  - n. Reform
  - o. Training
  - p. Clubs Committee
10. Timesheet

**11. Introduction**

Hi, welcome back! I'm Charlotte (she/they) and I'm stoked to be your 2023 Clubs Officer. This role is still very new as I'm the second office bearer. This year I intend to focus a lot on the intricacies of the clubs system, particularly on making good governance a standard and implementing policy to increase structural support for clubs and their members.

Upon immediate reflection after O-Week and the affiliation process, I have also decided to allocate some time to reforming this role. It's unsustainable to expect the Clubs Officer to work double their hours (as I did) in the lead up to O-Week when they then must immediately dive into clubs work. There are currently external means to achieve some reform, however, it is my belief that the role either needs a structural shift to redistribute the burden or needs to be paid more.

**12. O-Week**

Pandemonium it was indeed.

I must first extend my gratitude in full to first the O-Week Coordinators, Mia Wellisch and Mia Lykissas (the Mias). I had a fairly hands off approach compared to my predecessors when it came to the calendar and the week at large so the success of the week itself is actually entirely their triumph. Additionally, I'd like to thank the executive for their unwavering support. Each and every member of the exec was immeasurably valuable to me in their own way throughout the week and/or in the lead-up. This thanks is also extended to the Department Officers as well. Congratulations to them for their incredible events and as well for a great effort in stalling on uni ave throughout the week. Further, a huge thank you to everyone who volunteered and especially the volunteer coordinators. The event would not have run without you. O-Week takes a village and you made a great village so thanks. And finally, the greatest and largest thank you to Erin Behn, ANUSA's Community Life Officer for her undying support and work on O-Week. She is the unsung hero of O-Week.

I really hoped to involve clubs more throughout O-Week. However, with the burden of affiliation to a new system and the sweeping nature of the week's preparation it didn't end up happening which I do regret.

No events were unnecessarily ticketed this year, only those that came at a cost per head and extended beyond the allocated budget. All tickets were discounted and equity tickets were both made available and used for said events.

I will be releasing an O-Week feedback form in the next day or two. I don't feel the need to do a Market Day specific feedback form, however, there will be a specific section that people can fill out to comment on the day. I'm working on handover with the O-Week Coordinators to build upon a wealth of handovers that will allow for the growth, seamlessness, and potential transformation of O-weeks to come.

It appears to me that there is great potential for O-week to shift in its purpose in the coming years. I started this but I would like to see it used for more political means, this must however be an executive effort in order to be effective. Ultimately, there are events I would not run again due to cost or lack of turnout, however I feel that all in all the week was a success.

#### **g) Market Day**

Great to have Market Day back on Uni Ave. So far, I've received a lot of positive feedback on Market Day made in comparison to the last 2 years that tends to miss the fact that COVID was not a barrier in any sense to organising the day this year unlike 2022 and 2021. I've received a lot of positive feedback from clubs on the day as well as from externals and of course, participants. The day ran very smoothly so I anticipate Uni Ave Market Day being here to stay.

The clubs side of organising the day should be easier now that everybody's on QPay. Forms will be more centralised and easily located so less people will be requesting stalls the week before. If you're a club and have feedback specific to your experience at Market Day please email me.

I'd like to quickly acknowledge the counter-course guide. They're being in the totes is a particular moment of pride so thank you Beatrice for pushing through and as well to the collaborators and authors of the guide.

#### **h) The party**

The party was so much fun and it seemed like all who went really enjoyed it. The student DJs were fantastic and made the evening what it was. Shout out to all the exec, volunteers, and bar staff who contributed to the event. We sold over ¾ of tickets and actually came close to such a number in the actual attendees number which was great to see. Running the bar ourselves was immensely successful and good to know going forward as it produces profit.

This event was ultimately a success, however, I would not run it again. Logistically, it's quite burdensome to organise alongside O-week and requires a very high level of coordination among stakeholders. It's my opinion that Friday Night Party in any large-scale form is no longer a sustainable event for ANUSA to be running. Since COVID, costs such as matting and production have gone up exorbitantly to the point of it being an unfeasible and unjustifiable cost. It's not easy to run an event to this scale that satisfies all ANU stakeholders, ANUSA as a business, and students. This event proved as much to me.

#### **i) Budget**

I will provide a report on the O-Week budget in SRC 2.

### **13. Clubs**

Now that I'm tying up the last of O-Week's loose ends, I'm super keen to get stuck into clubs work.

#### **j) QPay**

We've moved the clubs system over to QPay now! While this is exciting for the future of clubs, it was quite cumbersome to start out and certainly had - and continues to have - its technical problems. Thank you to the clubs who were patient and stuck it out while I learnt how to navigate the system alongside them.

We're working on moving the ANUSA website from MSL to QPay. I hoped this would be done before O-Week in order to utilise the calendar function, however it's still in the works. Now that clubs have affiliated to QPay, the clubs calendar function can kick off. I need to iron out a few kinks there but clubs should be able to implement their events into a centralised calendar soon which will be easily accessible to all students.

#### **k) Affiliation**

I decided not to have an 'affiliation window' this year, per se. While clubs had a supposed deadline to meet for my own purposes (16th December), no club was turned away from re-affiliating. The clubs system is far from perfect, especially that which regards affiliation. In future, I would recommend that the affiliations process be done at a time far from O-Week.

Provisional affiliation status was used for Market Day this year which was done to allow clubs - regardless of their formal affiliation status - to access the provision of stalls without the need for a deposit, one which is paid by all non-affiliated clubs. This was ultimately great for both clubs that had lost membership over summer due to graduation or clubs that had started over Summer as well as great for me as it allowed me to focus more on O-Week and less on affiliations in the 2 weeks before. However, communication was unclear at this time and lead to a lot of confusion among clubs.

#### **l) Reform**

A lot of questions about sponsorship and funding have come up in relation to clubs in the last month or so that I feel need deeper investigation. Over the coming months I intend to focus my work mostly on these questions in order to build a more structural approach to funding and sponsorship which allows clubs to grow in membership and capacity.

#### **m) Training**

I will announce the dates for clubs training next week, however, at the moment a Wattle page (that is incomplete) exists which clubs have been using to apply for funding around O-Week. Training sessions will be both online and in-person. They'll focus on logistics and event coordination, finance, governance, and I'd like to add in a section on safe spaces policy which is another project I'm working on this year.

#### **n) Committee**

I have yet to start work on building the Clubs Committee this year, this will start next week with applications for Members sent out to the broader clubs community. I know a lot of clubs have feelings about specific grants and also about the switch to QPay so I'm excited to facilitate the committee towards conversations that cover these issues.

#### **14. Timesheet**

I have worked 342 hours thus far. Spanning 1st December through to 17th February, that averages out to be about 29 hours a week.

I am paid for half of those hours - 14 hours a week to be precise, as touched upon in my introduction. I will note that being over 300 is out of the ordinary. The process of affiliation and integrating to a new clubs system definitely contributed at large to a surge of my hours in January, as did organising The Party. The Clubs/Social Officer typically works an average of 24-29 hours in the months leading up to O-Week. Each member of the exec is underpaid and works over their hours, however, the undue burden of work on the Clubs Officer is structural, inherent, and expected. This, to me, is unsustainable as well as exploitative. If you have questions about my hours or how my time is spent, feel free to email me at [sa.clubsofficer@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.clubsofficer@anu.edu.au).



Reference G

# Welfare Officer's Report

## SRC 1 - 22/02/2021

Kai Dreyfus-Ballesi

Hi folks! I am Kai (he/him), your 2023 Welfare Officer. Thank you for taking the time to read my report. This year I am focusing on five key projects. You can read about these projects below, and any activities since my last report.

### Affordable Accommodation

Canberra rents are the highest in the country, and tariffs at ANU's privatised halls are increasing year on year. This is a campaign for decisive action on affordable student housing in Canberra.

Completed:

- Reached out to policymakers and community groups with the goal of building a coalition around housing.
- Met with two federal politicians and their policy officers (Andrew Leigh & David Pocock) to discuss the issue.
- Spoke on ABC Radio in January about the high tariffs at Yukeembruk Hall and the ANU's purpose-built student accommodation agreements (PBSA).

In progress:

- David Pocock's office has shown great interest in the campaign, and they are keen to work with us on a proposal and building community support. I am meeting again with them next week.
- Collating data on the current state of student housing in Canberra. Ultimately, the aim is to include this analysis in a proposal for a public or community-owned student housing project.
- Seeking out students facing housing stress who are interested in talking about their experience. This is for a news article on the cost-of-living crisis in Canberra, as well as for the housing proposal.
- Signing the Greater Canberra Missing Middle Campaign, which advocates for changes to zoning regulations to legalise the development of more public, private, and community housing.

Next steps:

- Forming a student housing action group.
- Developing a proposal for a large-scale student community housing project.
- Investigating the possibility of affordable on-campus accommodation alternatives.

## ANU Cares Consultation

ANU Cares is a new ANU mental health program run by the Research School of Psychology. I was engaged as part of the initial consultation process to present on student mental health needs.

### Completed

- Advocated for student needs the ANU Cares consultation workshops.
- Presented to the workshop participants on the need for mental health services to be affordable, have an accessible intake process, and hire practitioners with a diversity of lived experience.

## ANUSA Visibility and Outreach

This project aims to increase levels student engagement with ANUSA and provide sustainable mechanisms for involving students in the activities of our union.

### Completed

- Presenting on ANUSA at ANU future student seminars in December and January.

### In progress

- Reaching out to lecturers of large courses to include information about ANUSA in their slides.

### Not commenced

- Creating a long-term ANUSA communications strategy.
- Increasing ANUSA presence on campus. This includes utilising standees, posters, and the external walls of the Di Riddell building.

## New Food Programs

This year, my aim is to establish two new food programs at ANUSA: the ANUSA Food Rescue Program and Heartier Meals at the BKSS. These programs aim to provide cheap or free food to students, while reducing food waste on campus and in Canberra more broadly.

### Completed

- Attended the Canberra Food Donation forum.
- Reached out to OzHarvest about the capacity for an ANUSA food rescue program.

### Not commenced

- Consulting with local grocers about an ANUSA food-rescue program.
- Creating a proposal for the procurement of an ANUSA van to transport.
- Creating a proposal and budget for regular meals at the BKSS.

## Better ANUSA Meetings

Phoenix, the General Secretary, and I are working to make ANUSA meetings more visible and accessible for ordinary students, as well as a safer space for elected representatives.

In progress

- Acquiring an audio-visual solution to allow for hybrid ANUSA meetings.
- Consulting with an audio-visual solutions provider on the best equipment for our purposes.

## Additional Activities

- Met with the Student Safety and Wellbeing team, who are interested in having a close relationship with ANUSA services.
- O-week – I worked over 40 hours last week helping with O-week events. This included lifting more than two tons of beer.
- Helped prepare the Brian Kenyon Student Space for the new semester, including some meticulous paint scraping.
- Miscellaneous maintenance activities, including inflating the tires on ANUSA's trolleys and taking the ANUSA bus to get serviced.

