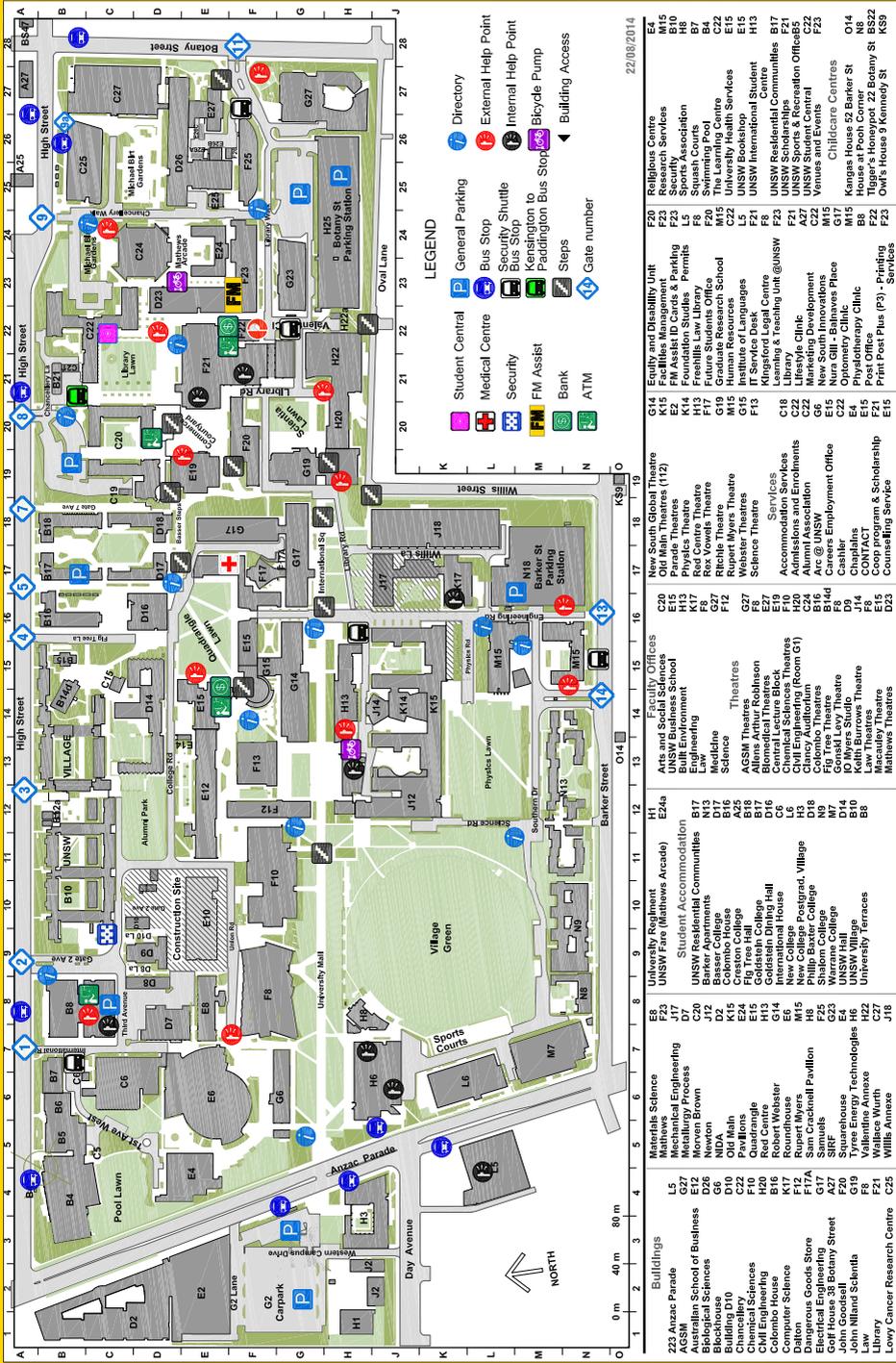


# EDCON

# 2015

6-10 JULY :: UNSW





22/06/2014

<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Materials Science</b>	<b>University Regiment</b>	<b>Faculty Offices</b>	<b>Equity and Disability Unit</b>	<b>Religious Centre</b>
223 Anzac Parade	Mathews	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Arts and Social Sciences	G14	F20
AGSN	M15	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Physics School	G15	F21
Australian School of Business	M16	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Built Environment	G16	F22
Biological Sciences	M17	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Engineering	G17	F23
Building D10	M18	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Medicine	G18	F24
Chancellery	M19	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Science	G19	F25
Computer Science	M20	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Theatres	G20	F26
Construction Site	M21	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	AGSM Theatres	G21	F27
Columbo House	M22	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Allens Arthur Robinson	G22	F28
Computer Science	M23	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Chemical Sciences Theatres	G23	F29
Dangerous Goods Store	M24	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Central Lecture Block	G24	F30
Electrical Engineering	M25	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Clancy Auditorium	G25	F31
GoF House 38 Botany Street	M26	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Colombo Theatres	G26	F32
John Niland Scientifics	M27	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Goaski-Loy Theatre	G27	F33
Library	M28	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	IO Myers Studio	G28	F34
Lowy Cancer Research Centre	M29	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Law Theatres	G29	F35
	M30	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)	Mathews Theatres	G30	F36
	M31	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G31	F37
	M32	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G32	F38
	M33	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G33	F39
	M34	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G34	F40
	M35	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G35	F41
	M36	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G36	F42
	M37	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G37	F43
	M38	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G38	F44
	M39	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G39	F45
	M40	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G40	F46
	M41	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G41	F47
	M42	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G42	F48
	M43	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G43	F49
	M44	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G44	F50
	M45	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G45	F51
	M46	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G46	F52
	M47	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G47	F53
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	M59	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G59	F65
	M60	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G60	F66
	M61	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G61	F67
	M62	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G62	F68