## Timesheet

I have worked a total of 180.5 hours since my term began on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. This comes to an average of 16.7 hours per week, accounting for public holidays.

## Interested?

If you are interested in getting involved in any of the above, please get in contact! You can reach me at [sa.welfareofficer@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.welfareofficer@anu.edu.au).

In addition to the above, I am looking for students who have experienced housing stress and would be willing to share their experiences for the affordable accommodation proposal. If this is something you would be interested in, or you know someone who might, please get in touch with me.

**ANUSA INDIGENOUS DEPARTMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL 1  
Aleisha Knack

**Executive Summary**

1. Summer Projects
2. O-Week
3. Upcoming Events
4. Anti-Racism Taskforce
5. RAP Committee
6. Expenditure Report

**Report**

1. Summer Projects:

Over the 2021-2022 Summer break, the Indigenous Department assisted with Campaign the Invasion Day even on the 26th of January at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy. Our Social Officer Ella produced infographics to be released in the lead up to and on Invasion Day and they received a huge amount of engagement.

2. O-Week:

O-Week for the Indigenous Department was a very successful week. We participated and/or hosted the following events: The Department Fete, Market Day, a picnic event with the BIPOC Department and a BBQ with Tjabal center.

On the Tuesday of O-Week, the Department participated in the Department Fete on University Avenue. We talked to some Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students and invited them to our various socials. We also spoke to Indigenous students from other countries such as the USA and Nepal. Although we understand these students are not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander it is important to make them feel like they have a space here on campus alongside other Indigenous students. It was also great to see non-indigenous engagement at our stall. We also hosted a picnic with the BIPOC department which had a good turnout and provided a positive space for students

On the Wednesday of O-Week, the Department held a stall for the ANUSA Market Day. This was successful in that we were able to engage with Indigenous Students and invite them into Department spaces and to communicate to non-Indigenous students that we have a facebook page and Instagram where non-autonomous events are posted and educational campaigns are displayed. The poster cards, stickers, hats and educational resources were a huge success at both the department fete and market day events.

On Friday we ran a collaborative BBQ on Chifley with the Tjabal center. The event was a great opportunity for Aboriginal Students to meet people in a safe and friendly environment. It was also a great way for students to have a yarn to the department exec and Tjabal staff.

### 3. Upcoming Events

The Indigenous Department will be running a welcome dinner where Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander students are invited to Badger to have a yarn and a dinner. We are also supporting the ANU LJR Reconciliation Project at their 15 anniversary National Apology event on the 22nd of February. We are also looking to hold Blak Books again this year and this will begin early in semester 1 as a non-autonomous event.

### 4. Anti-Racism Task Force

On Thursday the 16th of February myself, alongside Paria and Pranavi attended the Anti-Racism Task Force. The first meeting was a success and the committee was keen to act on the recommendations from the BIPOC Racism reports.

### 5. RAP Committee

I will attend the ANU RAP committee meeting on Monday the 20th of February.

### 6. Expenditure Report

<b>line Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount Expended</b>
O Week	Office works Flyers	\$25.50
Canva Subscription	Mal Paper Journals	\$53.977
O Week	Lollies	\$47.46
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$126.94</b>

Reference I



ANUSA 2023 SRC 1 Women's Officer Report

Phoebe Denham

20 February 2023

[sa.womens@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.womens@anu.edu.au)

*Content warning: campaigns section mentions abortion access and transphobia*

### **Support reminder**

O week and the beginning of the semester can be a very overwhelming time for many of us. I am always reachable at [sa.womens@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.womens@anu.edu.au). It will be great to start up Collective Meetings for the year, and I encourage all Department members to come along!

### **O Week**

#### **Stalling**

We held two 2-hour stalls on Uni Ave, on Monday and Friday of O Week. It was great to be out on display and talking to students. It was also really lovely that we got to do this alongside some other ANUSA Departments.

#### **Dept Fete and Market Day**

Two great days, lots of engagement, and where we sold most of our merch. We also had lots of good conversations about the purpose and activities of the Department and how to get involved. We ran out of information postcards near the end of Market Day, which can only be a good sign!

#### **Picnic**

Thursday was a cracking day, and we had lots of people come out to the picnic. Despite location and barbecue issues, I think everybody had a lovely time.

### **Birth Control Subsidy**

The Birth Control Subsidy will be continuing in 2023, with some changes to how it is accessed. Thanks to VP Grace and the staff at ANUSA for supporting and facilitating its continuation.

The program is ready to go, and I will be getting information about how to access it out this week.

### **Merchandise**

We sold a huge amount of merchandise throughout O Week. It has been great to see it cropping up around campus :). We will look into ordering new merch soon, definitely ahead of Bush Week.

### **Campaigns**

We have two upcoming protests that we will be involved in, a protest for improved abortion access on International Women's Day on 8 March, and a protest against a transphobic right-wing speaker who is visiting Canberra on 23 March.

### **Collective Meetings**

Our first Collective Meeting of the year will be on Monday 20 February! Hope to see lots of people there <3

### **Rights, Respect and Relationships module**

This new module is a replacement for Consent Matters. Prior to its launch, I gave some feedback alongside DSA (thank you Maddi and Mira for organising) and ANUSA. Many commencing students will now have completed the module. It is far from perfect, so I strongly encourage all those who have completed the module to provide feedback. I am happy to chat about the module, and can receive feedback which I can pass on anonymously.

### **Women's Revue and Bossy Magazine**

Women's Revue and Bossy Magazine are both kicking off for the year again. If you are interested in being involved in either, please check them out on Facebook or reach out to me and I can put you in contact with them.

### **Other work**

I have been updating our website, as a lot of the pages hadn't been updated in a while. I've made some interim changes, but look forward to discussing them with the Collective at our first meeting.

I have also been working on updating our Safer Spaces Policy, following on from other Constitutional Updates made late last year. Again, I am looking forward to discussing potential changes with the Collective.

I have received first aid training with ANUSA, and am undertaking Vicarious Trauma Training and Accidental Counsellor Training in the coming weeks.

I have been discussing the increased lockout fees at residential halls with Ben, Maddi and Mira. We will discuss these in our Collective Meetings too.

I completed a stocktake of the WD things in the ANUSA Office.

### **Upcoming elections**

In accordance with our Constitution, we will be holding elections for Secretary, Treasurer, Social Media, and Web and Design in our week 3 Collective Meeting. More information can be found in our Collective Meeting minutes, but otherwise please reach out to me if you are interested in any of these positions.

**Income and expenditure / Money things**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Merchandise sales	\$382.00
Woolworths for O Week picnic	(\$95.26)

There are a few more receipts from O Week to be located, so I will provide further updates at next SRC.



Reference J

## SRC 1 Queer\* Officer's Report

Jehan Jayawickrama, 17/02/2023

### Department Activities

**Committee** - The Queer\* Department Committee is currently missing a Treasurer, Publicity Officer, and Social Officer - these roles have been covered over the last few months by myself, the deputies, and the secretary. We will be opening nominations for these positions in Week 1 and holding elections in Week 2.

**O-Week** - Ran 5 events during O-Week (Queer\* Picnic, Queer\* Games Night, Queer\* Coffee, Queer\* Soiree, and Paint and Chat), as well as holding a stall at Department Fete and Market Day. Organised volunteers to help with event facilitation due to the small size of the committee. Deputies organised merch (tote bags and hoodies designed by Remi Prica).

**Queer\* House** - Cleaned out old Queer\* House (14 Liversidge Street) of all useful/significant items and transported them to current Queer\* House for carpet renovations. Managing the many maintenance issues of current Queer\* House (electrical safety hazards, broken air conditioning, frozen fridge, hole in wall that a den of rabbits might be living in). Investigating the possibility of an alternate Queer\* Department space - dependent on outcome of first Collective meeting.

**Queer\* Support Group** - Reese Jansen from the Student Safety and Wellbeing team has been meeting with me to codesign a Queer\* support group on campus. The project is still in the ideas phase and they will be at the Week 1 Collective meeting to consult with members of the Queer\* Collective as well.

**Kellie-Jay Keen Protest** - The Queer\* Department is cohosting Facebook event for the Kellie-Jay Keen protest organised by the NUS Queer\* Officer. This project has been on the back burner for me so far, but we plan to get involved further, potentially by providing speakers, walkovers, and sign-making events.

### Income and Expenditure

*\*since 01/12/2022*

**Income:** \$11,866.52 (including baseline funding)

**Expenditure:** \$7,733.63

**Current balance:** \$9,904.99

### Full Transaction History

Date	Amount	Merchant	Description
14/01/2023	\$10,000.00	ANUSA	ANUSA Baseline
17/01/2023	-\$5,500.00	Rojo Customs Canberra	Hoodies (merch)
17/01/2023	-\$647.19	Vistaprint Australia	Tote bags (merch)
23/01/2023	-\$1,200.00	Remi Prica	Hoodie and tote bag art
05/02/2023	-\$112.05	Coles	O-Week event snacks
13/02/2023	-\$22.15	Coles	O-Week event snacks
14/02/2023	-\$57.75	Woolworths	O-Week event snacks

14/02/2023	-\$12.50	Coles	O-Week event snacks
14/02/2023	\$5.00		Tote bag sale
14/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
14/02/2023	\$5.00		Tote bag sale
14/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
14/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
14/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
14/02/2023	\$5.00		Tote bag sale
14/02/2023	\$5.00		Tote bag sale
14/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
14/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
14/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
15/02/2023	\$10.00		Tote bag sale (x2)
15/02/2023	-\$30.65	Officeworks	Sticker and flyer printing
15/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
15/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
15/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
15/02/2023	\$70.00		Hoodie sale (x2)
15/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
15/02/2023	\$5.00		Tote bag sale
15/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
15/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
15/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
15/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
15/02/2023	\$5.00		Tote bag sale

16/02/2023	-\$78.40	Cafe Milligram Kambri	Coffees (Queer* Coffee)
16/02/2023	\$35.00		Hoodie sale
16/02/2023	\$1,196.52		Square pay (merch)
16/02/2023	-\$72.94		Domino's Pizza (Queer* Soiree)

Reference K

## ANUSA International Officer Report

### 1. O-Week

We had a really good O-Week with a good turnout at events. We ran two events and stalls during Department Fete and Market Day. We had a collab with the BIPOC Department with a pizza party and a speed friending event. I'd also like to thank all the committee members who were able to help out this week.

### 2. Recruitment

I'm glad to welcome our new directors for the publications, social and wellbeing portfolios. Amithi, Hyunbin and Sueyoon. We are still recruiting a director for our education portfolio. We are also currently in the process of accepting general representative applicants.

### 3. Anti-Racism Taskforce

I attended the first meeting for the Anti-Racism Taskforce along with Paria and Aleisha. The meeting went well and the other members of the taskforce were receptive to our opinions and ideas. Some of the key points that were discussed was some sort of online reporting/disclosure tool for students and possibly having more counsellors with a BIPOC background in ANU Counselling. This would be especially helpful for international students.

### 4. Upcoming Plans

The main areas of focus for the next few weeks are:

- Meeting with ANU Careers to discuss a strategy for international students and hopefully work with them for international student-specific events
- Organise an International Students' Welcome Evening
- Update and reorganise the ISD website

Reference L



## Disabilities Officer Report

SRC 1, Semester 1, 2023

Mira Robson (she/her) and Maddison McCarthy (she/her)

Disabilities Co-Officers

*ANU Disabilities Student Association*

Prepared 17/2/23

### Contents

15. Executive Summary
16. Advocacy & Campaigning
17. Media & Community
18. Administration

### 1. Executive Summary

The DSA has been busy since the last SRC. Our amazing committee prepared for and ran our O-Week events, and we have been doing some more consultative and campaign related work.

### 2. Advocacy & Campaigning

#### Issue based Advocacy & Student Support

Students who contact the Officer with individual issues of ableism and discrimination can receive assistance. We have been in contact with various parties, including conveners, A&I, and other university staff members, and others in order to address the individual concerns of students, including over the non-teaching period. The details of these interactions will remain unspecified for reasons of confidentiality.

If you ever have an issue like that, please don't hesitate to contact us at [sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au), or any other means through which you are comfortable seeking contact.

#### Deputy Campaign Update

Our deputy has decided on a campaign for the term. "I will be taking over the campaign on the residential hall from Isabella [Harding, last year's deputy officer]. planning to get the working group going by week 4 and have an overall report after mid-semester break."

### Keep ANU Hybrid Campaign

Our campaign, Keep ANU Hybrid, has officially begun! We ran 2 stalls at O-Week, and have launched our petition which we plan to present to the ANU once we reach a critical mass of signatures. We are planning to take further actions including protests and potentially a sit-in after we submit the petition to the ANU based on their response. We are also in the process of organising a panel/forum event with ANU staff and representatives of the national campaign that we will host in the next few months to give students more of an insight into the goals of the campaign, and the experiences of staff and students with disability with hybrid and why it is so important.

### RRR Module Reform

We met with the Women's Officer as well as ANUSA executive members to review the new RRR Consent Matters Module. We submitted multiple pages of feedback, which we hope to see implemented.

### Election Reform Work

We have been consulted by the ANUSA General Secretary to provide our feedback on the proposed changes to campaigning zones during election season. We have written up our official statement on the changes, and will be sitting on the working group that is formed to discuss and report on the decisions made around this.

### DISABILITY & HIGHER EDUCATION in Australia Report

We have had a number of meetings on the report and the national campaign around the report since the last SRC. Originating in the disabilities portfolio due to issues such as ongoing covid pandemic and immunocompromised and high risk students still needing access to safe education, students who use WFH and hybrid to pace themselves with their disabilities, and students have better educational experiences online whereas in person campuses are usually very physically inaccessible- it came onto our radar as TEQSA reversed their on-shore education requirement, and many institutions interpreted this as a return to in person only learning. Combined with things like chat-GTP, academic misconduct concerns and profit concerns, in-person only is being pushed hard from the top of the uni, even though it is not safe for all students. A campaign has been developing since early January about this in conjunction with NUS, USYD, UQ and others. It has recently expanded to the NUS portfolios of Womens, International and Indigenous/First Nations. A march/rally is being planned for early March to show policy makers that this should be on their agendas.

## 3. Media & Community

### O-Week

O-Week for the DSA was a huge success! From our social officer: All O-Week events had great attendance, particularly Casual Coffee. With walkovers from Kambri Lawns before each event, lots of new students now have access to the Spoon Space. The week was a promising start to 2023!

## Social Strategy Update and Recurring Events

Running events in order to increase student engagement has been very successful so far. We hope that future events will get even more engagement. Our recurring events, including casual coffee, craft sessions and our collective meetings, will have new times organised closer to the beginning of the semester.

### The Spoons Space

If you want Spoons Space access and do not yet have it, please fill in the form here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSer0wMrnhQwxmAnbjZHp6wzjK8XOeEpDVmvVHRV0iCILyN5hw/viewform>

Spoon space access requests are batched and get put through on a Friday afternoon, so you should have access on the Monday after you put your request in. If there are any issues with card access, please email us, but please note you need a valid student card to get spoon space access- so if your card is expired or lost, please extend it or renew/replace it first before requesting access!

Currently, hail remediation works are happening in Copland building until June 2023 (timeline could change if delayed significantly by bad weather). There is still access to the spoon space, however you need to go via the corner with the bathrooms, rather than the main route through Copland courtyard. There will be additional noise, additional dust in the air and increase of foot traffic with tradespeople. As we are on the ground floor, even when power is out for work on higher floors we should still have power for door access, spoon space etc. If you have any questions or concerns, or wish to report an issue to do with hail remediation, please contact us at [sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au) and we can help or direct your enquiry on to facilities and services.

## 4. Administration

### Office Hours!

Office hours will resume during teaching, and will be run both in-person and online via zoom. You can come to find out more about the DSA, discuss an issue you are having regarding accessibility, or seek information and advice on navigating the disability policies and structures in place at the ANU, like EAPs and medical withdrawal. The current office hours for this semester are Maddi on Wednesdays 12-1.30pm, and Mira on Fridays 1.30-3pm. We can be available for appointments outside those times too, please get in contact via [sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au) to make an appointment.

### Elections

We will have upcoming elections for two of our committee positions, secretary and deputy, at our collective meeting at the end of week 2. Nominations for these positions have opened, and more information about these can be found on our Facebook page.

### Financial

#### Money In

Item	Amount
Baseline Funding	\$10,000
Merchandise Sales	\$12.74

Total In: \$10,012.74

#### Money Out

Item	Amount
Food	\$444.98
Casual Coffee	\$113

Total Out: \$557.98

#### Timesheet

During the period between the last SRC and the writing of this report, the co-officers worked a total of **117 hrs 19 min**. Most of this time was spent in meetings, planning for upcoming campaigns and doing o-week, as well as individual advocacy and emails. A full breakdown of how our time was spent is available upon request.

Since our re-election on December 1st, the officers have worked **154 hrs 54 min**. See the table for an ongoing tally from each SRC period.

Start		End	Hours worked	Total
Dec 1st 2022	-	SRC 0 (11/01/23)	37:35:00	37:35:00
SRC 0 (11/01/23)	-	SRC 1 (22/02/23)	117:19:00	154:54:00



Reference M

## **Environment Collective Department Officer Report**

**Rex Michelson**

### **Executive Summary**

- **O-Week**
- **Seeking Collaboration**
- **Elections**
- **Events to Come**

### ***O-Week***

The primary focus going into O-Week was outreach. The collectives numbers dwindled at the tail end of last year. To pursue this I stalled in conjunction with other departments Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday of O-week.

Mondays stall and the department fete were effective practice in engaging and educating individuals on the collective. I learnt it was most effective to establish the role of ANUSA and its departments before explaining the function of the collective and interrogating students. This culminated into market day which saw great interest from a large amount of people. It was a good opportunity to promote the upcoming NDA protest, I also signed many people onto the beyond uranium mailing list.

On Monday I hosted an event for banner making. The banner read “No Greenwashing Climate Justice Now ANU Enviro Department.” I was pleasantly surprised by the turnout, it was good social event that served a purpose. Subsequently, we dropped the banner whilst using a megaphone to briefly disrupt market day to promote the upcoming NDA protest.

### ***Seeking Collaboration***

One of my primary focuses going forward is collaborating with other organisations. I have been in contact with the conservation council and other Canberra-based organisations. My discussions with Keri from walk against woodchips, landed on the subject of past EC action in funding First Nations people to attend the upcoming annual ANFA meeting in SA. This would be a worthwhile collaboration. However, I will have to visit the minutes in previous years to ascertain how this was done. Lastly, I will be meeting with organisers from school strike to pursue possibly assisting. Ultimately, in order to get numbers for protests collaborating with other groups is priority going forward.

### ***Elections***

Whilst we have one co-convenor mitigating circumstances meant he could not be present for O-week. As a one-man show the workload was a struggle. Consequently, it will be my focus going forward to hold elections in the second meeting. However, going forward it will be a priority to proactively engage with prospective individuals. It is my belief that the collective cannot function to the best it could in the absence of more co-convenors.

### ***Events to Come***

The NDA protest has been organised in large part by Uni Students for Climate Action. However, the collective made every effort in O-week to promote the protest. Going forward we will assist in whatever capacity we can.

In conjunction with action the EC in years past engages in political education and discussion through film and reading groups. One such event in the works would be a guest lecture in conjunction with the fenner school possibly happening in march.

Our first meeting will take place in week 2, Tuesday 6 pm, ANUSA boardroom.

Expense	Cost	Notes
Art Supplies for Banner	\$45.52	As part of the O-week banner making event

Reference N



# ANU BIPOC DEPARTMENT

## ANU BIPOC<sup>U</sup> DEPARTMENT OFFICER REPORT

PARIA NAJAFZADEH (SHE/HER)

Student Representative Council 1  
22 February 2023 6:15 PM

### OUTLINE:

- I. O-WEEK
- II. SOCIAL EVENTS
- III. ADVOCACY WORK
- IV. COLLABORATIONS
- V. ANTI-RACISM TASKFORCE
- VI. ADMINISTRATION
- VII. BIPOC BADDIE OF THE MONTH

### VIII. O-WEEK

O-Week was very successful for us this year. Aside from the Department Fete and Market Day we ran 6 events: Arts 'n' Crafts, BIPOC X Indigenous Picnic, General Mixer, DJ Workshop, BIPOC X ISD Pizza Party and Chai 'n' Chats.

We had a lot of interested students come by our stalls at Department Fete and O-Week. We explained to new students what BIPOC means and how we support BIPOC students. We sold a lot of merch and have sold out of a few items/sizes. Many SR's from various residential halls came by asking for resources. **We are working on a pack to send out to all SR's and ResComm teams.** We also had a few concerning questions asked and comments

made. Just a reminder: the Department does not operate to educate non-BIPOC students about racism. **We are not obligated to run educational non-autonomous events. It is simply not our responsibility.** The Department first and foremost provides a safe space and community for BIPOC students at the ANU. If you feel you are not educated in anti-racism: read a book or two!

We had amazing turn-out at all of our events following the Department Fete. Students were able to connect and form new friendships at our events – super good vibes all around.

Our collab events allowed for intersectional connections to be made. I would stress the importance of running this event on the Mondays in the future – ANU please don't prevent events being run on the Monday due to commencement again. It sucked. Most new students find out about the department from the Fete and Market Day

## IX. SOCIAL EVENTS

Tisha Shah, our amazing social officer, has organised an amazing social calendar for this semester with a broad range of events. There is something for everyone from Chai 'n' Chats to movie nights through our Autonomous Alternatives, and even some sporty events. Keep an eye out on FB for those.

This semester we will have some bigger social events including a Party as well as a big collab event with other Departments which is in the works. BIPOC students should come to our collective meetings (Wednesdays 5-6pm) for more frequent updates as well as an opportunity to share their thoughts. We also have a Social Committee who work on our bigger events if anyone wants to get involved in the Department.

## X. ADVOCACY WORK

### DOCUMENTARY

Work for the documentary will soon be underway. We have interest from several BIPOC students in getting involved. We will be creating a separate committee for documentary work. Message our Facebook or come along to collective meetings for more information.

### CAMPAIGNS

Our campaigns have yet to be thoroughly discussed by our executive. We do know we will be separating our campaigns into internal and external. As a department we will be prioritising BIPOC students by focusing on providing safe spaces and events for students.

## IV. COLLABORATIONS

Over the last year and especially the last few weeks the department has received many requests for collaborations. **We appreciate each opportunity offered to us; however, we cannot accept every request.** We appreciate being asked to be involved in discussions of race, colonialism, etc. however, it is not our responsibility to monitor and facilitate every one of these discussions on campus. Instead, we are moving our focus internally to supporting our collective as well as ensuring our own anti-racism campaigns are of the

highest quality we can produce. We are willing to provide consultation on how to make spaces and events safe for BIPOC students however, we do not have the capacity to be involved in running every one of these events.

#### V. ANTI-RACISM TASKFORCE

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of February the Anti-Racism Taskforce had its first meeting. During the meeting I pushed the Taskforce to consider the recommendations listed in both the 2021 and 2022 Racism Reports. I am feeling optimistic about the Taskforce, with a key focus of the meeting being discussing the lack of BIPOC counsellors on campus and a disclosure tool for students who have been subjected to racism.

#### XI. ADMINISTRATION

##### OFFICE HOURS

My office hours are 3-5pm on Wednesdays via Zoom. Please contact me to set up a Zoom link.

##### ELECTION

We have opened nominations for the First Year Representative position on our executive. If you are a first year BIPOC student keen on getting involved have a look on our social medias for more information.

##### FINANCES

###### INCOME

Description	Amount
Merch Sales	+\$622
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+\$622</b>

###### EXPENDITURE

Purpose	Item Description	Amount
ADMIN	Google Storage Subscription	-\$2.49
ARTS 'N' CRAFTS	Jewellery making supplies	-\$33.50
CHAI 'N' CHATS	Drinks orders for attendees	-\$142.5
MOVIE NIGHT	Popcorn	-\$4.75

REIMBURSEMENT	BIPOC X INDIG PICNIC: Chocolates, juice boxes, chips, etc.  STALL SUPPLIES: Lollies	-\$76.45
BIPOC X ISD PIZZA PARTY	Pizza	-\$57.75
	Kebaba	-\$21
MARKET DAY FOOD FOR EXEC	Lunch food (sushi, poke bowl)	-\$27.4
GENERAL MIXER	Food from Badger	-\$99
DJ WORKSHOP	Payment for DJ #1	-\$100
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>-\$564.84</b>

### TIMESHEET

From 11/01/2023-21/02/2023 I have worked 46 hours. You can email me at [sa.bipoc@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.bipoc@anu.edu.au) for a more detailed breakdown of my hours :)

### **VI. BIPOC BADDIE OF THE MONTH**

Following the trend of other reports shouting out the work of an executive or collective member, I will be shouting out my BIPOC Baddie of the month. A BIPOC Baddie is someone who serves. I will provide no extra explanation. This month's baddie is Amber Lennox, BIPOC publicity officer and new BKSS staff member. Amber has absolutely slayed with our social media graphics, with many compliments sent her way during our O-Week events. Thank you, Amber, for making our Instagram look so cute.

<sup>11</sup> BIPOC is an abbreviation for Bla(c)k, Indigenous, People of Colour

Reference O

## **National Conference 2022 - What is sanity again? NUS Delegate Report - Azraa Hussain**

Summary (sorry babes, it's gonna be a long one):

1. Hello Besties!
2. Who's Who and What's What: NatCon Edition
3. The Rundown
4. ANUSA's voting record
5. Overall, what were the vibes?

Hey Besties, it's me!

Hello, hi, my name is Azraa, I use she/they pronouns and I was elected as one of your NUS Delegates in the last ANUSA election. A little about me - I am going into my fourth year studying a double degree in International Relations and Psychology. In 2022, I was one of the General Representatives on ANUSA and prior to that, was involved in the ANU Women's Department.

For full disclosure, I am a member of the National Labor Students (NLS) and I caucus and bind with them (I'll get into this more in a bit, I promise). I am also a member of the Australian Labor Party.

Who's Who and What's What: NatCon Edition

National Conference (or NatCon) is the Annual General Meeting of the National Union of Students (NUS). Every student union that is affiliated to the NUS gets a certain number of delegates who hold voting power at National Conference. The number of delegates a university receives is based on the campus' EFTSL (equivalent full-time student load). At ANU, we have five delegates to National Conference. This year's delegates are:

- Myself, National Labor Students
- Ben Yates (ANUSA President), Independent
- Beatrice Tucker (ANUSA Education Officer), Independent
- Skye Predavec (General Representative), Independent
- Samuel MacRae, Student Unity

\* Please note that all factions are accurate as per the time of Conference.

Delegates go to conference and have the power to vote on motions which inform the NUS' National Platform. Any student has the ability to put up a motion but only delegates have the power to vote on them.

Now for the fun part - factions.

There are four main factions which have traditionally dominated the NUS' conference floor - Student Unity, National Labor Students, Socialist Alternative and the Grassroots Independents.

Student Unity, often referred to as Unity or Labor Right, are the largest faction on conference floor. This year they held about 38% of conference floor. Unity is the student faction aligned with the right wing of the Australian Labor Party. Members of Student Unity must be ALP members and also must be members of the faction on conference floor who are singing praises to the Labor Party. Historically, Student Unity has held the largest amount of conference floor and this year was no different. As such, they also hold a large number of positions on the NUS executive, including a majority of paid OB positions. Their strength comes from the stronghold they have in Victoria and South Australia, particularly with the large base of unions aligned with the right-wing of the ALP, which is where they get their organising abilities from. Unity hold the positions of General Secretary and Welfare Officer. This year, Sheldon Gait from RMIT and Grace Franco from Adelaide Uni respectively hold these positions.

National Labor Students, NLS or Labor Left, which is the faction I am a member of, is the student faction of the left-wing faction of the Labor Party. This year we held roughly 27% of conference floor. We distinguish ourselves from Student Unity in that we don't believe that the ALP is our lord and saviour. NLS take a two-pronged approach to our activism - we believe that we can do both, lobbying and protesting. The Labor Party is by no means a perfect political party, but we believe it is the best vehicle for sustainable progressive change. NLS holds the position of President, which this year is Bailey Riley from UTS.

Socialist Alternative, also known as SAIt or the trots, is a faction that I am almost certain everyone knows of even if they aren't involved in stupol. SAIt are revolutionary Marxists and believe that class issues are the root of all evil and wrongdoing in the world. This year, SAIt held about 22% of conference floor. Socialist Alternative won't give up until an anticapitalist revolution takes place, and the only way they believe they can do so is by prioritising class as the only oppressor of society. This year, SAIt hold the position of Education Officer, held by Xavier Dupe from previously Uni of Melbourne but now apparently La Trobe University (someone tell the trots they can finish their degree in four years and at one uni lol).

Quick intermission to chat about caucusing and binding. The above three factions all caucus and bind, meaning they get together in a room with all their members, and discuss how their delegates will vote. Each faction caucus' in a slightly different way but the outcome is that they collectively agree as a faction on which way to 'bind' their vote aka, they vote in the same way. The concept of binding is rooted in the trade union movement. Collective action is the idea that the more people who stand together, the more power you have and the more likely you are to effect change. Student Unity, NLS and Socialist Alternative all believe in the concept of change being enacted through collective action, hence why we caucus and bind.

Grassroots Independents or the Grindies/Groots, are the amalgamation of two groups - a broadly Greens-aligned faction mostly based out of NSW called the Grassroots Left and the National Independents, which is a pseudo-faction of non-aligned independents of varying political affiliations. They merged ahead of the 2018 National Conference. Their main identifiers are that they are broadly left-wing and they don't bind. This year they held about 4% of conference floor, a significant decrease from last year.

The remainder of conference floor, which was roughly 9%, was held by independents of varying political alignments. Three out of five of the ANU delegates sat as independents.



At the conclusion of Conference, we elected our new Executive. ANU holds two autonomous office bearer roles on NUS this year, as well the ACT Branch roles. These are our representatives:

- Isabella Harding, NUS Disabilities Officer, NLS
- Ben Naiju, NUS Ethnocultural Officer, SU
- Luke Harrison, ACT State Branch President, Independent
- Nick Reich, ACT Education Vice President, SAIt

I know that it's going to come up so it's also worth me pointing out that this year NLS pretty much held the balance of power on conference floor. Delegates are democratically elected at every affiliated student union and this year the votes fell in our favour. I do think it's important to mention, especially given the rhetoric that exists that "Labor factions control the NUS". Actually, yeah you are right. We do control the NUS because at the end of the day, it's a numbers game, and if you don't engage you don't get anything. It's also kind of ironic that the same people who use perpetuate this rhetoric are also the same people who hold control of ANUSA and lost \$80,000 on Friday Night Party but I digress.

### The Rundown

This section of my report is going to be long, and I do apologise for that. In my defence, the policy document for this year was 252 pages long and I hope that gives you some insight into why NatCon is as long and as draining as it is. The policy book is divided into 14 sections and an additional section for 'Rule Changes'. For the sake of brevity, I'm not going to go into detail about each section but if you have questions, please message me on Facebook and I am happy to answer them.

This year, National Conference was held at Deakin Warun Ponds in Geelong. Attendees were housed in student accommodation on campus and were grouped mostly with people in their own faction. Conference ran from Monday to Thursday, from 9am to 9pm, with the day split into three blocks by an hour lunch and an hour dinner break. This was also our first in-person NatCon since 2019, and to say that I was unprepared for the antics would be an understatement.

We started NatCon, bright and early on Monday morning, meeting at the Victorian Trades Hall to board the bus to Geelong. Once we arrived, we checked in, got our accommodation allocations, dropped off our bags and ate lunch. Conference floor opened at 2pm with a Welcome to Country.

As predicted, we were very behind schedule from the start. The sheer number of motions that get submitted makes it hard for us to stick within the allotted time, particularly when we started Conference with some generous speaking times. As Conference progressed, motions were passed through to shorten speaking times, much to the dismay of certain factions. Arguments broke out that the chair of the conference, NLS' Georgie Beatty, was trying to cut debate down, and honestly yeah at that point, she probably was. Realistically, there is no way to get through the 252 pages of motions without short speaking times otherwise we wouldn't even dent the insane number of motions over the four days of Conference. I also want to flag that the nature

of NatCon itself is inherently inaccessible, let alone with speakers being able to yap on for an hour saying the same thing on repeat.

On the final day of Conference, quorum was pulled by a member of Student Unity, in order to ensure that SAIt was not going to be able to pass through their plethora of Urgency motions. Urgency motions differ from regular motions that go into the permanent NUS Policy Platform, rather they are only applicable for a year. Hence this is where the majority of SAIt's 'activist' motions in relation to current political events go. Whilst I have been trying to keep this report somewhat diplomatic and objective, I will say this was a little bit of a fucked up move from Unity - as little time as we had to finish off the Urgency section (I think quorum was pulled about an hour and a half before Conference was going to officially close), it was done in poor taste. The purpose of NatCon is to ensure we can cover all our bases in terms of where the NUS stands on any given issue that impact students. Cutting off these conversations before they even start doesn't do anything but harm the NUS in the long run.

Overall, a majority of my time at Conference was given to the IHRA motion which I was seconding. For context, this motion was moved by last year's NUS Education Officer, Luc Velez (GI) and I was asked if I would like to second the motion, which I agreed to do. The motion put forth that the NUS would take a stance against universities adopting the definition of antisemitism as defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. The problematic part of the definition is that it sets out that any anti-Israel rhetoric is deemed anti-Semitic. This is an issue for a few reasons. It is an imposition on academic freedom and this directly affects researchers within the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies at ANU, some of whom I have been taught by. It also directly opposes the NUS' current platform which states that the NUS is anti-apartheid.

Much of my time was spent going back and forth between members of Student Unity, who had been approached by AUJS, the Australian Union of Jewish Students, to lobby Luc and I to withdraw the motion. This took pretty much three days, with multiple conversations between myself, SU, Luc and at one point a sit-down conversation with two members of AUJS who were present at the conference and asked to speak to me.

I did want to flag this because I am big on transparency and the reality is that there were significant periods of time when I was not on Conference floor in order to deal with the behind the scenes of getting this motion across the line. In that time, my votes were proxied to my faction, and hence I was still accounted for whilst voting occurred.

If you would like a play-by-play of conference, student media from campuses across the country were live tweeting so they would be your best source of figuring out wtf actually happened because I'm not gonna lie, it was so long ago and lowkey traumatic that my brain has just shut out all memories of it.

Day One: <https://twitter.com/Woroni/status/1602141225813184512>

Day Two: <https://twitter.com/Woroni/status/1602423877539225600>

Day Three: <https://twitter.com/Woroni/status/1603157391226175489>

Day Four: <https://twitter.com/Woroni/status/1603274498458808320>

My caveat to referring you onto student media for reporting is that this year it was very clear that the reporting of conference was nowhere near objective to put it nicely. Autonomous chapters were not accurately reported on, there were clear factional biases from certain student media groups and also just generally, a lack of understanding of the purpose of National Conference.

### ANUSA's Voting Record

I already know this is the section of my report that is going to piss everyone off but I believe transparency is important so I am going to try and be a little diplomatic here. I won't be naming names, because voting records speak for themselves and my job here is to highlight how your interests were represented overall, not play a petty game of who said what.

ANUSA has a very obvious distaste for 'factional politics' and the justification that is thrown around is that "factions only serve their own interests, not the interests of the students they represent." As I noted earlier Unity, NLS and SAIt all bind, so their voting record is public and cohesive. For this reason, I do feel it's important that students know how the independent delegates from ANU voted considering they don't bind, and are free to vote as they please. I do want to flag that some of them did differ in their voting across these motions, which I will indicate where applicable.

Finally, as I said, I value transparency so I am more than happy to speak about how and why my faction and hence myself, voted on anything at NatCon. If you would like to talk, please reach out!

I moved a motion (11.2) on behalf of someone in my faction about making queer spaces more culturally safe. Two out of three of the independent NUS delegates voted against this motion, citing being unhappy with the wording as the reason they voted it down. There were no efforts made to attempt to speak to the mover about altering wording, which is a norm during NatCon (motions tend to be edited on the go, a majority are also amenable to the mover so they don't even have to be debated on).

In motion 5.13 and put up by NLS about putting the onus of duty of care onto universities, the ANU independents voted against the motion. This motion was a culmination of the work of the last Welfare Officer, Billy Zimmerman, as well as Georgie Beatty, the previous President. This motion saw the NUS incorporating a campaign to push the federal government to adopt an enforceable national code of conduct to make sure universities aren't able to skirt responsibility for their duty of care over students, particularly in relation to student welfare and SASH.

Motion 6.12 put up by SAIt was against superannuation and was voted up by the ANU independents. The motion at its core suggested the gender pay gap that is exhibited in lower super for non-males is a result of the oppression of working-class people rather than the systemic oppression of the patriarchy. It also called for the NUS to boycott superannuation.

I was asked to recant my previous statement regarding this motion (7.15). Socialist alternative shamefully voted the motion down; there was a lot of commotion going on during the voting and so we weren't able to see how all of the ANU delegates voted on this particular motion.

Regardless, the fact that the ANU independents want to “back the political strategy” of Socialist Alternative in the NUS who I think are SWERFs is, I believe, quite concerning for ANU students - particularly those who may want to engage in sex work.

All three independent delegates also abstained from voting in a motion that called for the NUS Indigenous Officer to be elected autonomously.

Rightly so, autonomy is an issue that is very widely discussed in the stupol space at ANU. At every SRC I've been to in my past three years in this space, there is always a conversation about whether or not we are doing right by our autonomous collectives. However, over the duration of this conference, it became clear to me that autonomy is only valued by the ANU independents when they can wave it around in a room full of people who know them. There were many instances on their voting record which highlighted that they don't value autonomy unless they are the people who are being seen to be championing it. Personally, autonomy is something taken incredibly seriously by myself and my faction. But the distaste the incumbents have for factions clearly outweighs their desire for autonomous collectives to have their own say.

In saying that, I do want to acknowledge that it is my understanding that some autonomous officers at ANU were contacted by an independent delegate who spoke to them about how to vote on autonomous issues. I do not know the outcomes of those conversations but I do want to highlight that a conversation happened.

#### Overall, what were the vibes?

I am a big believer in the NUS and its ability to be able to positively represent tertiary students and student unions across the country. The NUS is by no means a perfect organisation, but perfection cannot be the enemy of good.

It isn't really a secret that I have MANY issues with the way the debate of affiliation to the NUS is framed at ANU and it's because I am a unionist in the true sense of the word. I believe that collective action and power in numbers is the only way to bring about any change. In the words of many NLS greats before me - if you're not at the table, you're on the menu. We can't continue to have the same conversations on our campus about how the NUS isn't doing enough for us when we aren't actively willing to engage with the NUS in a meaningful way.

The ANU independents have many critiques of the NUS, some of which are valid and some of which aren't. The idea that the NUS does nothing for us is honestly just pure stupid. A comment recently made by a certain ANU independent about the measly NUS campaign really highlights this - how do you expect an organisation you give almost no money to, to give you more money back in return? ANU's affiliation fees to the NUS are \$45,000 a year, yet every year we only affiliate for \$10,000 (the bare fucking minimum) and then complain about how the NUS doesn't give us enough of a campaign budget, or that OBs don't engage with us enough or how the NUS doesn't pay enough of its OBs as if we aren't part of the problem.

This leads me onto NatCon itself. Whilst it was great to be back in person and see how massively vast the student movement is and the activists who give their all to fight for students,

conference was fucked. Like there is no way to effectively highlight how insane it is on conference floor but I'll try. Think of a regular ANUSA SRC meeting, except it's 300 people in a small lecture hall, make it 10 hours long for four days, with everyone on crack and then make the agenda 250 pages long. It's not a good experience at all.

I go into NatCon (and any other stupol event) in the same way I do a trade union conference which is knowing that I will be coming out the other side an absolute trainwreck but I'm doing it for the greater good. The reality is that as horrible as the experience is for my mental and physical well-being, I don't really get the ability to step back and choose not to engage because I want to watch from my ivory tower of political purity. I know that sitting back and complaining about the NUS and the way it does things, without actively trying to engage to make it better doesn't get us anywhere. So I do what I have to do to get through, and whilst that meant a diet of predominantly Rebull and nicotine for a week, which maybe didn't help, we got there in the end. I really do hope that there comes a time when the indies on our campus realise that the only way to change the outcome is to weather the storm.

Finally, whilst there are some valid critiques of the behaviour of the "Labor Factions" as we were so lovingly referred to all Conference, I do want to highlight that NLS in particular was more than unfairly targeted. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion and I am not saying we were perfectly behaved by any means, but on multiple occasions I was harassed by SAIt during break times and cried in manier bathrooms because of them. At almost every break, I was having to become a physical barrier between older members of SAIt and younger members of my own faction, to stop them from getting in their faces whilst they were trying to eat. NLS had to walk out of a session of conference because SAIt harassed one of our speakers so badly that when we were walking out a physical brawl broke out. SAIt also physically assaulted a conference organiser, who was both a woman and in NLS. By Day 3, the harassment myself and my faction were coping was bad enough that SAIt had to be relocated to the other side of the room so there was a physical barrier of an entire faction (Unity) between us. This by no means is a way of me trying to skirt any responsibility for behaviour that should have been better, but it is my way of saying that if you are going to continue to say that the NUS is a horrible organisation because of the behaviour of "Labor Factions" maybe you need to get your eyes checked and your facts straightened.

In summary, NatCon was a shitshow in the best way possible. I wouldn't do it again unless you paid me a million dollars, got rid of SAIt (and some others) and also paid the full affiliation fees so that I could make sure I wasn't coming from a scab union, but I wouldn't change my experience either. Other than maybe crying in the bathroom multiple times a day but it's character development I guess.

If you have questions about this report, about how I voted on any motions or just questions about the NUS in general, please reach out at [u6942066@anu.edu.au](mailto:u6942066@anu.edu.au) or Azraa Hussain on Facebook.

Reference P

NUS Delegate – Beatrice Tucker

Reference Q

## **NUS National Conference Report**

Ben Yates

### **Political analysis**

The conference was marked by a few key shifts politically

- A self-congratulatory listlessness among the Labor factions now that their party is in government.
- A marked shift to the political right in National Labor Students, including censoring critique of the University Accords, preventing criticism of Jordan Peterson and SCOTUS overturning Roe v Wade, and shouting misogynistic insults at members of Socialist Alternative. More broadly, this seems to be indicative of an ideological decline in NLS.
- The collapse of the Grassroots Independents – a long overdue death to a failed political project.
- A clear upsurge in the strength of Socialist Alternative.

The political lines of the conference were shaped by the question of political strategy under a Labor Government. This led to a clear redrawing of the political lines where NLS most often formed part of a 'right bloc' with Labor Right and the one Liberal than forming part of a 'left bloc' with Socialist Alternative, Sydney Grassroots and left wing independents.

Much of the genuine political contestation surrounded the University Accords. On this point, the Labor factions generally justified participation exclusively on the basis of a hackneyed analogy of being either 'at the table [with management/industry/government] or on the menu'. I put forward a motion to bind the NUS not to participate in the Accords. This motion failed with opposition from both Labor factions.

Another point of political contestation was the Religious Discrimination Bill. For the first several days of conference, NLS refused to condemn the bill. Under scrutiny from Socialist Alternative, NLS finally joined the left opposition to the bill.

There is equal cause for dismay and hope coming out of the conference. The political degeneration of the Labor factions is obvious. The appetite for censorious right-wing politics from those groups was alarming. Equally, however, the conference put on display a mature and radical strategy for the union from Socialist Alternative.

### **Other comments**

### **ANUSA Department Consultation**

I reached out to all autonomous department officers with requests to consult on all motions I could find relevant to their membership. I am very grateful to the department officers for quickly turning around these requests in the 48 hours I had with the agenda before the conference. I largely held myself to the positions recommended by the ANUSA departments although on occasion novel arguments were raised in debate that compelled me to vote in a different direction. The conference is not set up to productively engage with our departments but I think it is worthwhile to create the opportunity for engagement.

### **Physical Violence**

The conference was marred by breathtaking levels of physical violence. This especially took place among members of the business committee, a table of 7 people at the front of the conference room who manage the order of the agenda. Because of arcane procedures, motions come to the committee on pieces of paper signed by faction leaders. This led to repeated and shocking physical violence between committee members seeking to destroy paper containing motions they didn't support. People were repeatedly pushed over, grabbed and shoved and furniture was knocked over. The one time I took a motion to business committee, I was shoved away by a member of Student Unity as I handed the motion to a member of Socialist Alternative. This happened non-stop for the first two days of the conference, to the extent that I found I lost sensitivity to the violence.

At the end of the second day, after NLS spent the day refusing to explicitly condemn the ALP for proposing to bring back the homophobic and transphobic Religious Discrimination Bill, members of Socialist Alternative went to confront NLS members on this political decision. From where I witnessed it, this appeared to vary from SA members starting political conversations to other SA members being more aggressive. The conflict then appeared to escalate and senior members of Student Unity and NLS performed what can only be described as a kettling manoeuvre to collect their younger members and allow them to leave. This manoeuvre involved senior members of the Labor factions pushing and shoving anyone who wasn't obviously a Labor member, including independents.

### **Political intervention**

A significant number of people have independently relayed to me that a senior member of NLS reportedly was contacted by the Prime Minister's Office regarding the motion on the agenda on solidarity with Palestine. To their credit, NLS voted up this motion in any case, however, if true, it is an interesting comment on the relationship between the NUS and government.

### **Promises I made and kept**

In the election I promised that I would sit independently, not with any faction, would not give my votes away and wouldn't proxy to anyone outside of the Power in Community ticket. I upheld all of these promises.



I did not sit with any faction. Functionally, there was a level of shared purpose and politics between me, Beatrice and Skye, UWA independents and Sydney Grassroots. This led to us helping each other work through the complexities of the conference. This group did meet a few times while at the conference but never bound to any positions and we frequently voted differently from each other. These meetings were largely just conversations about how each of us were thinking about various motions as well as debriefing after difficult days. Trying to be an independent 'island' at NatCon is impossible given that the organisers and many other participants are persistently incapable of understanding the concept of independents.

I did not give my votes away. I filled out my own ballots. I did not do any deals over my ballots. Myself, Bea and Skye did an EOI form for state branch positions and selected Luke Harrison (independent) to be ACT State Branch President and Nick Reich (Socialist Alternative) to be ACT Education Vice-President. I was approached by some groups asking me to do various deals over my votes. I did not accept any of these. I voted for Hannah Horton, UNSW Environment Officer and member of Sydney Grassroots, in the National Executive ballot as the only non-Labor candidate in that election.

I did not proxy my votes outside of candidates who ran on Power in Community. I held my own vote on conference floor for the duration of the conference except for the final afternoon when I had to leave early. During this time, Skye, who ran on Power in Community, held my proxy.

### **Recommendations**

- **ANU Delegates should back the political strategy of Socialist Alternative at the NUS.** Many members of this council have important objections to Socialist Alternative. I share some of those. However, the reality is at NUS we must choose between Labor's political project or Socialist Alternative's. Between these two, I choose the latter. There is no real prospect of an independent left-wing movement at the NUS. Grassroots and the Grassroot Independents each failed to create this. Future ANU delegates should avoid enabling delusions of influence from independent left groups seeking to create such a movement in the future. No group besides Socialist Alternative has the politics, the networks, the drive and the knowledge to institute transformative change in the NUS. I do think independents should continue to run to be elected delegates. There is an electoral reality that this is the path towards left-majority delegate contingents from ANU. However, I would encourage future delegates to support SA to get elected to office-bearer positions.
- **ANUSA should re-accredit to the NUS.** I revise my recommendations from my report last year in this regard. Grace Hill of Socialist Alternative convinced me last year that dis-accrediting was a political misstep. I do not think KPIs are a useful tool to achieve the political, rather than bureaucratic, change needed in the NUS.

## **Conclusions**

We can and should resent much about the NUS. It fails students consistently. We must frame this discontent in political, not bureaucratic term. The NUS is messy, and frequently poorly administered. But that is the symptom of a political problem, a dearth of strategy and a complicity with the government.

I congratulate the ANU students who were elected to positions at the conference. I wish them all the best in their terms.

The conference is an engaging and interesting experience in some regards; it is politically clarifying and puts the political contours of the student movement in sharp relief.

Reference R

## **Samuel MacRae - NUS Delegate Report**

### **Summary:**

- **Introduction**
- **Conference itself**
- **Factions, factions, factions**
- **Thoughts on some of the Natcon debates**
- **Thoughts on the NUS**
- **Final words (and some congratulations)**

### **Introduction <3**

Hi everyone, Sam here. I was previously a gen rep on ANUSA and was one of the five delegates ANUSA sent to the annual national conference of the NUS which was held in December at Deakin University in Geelong. I'll try to keep this report relatively brief; hopefully, it'll be easy to follow along. I think I've covered all the bases but if you have any questions about my experience as a delegate or my thoughts about NatCon, thoughts I have about the NUS or about what went down in Geelong, feel free to email me at [u7284173@anu.edu.au](mailto:u7284173@anu.edu.au) 😊

NatCon, taking the definition directly from the NUS website, is *an annual conference hosted by the NUS to elect new office bearers, consider the audited statement of accounts, consider reports of the National and State Officers, and (the best part) discuss amendments to the NUS standing policy platform*. The NUS has 19-member student unions who all (generally) send delegates to conference for that year, elected in their own individual student union elections just like how we do in our ANUSA elections. There are also some universities that are NUS affiliated but not accredited, and of course, as the national student union any student who wishes to can make the journey and attend. The NUS is also known to be governed by student factions, just like any representative body and especially those involved in student politics. To borrow an analogy with parliament, delegates elected in their respective university elections tend to align themselves with a wider NUS faction. These factions with which delegates align themselves are student unity, national labor students, socialist alternative and the grassroots independents (grindies), while there are also some independent delegates not aligned to any faction floating around on the conference floor (and who will usually align themselves with one while conference happens anyway). I have more thoughts on the NUS along with the factions, their purpose and some random thoughts about what I think about them and how they were at the conference later in the piece. Also later in this report is my thoughts about how the conference was run and brief thoughts on its accessibility and format.

Overall, though, I had a tiring but fulfilling experience being a delegate and attending NatCon. I had a very challenging month leading up to travelling down to Geelong, If things had been different I could have engaged more with policy motions and proposed some regarding rural, regional & remote (RRR) students which I am myself. Nevertheless, sometimes things are out

of our control and I want to give a special shoutout in this report to my friends (some of whom also attended NatCon with me as non-delegates) who were very supportive of me during a difficult time back home and when I had a lot on my plate that no one should really have to go through. But also, shoutout to my family who even in more stressful times always support me in chasing my passions and undertaking new experiences whenever I can, like NatCon was for me an opportunity to represent ANU students and engage with student politics on a national level.

### **Conference Itself**

Conference was really tiring, but that's just a part of the experience with so many motions and platforms to get through, along with electing the national executive and the national office bearers of the NUS. I have massive respect for Emily Šagolj and Guleid Abdullahi, respectively last year's NUS General Secretary and Deakin University Students Association President, for pulling the conference together and in person for the first time since 2019. Conference managed to get through everything by the close of the conference on Thursday afternoon except for a big chunk of the urgency motions. There were some late nights that were very brutal. The conference isn't as accessible as it should be and those late nights were very emblematic of that, along with the incessant amounts of screaming and yelling and in some cases, the instances of physical intimidation that occurred by some rogue actors attending. Often too it was also very hard sometimes to follow what was actually happening. Besides those aspects, I enjoyed all of the chairs of the conference across the days and the length and intensity of the debates at NatCon were physically and mentally draining and became in certain moments very challenging to sit through.

Regarding another aspect of NatCon's accessibility, ANUSA was incredibly assistive in helping me and the other four delegates attend. ANUSA covering the cost of the ticket along with the flights to and from Melbourne is something I am very grateful for, and I am grateful to the executive members of ANUSA who made that happen along with the ANUSA staff for being so lovely to communicate with about specific logistics. It's quite a substantial cost I can imagine but I think should continue for the years and delegates ahead to ease the costs and challenges of travelling to Victoria for NatCon each year. Thank you ANUSA!

As for myself in the conference, I was very grateful to be one of the whips for student unity during a couple of the policy chapter debates. It was a valuable experience and was a busy role with so many votes happening, things being passed on block and standing orders changing constantly when you never can guess what's going into BizCom. It was a role I was very happy to play and help other delegates keep on top of what was happening and being considered on conference floor. I also helped fill the speakers' list and encouraged a lot of other conference attendees in student unity to speak, besides the times I spoke myself. There was a lot going on, but I felt I really got into it all and helped it run a little bit more smoothly.

### **Factions, Factions, Factions**

Before talking about factions, I will make some brief declarations because like everyone who attended NatCon, I have my own political beliefs and affiliations and it's right to disclose them when discussing the factions generally, what I think about them, and how they behaved. Additionally, whether it's right or wrong to be in a faction or not, and whether the NUS is better or worse with them existing.

Firstly, I am the following:

- I am a member of Student Unity, to whom I caucus, attend the pre-conference of, and bind with on the NatCon conference floor.
- I am a member of the ACT Labor Party (wow!), I caucus with the ACT Right and the ACT Young Right in ACT Young Labor.

Secondly, I think factions are an unavoidable part of the NUS. Like any representative body, people will self-sort themselves into larger groups. The NUS is known for its strong factionalism, which I don't necessarily have a problem with because while they do dominate the NUS, determine who gets what office bearer position and the numbers on the national executive and what gets passed etc, etc, etc... the power of the factions is based on the votes of students. Student Unity comprises 40% of the delegates is just a reflection of what students have voted for on a national level, whether we at ANU like it or not. The same goes for Socialist Alternative having 20% (I think that's what it was) of the delegates, and the Grindies going from 20% down to ~ 4% in a year.

Thirdly, the behaviour of some of the factions was at times just terrible. Mainly Socialist Alternative, but while I am a member of student unity, I say that not because SAIt was rude towards me or even unity in particular, but at NLS (National Labor Students) they were. I understand and we all know SAIt has a particular style of campaigning that is very big on physical presence, intimidation and yelling to drive their point across, and at conferences sometimes it works! However, there was a point at the conference when Socialist Alternative was refusing to let NLS leave the room and tried to corner NLS members while screaming in their face, pointing, etc etc. As someone with eyes and like at least basic empathy (although I wouldn't be shocked if some who I criticise in this report would say otherwise) I found that particular moment disgusting to watch and I felt sorry for the NLS members who suffered with SAIt throughout the conference. Especially NLS attendees who hadn't even done anything to provoke such insults and tactics being deployed onto them, or were first-years being screamed at by people in their late 20s which I found a little unfair. Often at NatCon, it seemed like for most NLS members the only 'crime' they had committed in SAIt's eyes was simply being members of NLS, all the same time SAIt never really came for student unity at all compared to how hard they went for NLS over the four days of NatCon (which even I'll admit I was shocked about). I hope at future conferences there won't be moments where people feel unsafe about the actions and language of other attendees.

Besides all that, I think everything else about the factions is pretty much already understood, and there are plenty of write-ups of the factions, who they are and what ideologies they're associated with floating around on student media. But for my amusement (at least, and maybe yours too) I'll make a brief one! SAIt are the trots waiting for enough member dues to launch the next revolution (when that may be, TBD), Grindies are Green-aligned independents (but never make the mistake of calling them hacks, because only Labor members can be hacks apparently), NLS is aligned with Labor left and student unity is aligned with Labor right (very complicated I know).

One thing about the factions that doesn't get said often, and I tend to be a glass-half-full type of person, is that we all do have something in common in wanting to improve the state of tertiary education and welfare for students across Australia. We all have different thoughts on how the NUS can best make that change, but at the very least I'm grateful for the diversity of opinions that the different factions (and the independents xoxo) provide, and there's something we

might be able to learn from each other from attending these conferences on how to improve the NUS, on working together and how to extract improvements for students.

### **Thoughts on (some of) the Debates:**

I won't go into depth on what went down each day in each platform and say what I think about that particular issue, but I will use this part of my report to talk about one issue that came up during the conference, which is the upcoming referendum on the voice to parliament.

I wholeheartedly support committing in full to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and implementing the voice, treaty and truth in the sequential order that the statement called for. I'm glad the NUS has committed to supporting the yes campaign on the upcoming referendum, and I'm very excited to see Patrick Taylor in the National First Nations Officer position this year. I don't want to pick shots about who did and didn't support the voice-related motions at NatCon in this report but I do dearly hope this SRC commits to supporting the yes campaign if the opportunity arises. I will be campaigning for the yes campaign, and I want to lend my support to it however I can. I hope the members of this SRC feel the same way, I hope the day when the Uluru Statement is fully implemented comes soon and the voice is voted on favourably by Australians this year as the first step which the Statement wanted.

### **Thoughts on the NUS**

My thoughts on the NUS are quite simple. Those who show up can get stuff done, and ANUSA and ANU students are better for it that we contribute to the NUS each year. It's a strong belief of someone who this time last year hadn't attended an in-person NUS conference before, to now attending EdCon last July and NatCon in December (and planning to do both again this year), that if you feel the NUS isn't doing enough for you, get involved! The NUS has been another educating experience for me on how unions function and I will say that NatCon can build your skills in lobbying, organising, negotiating, speaking and doing nitty-gritty political admin that anyone in any faction can take forward into their own activism and politics. NatCon was a big learning experience not only on just how the NUS worked but also on how other student unions work and provide for their members at their own campuses as well. Not only just from hearing other students talk about their own universities and programs for students, but also seeing what Deakin's DUSA is doing while we were at the Waurn Ponds for those 4-5 days of the conference as well. Seeing change on a national level as well is awesome to watch, and NatCon is a great opportunity for the NUS to catch up about its plans for the year ahead and hear from the outgoing and next office-bearers on what they're going to bring to the role.

There's been some discussion in recent years that the NUS needs KPIs to improve itself. I, besides still waiting for what these KPIs actually would be, agree that the NUS can always be improved upon. NatCon is not necessarily a fun experience unless stretching your imagination and definitions of what fun is, but it's necessary. The NUS itself I find necessary than the alternative of no national union of students altogether. The NUS is not a perfect union or the perfect version of itself, but I have faith it can be better in the future, especially the conferences. Anyway, the NUS as a concept I am very hooked on, and so should you!

## Final Words

In this last section, I just have to congratulate some people near and dear to me who I've interacted with in my time as a delegate, and seen do great things in their role or think will do great things in the near future xoxo

Firstly, huge congratulations to Ben Naiju and Isabella Harding for their respective elections as the National Ethnocultural Officer and National Disability Officer!

I had the pleasure of meeting Isabella while running for ANUSA together last year, and while I wished she had won I am so happy to see her enter this position where I know she will do some good! Isabella has always been very kind to me, and I admired her passion at NatCon and will continue to admire her work as the disability officer this year.

Ben, Ben, Ben... you slay and the most emblematic sign of that is that even Socialist Alternative members thought you were the best chair we had at NatCon. You're an awesome friend and you too are also so passionate about your politics and activism and I am so excited you're the national ethnocultural officer this year! You're always a fun time and if anyone is reading this and agrees, you should come to the next event for the (REDACTED) club <3

Also!!! Congratulations to the rest of the office bearers and members of the national executive who were elected, especially (mostly) to my student unity comrades interstate. I kinda think ur all cool and sexy xoxo

ALSO! Thank you to Alex Nancarrow! One of my best friends. You were such a gracious, kind and epic convenor of our ticket last year. I loved having you there at NatCon and I'm grateful for the opportunity, and I can't wait to see what you get upto next xoxoxoxo

Finally, thank you to the other four delegates, you all slayed in your own ways and I admire that! Especially Azraa, one of the busiest people I saw at the conference. Your passion for what you believe in is admirable and no one should deny you gave your all into NatCon and you rock!

Actual finally, thank you to ANUSA and ANU Students. Your votes elected me as a delegate, and I am so grateful for the opportunity. My friends through to people I don't know, thank you all so much. I may not be on ANUSA this year, but I'm always around and about doing something political and I don't mind having a chat about my experience if anyone desires at all <3

I am so thankful though for my time on ANUSA and all the people I've met along the way. ANU Students are so lucky to have such politically savvy people of different stripes who want progressive results for students. Emphasis on progressive, sorry liberals you weren't included in the previous sentence but that goes without saying 😊 Again, thank you, everyone! I'm just happy to be here

My time engaging with the NUS doesn't end here, and I look forward to seeing where it goes in the future!

Sam



## Reference S

### NUS Delegate report – Skye Predevac

The National Union of Students seems to me to be a deeply, institutionally useless organisation that continually gives money and power to individuals with little interest or ability to conduct the kinds of campaigns that are necessary to achieve its goals. It has no real overarching strategy to implement the goals that it sets forward, with a prime example being its yearly change the age campaign, which has entirely failed to gain traction or change legislation. NUS officeholders have no real obligations to actually do work deserving of what can be substantial salaries. Most notably, while the campaign budget for 2022 was two thousand dollars, the bar tab on the last night of the conference was four thousand.

Throughout the conference, while on many less prominent issues, influence could be wielded (and was) by other factions, on most of the issues of substance, those which defined what the NUS would 'campaign' on this year, it was entirely defined by factions with little to no interest in campaigning against the current government. At a crucial time for issues such as housing, the environment, and education, this means the NUS will likely remain a mostly milquetoast institution.

What all this shows however is that the NUS is deeply flawed, not that it always has to be, or that any peak body for student unionism has to be. While I find it difficult to stomach sending tens of thousands of dollars to be embezzled or wasted on the salaries of officeholders who might barely do work, I do think that an Australian Union of Students is necessary to represent and campaign for our demands. ANUSA should cooperate with the NUS when it is useful, especially in campaigns on education and queer rights, but must approach the organisation with a critical lens. Additionally, ANUSA should not disaffiliate without an alternative national union. If the NUS is the SDA, then we need a RAFFWU, but should not leave until such an organisation exists.

Reference T

Hi there! My name is Luke (they/them) and I am the National Union of Students ACT State Branch President for 2023. The main roles of the State Branch President (SBP) is two-fold. 1. I am a voting member of the National Executive of the NUS and 2. Organising and coordinating (alongside the State Vice-President) campaigns with and without National Office Bearers.

I'm intending to break down my report for the ANUSA SRC into two parts.

1. Talking about what I've done so far in the time period between meetings and 2. Talking about what is going on more generally in the NUS and my thoughts on it.

### **1. What I've done so far in 2023.**

- Trainings:
  - o Education training: I had some training the Education Officer and other Deputy Education Officers. In this training, we analysed the power structure of the university and constructed a timeline of the history of Higher Education and education activism.
  - o General Training: Had some more broad training with other ANUSA officers and identified keys that need to be worked on this year as well as strategies to achieve it.
- ANUSA's Counter-Course Guide
  - o I wrote an article for ANUSA's Counter-Course Guide, where I wrote about the increasing privatisation of residential halls and how they were sold by the ANU to AMP Capital.
- National Day of Climate Action
  - o Attended an organising meeting regarding the National Day of Climate with activists to organise and plan Canberra's rally on the 17th of March.

- Poster around ANU with posters for the Climate NDA
- Worked with the General Secretary and the ACT State VP/Education to write a motion for the SRC to support the Climate NDA.
- ANU Market Day
  - I organised and held a stall for the National Union of Students at ANU's Market Day. I was joined by the NUS President and ACT VP/Education and talked to students about upcoming NUS Campaigns.
- NUS President Summit
  - I attended the NUS President Summit from 01/02 - 03/02 with the President, General Secretary, and the NUS Executive. I will talk more about it later in my report.
- Mardi Gras Street Rally
  - I attended the Mardi Gras Street Rally on the 19/02 hosted by Pride in Protest supported by NUS Queer. The rally was to fight against corporate pride and police presence at protests.

## 2. What's going on in the National Union of Students?

There are numerous campaigns and plans being organised by the various Office Bearers of the NUS. If any of these campaigns interest you or you want to learn more, please message me or email me at [act.pres@nus.asn.au](mailto:act.pres@nus.asn.au).

Content Warning: There are mentions of SASH (Sexual Assault and Sexual Harrassment).

- Welfare and NUS in general: Change the Age Campaign.
  - Working alongside the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA), Welfare Officer Grace Franco, President Bailey Riley, and General Secretary Sheldon Gait will be focusing on the Change

the Age Campaign. A lobbying campaign, aimed at Centrelink. The four main policy recommendations for the campaign are: Lower the Age of Independence for Centrelink from 22 to 18, Lift social security payments to above the poverty (\$88 per day), Adjust Centrelink payments with the cost of living, Update rent assistance payments in line with market rents. You can find the website here:

<https://nus.asn.au/index.php/campaigns/change-the-age/>. I

would like to note two things: 1. This campaign has been going on for a number of years now and the lobbying campaign has yet to result in any significant change. 2. At the NUS Presidents Summit, several of us argued for a non-lobbying campaign that would aim to have tangible solutions to problems that are impacting so many workers and students such as the rent crisis and the cost of living.

- First Nations: The Voice to Parliament
  - o First Nations' Officer Patrick Taylor and NUS President Bailey Riley will be working on a campaign to support a 'yes' vote for the Voice to Parliament. It was ultimately passed at the NUS National Conference that the NUS supports a Voice to Parliament. It's in early stages so unclear what the campaign will look like and how it's going to impact the ACT.
- Education:
  - o Education Officer Xavier Dupe has organised two campaigns for this year so far:
  - o As you may well know, there will be a National Day of Climate Action on the 17th of March to fight for shutting down the Fossil Fuel industry, taxing the rich to fund a just transition to renewable energy and to compensate victims of the climate catastrophe, stopping the expansion of gas and oil, such as the Scarborough and Beetaloo Basin projects, land rights, standing with the Gomeroi people and stopping the Narrabri gas project

by Santos, and stopping the repression of climate protestors.

Here is the link to the Facebook event:

[https://www.facebook.com/events/498203195747966/?acontext=%7B%22event\\_action\\_history%22%3A\[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22calendar\\_tab\\_event%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark\\_calendar%22%7D\]%2C%22ref\\_notif\\_type%22%3Anull%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/498203195747966/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22calendar_tab_event%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark_calendar%22%7D]%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D) .

- Xavier's second project is: 'Get A Room: Students for Affordable Housing.' A campaign to tackle the rental crisis. The demands of the campaign are: a national two-year rent freeze and rent reductions, an investigation into landlords, remove the possibility of unfair evictions, emergency housing for international students, raise the rate of welfare payments (Youth Allowance, Austudy, and JobSeeker) to meet the cost of living, build public housing to meet demand, and expropriate investment properties.
- Womens': SASH
  - National Womens' Officer Emily Searle is looking to construct a campaign around SASH on university campuses. Still in early days so its unclear what this campaign will look like.
- Queer: Religious Discrimination Bill and other projects
  - Queer Officers Damien Nguyen and Grace Hill have made it clear that they will fight against the Religious Discrimination Bill when it resurfaces no matter what. Damien is currently working on a submission on the Religious Discrimination Bill. Beyond the RDB, the Queer Officers have several smaller projects. On Sunday the 19th I attended the Mardi Gras Street Rally organised by Pride in Protest and supported by NUS Queer. NUS Queer is also supporting a rally on April 2nd for Trans Day of Visibility in Sydney  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1564128180722275>. In Canberra, NUS Queer is supporting a rally for International

Women's Day to fight for accessible abortions

<https://www.facebook.com/events/556665776124048> and is organising a rally against transphobe and alt-right figure Kellie-Jay Keen

[https://www.facebook.com/events/932910537870986/?acontext=%7B%22event\\_action\\_history%22%3A\[%7B%22extra\\_data%22%3A%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22calendar\\_tab\\_event%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark\\_calendar%22%7D%2C%7B%22extra\\_data%22%3A%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22calendar\\_going\\_events\\_unit%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark\\_calendar%22%7D\]%2C%22ref\\_notif\\_type%22%3Anull%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/932910537870986/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22extra_data%22%3A%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22calendar_tab_event%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark_calendar%22%7D%2C%7B%22extra_data%22%3A%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22calendar_going_events_unit%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22bookmark_calendar%22%7D]%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D) . Both of these rallies are also

being supported by the ANUSA Womens Department.

- Disabilities: Hybrid Learning
  - o Disabilities Officer Isabella Harding is working on a national campaign to fight against in-person learning, and in-person learning only, being mandated and fighting for hybrid learning. The campaign will also be hybrid, in-person rallies as well as online methods of campaigning.
- Small and Regional Officer: Mental Health in the Regions
  - o Cheyne Howard is organising a campaign to help raise awareness of, and fight to improve, the standard of mental health in regional Australia.
- University Accords
  - o The NUS will be taking part in the University Accords.

President Summit:

- I want to talk briefly about my thoughts on the NUS President Summit that happened from the 1st of February to the 3rd of February. President Summit is a yearly conference where the National Executive of the NUS and the Presidents and General Secretaries of

affiliate student unions are invited together to discuss the year ahead and how to conduct NUS campaigns on campuses.

- My thoughts on President Summit range from unimpressive to utterly useless. It was clear that many of the office bearers on the National Executive had little direction on the campaigns they wanted to run nor had any idea on what strategies they had in mind for their campaigns. I know it is only the start of their terms, but, the lack of vision for beyond the standard campaigns was borderline concerning.
- Furthermore, the summit was dominated and bogged down by useless, bureaucratic sessions.
  - o A 3-hour session on governance for the national executive training took up a large portion of the first day. While governance training is important, it was unnecessarily long and devoid of any discussion on our role as a union.
  - o We were visited by a worker from the Ramsay Centre (yes that one), who told the room about how to write grants. And, when questioned about her working for a racist organisation, many in the room agreed with her on the stance that taking money from horrible and racist organisations is okay because ultimately the money goes to good.
  - o A worker from the Victorian Young Workers Centre came and spoke to us about how good the YWC is and how they managed to 'end wage theft in Victoria' and then showed us a presentation on how we should conduct our campaigns.
  - o There were many, many more workshops of similar nature. I have included a picture of the schedule, so if you have any questions about specific things we looked at, please feel free to hit me up. Note, the schedule isn't entirely accurate as there were things moved around and added on the day.

Thursday 2nd February		Friday 3rd February		Wednesday 1st February (NUS only)	
09:30	Arrival and Registration	09:30	Arrival	09:00	Arrival
10:00	Meet your fellow Presidents	10:00	Housekeeping	09:30	Governance Training (Online)
10:30	Welcome to Country + House keeping	10:15	Ethno Presentation	13:00	Lunch
11:00	President + Gensec Presentations	10:30	Welfare Officer Presentation	13:30	Campaign Video
11:30	Key issues on campus - What do you want to see from your NUS	11:00	TEQSA - Our Work	15:30	2023 Campaign Discussion
12:00	Lunch	12:00	Introduction to the Senate	17:00	NUS Finance 101
13:00	FYA - Change the Age + Campaign Training	13:00	Lunch	17:30	Afternoon Break
14:00	Grant Writing For Community Organisations	14:00	Voice to Parliament	18:00	NX 1 - In person
15:00	Afternoon Break - 15 min	14:30	Education Officer Workshop	19:00	NUS Dinner
15:15	Young Worker Centre Campaign Training	15:00	Queer Presentation		
16:00	Media Workshop	15:15	Queer Presentation		
17:00	Disabilities Presentation	15:30	President + Gensec Presentations		
17:15	Women's Presentation	15:45	Afternoon Break - 15 min		
17:30	Thursday Debrief	16:00	NTEU		
17:45	Walk to Restaurant	17:00	International Student Issues		
18:00	Dinner	17:30	Friday Debrief		

- Lastly, what also concerned me was the active refusal to engage in political discussion. After OB presentations and workshops, attempts were made to have political discussions about the content we had just listened to or the campaign idea that was just pitched. However, these discussions were actively squashed and many attendees would refuse to have discussions with absolute resolve. This meant that campaigns couldn't be fleshed out, or a shared vision found. Only the vision of Labour would be had in these campaigns. During our discussions regarding the NUS last year, a consensus among the SRC was reached that the power we, has an independent, left-wing union, delegates, national executive members had was to politically challenge what was happening in the NUS to shape the direction of it. So, it concerns me that that becomes increasingly difficult when political discussion is actively denied during our conference with the presidents and general secretaries who are the ones on the ground, helping execute national campaigns.

Anyway, thank you for reading and listening to my report. If you have any questions, queries or concerns, please reach out to me. Thanks :)





## Presidents' Summit report

Phoenix O'Neill on behalf of themselves and Ben Yates



Ben and I went to the NUS Presidents' Summit on the 2nd-3rd of February at the University of Melbourne.

Presidents' Summit is organised by the National Union of Students - which I'm sure has been explained thoroughly by this point in the agenda. It is a large meeting of the Presidents of student unions across the country, sometimes with their Secretaries or Education Officers, and the NUS executive.

Disappointingly, much of the Summit was in the format of a conference where Presidents were being presented to without much room for discussion or strategising. I found that this made it feel like a corporate training conference rather than an area for organising and strategizing as unions. Any kind of discussion on many of the topics on the agenda was completely shut down and end of day debriefs were skipped due to time limitations. However, this was a serious obstacle to any sort of cross-campus solidarity and action being built - the leaders of student unions had limited time to interact outside of our own campuses during conference hours.

This was particularly frustrating in the face of some seriously questionable workshops. There was a Grant Writing For Community Organisations session that was run by the Paul Ramsey Foundation. There were two major flaws with this session. First, the Paul Ramsey foundation is funded by the estate of 'philanthropic' billionaire Paul Ramsey, which also funds the Ramsey Centre. The Ramsey Centre's aim is to 'advance education by promoting studies and discussion associated with the establishment and development of western civilisation' - so quite literally to introduce racist, imperialist programs and courses at Australian universities. Our SRC has condemned the Bachelor of Western Civilisation funding by the Ramsey Centre, and I am extremely concerned at the prospect of the NUS promoting a foundation funded by and named for the same man. Furthermore, the NUS promoting grant-writing programs to student unions while refusing to fight for mandatory student unionism and limiting their SSAF campaign to 50% SSAF is, in my opinion, a political failure. Setting up student unions to rely on external funding that has to appeal to the values of government or NGO groups is setting them

up to fail in fighting for students. It is unlikely that a racist billionaires foundation would fund projects that fight for worker's rights or Indigenous rights. The fact that we were being taught how to write grants but denied the time to discuss the 50% SSAF campaign that was only briefly mentioned by the NUS executive with other executive members across the country means that I have no faith that the NUS will materially support ANUSA in a fight for democratic student funding rather than university and government controlled funding.

Another presentation was by an ex-Labor Senator on how the Senate works and how to send submissions to a Senate inquiry. The example of the NUS' 2020 submission on the Job Ready Graduates Package was brought up as a great success of an NUS Senate submission because the first page clearly outlined student needs. The cognitive dissonance in this presentation shocked me, considering that exactly zero of the NUS' demands on the Job Ready Graduates Package were met.

I could continue outlining questionable workshops but what I am really trying to emphasise is that the Summit attempted to teach student union leadership how to lobby for money and change and shut down most critique of this method. I do acknowledge that there was a campaign training session, but without time to interact with other student leaders I still felt leaving the Summit that ANUSA would be isolated in organising our campaigns rather than building ideas for cross-campus focuses. I did find the Media Training session to be really great. Also, to give credit where credit is due, I enjoyed the session where student leaders outlined key issues on their campus and there was one discussion on student union approaches to the Voice to Parliament that was well-facilitated and saw multiple campuses (and factions) interacting civilly and generating interesting political discussion. I found this to be the most helpful part of the Summit - it's a really great place for consolidating our political approaches to student unionism and collecting information on how issues are manifesting on other campuses. Of course NatCon determines the direction of the National Union, but the Presidents' Summit is a great opportunity to impact the direction of our individual unions. Also, the context of the Summit allows for less factionalism which made a lot of the conversations a lot more civil and significantly more productive than what I've heard from NatCon when the discussions were actually facilitated.

I hope that in future years, the approach to Presidents' Summit focuses more on organising and strategizing between leadership from student unions than a conference, as I could see that being an extremely useful meeting going forward.