	M63	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G63	F69
	M64	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G64	F70
	M65	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G65	F71
	M66	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G66	F72
	M67	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G67	F73
	M68	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G68	F74
	M69	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G69	F75
	M70	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G70	F76
	M71	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G71	F77
	M72	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G72	F78
	M73	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G73	F79
	M74	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G74	F80
	M75	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G75	F81
	M76	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G76	F82
	M77	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G77	F83
	M78	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G78	F84
	M79	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G79	F85
	M80	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G80	F86
	M81	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G81	F87
	M82	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G82	F88
	M83	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G83	F89
	M84	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G84	F90
	M85	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G85	F91
	M86	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G86	F92
	M87	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G87	F93
	M88	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G88	F94
	M89	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G89	F95
	M90	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G90	F96
	M91	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G91	F97
	M92	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G92	F98
	M93	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G93	F99
	M94	UNSW Fare (Mathews Arcade)		G94	F100

# Welcome!



In welcoming you to Education Conference, we acknowledge the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation on whose traditional land we are gathered. We acknowledge their elders, past and present as the custodians of this land. The land we are gathered on for the duration of the conference was stolen and never ceded. Always was, always will be Aboriginal Land.

## CONTACTS

**UNSW security**  
In an emergency 9385 6666  
Everything else 9385 6000

**Hannah Smith** (conference organiser)  
0413 041 083

**Billy Bruffey** (conference organiser)  
0430 780 774

**Rose Steele** (NUS President)  
0405 000 680

**Tom Nock** (NUS General Secretary)  
0432 216 150

**Sophie Johnston** (conference organiser)  
0476117373

## CHECKOUT

Checkout is on Friday from 8:00AM until 1:00PM at the Columbo Theatre complex. You will need to produce your key to receive your bond.

## NIGHT EVENTS

**Monday Night: Registration/Check-in**  
Join us at the Roundhouse from 4pm to register for the conference. Each conference accommodation attendee will need to pay a \$50 key bond to receive their key.

**Tuesday Night: Conference Mixer**  
Join us at the Roundhouse from 6.30pm for a social evening. There will be a DJ, food and drink vouchers.

**Wednesday Night: Film Screening**  
NUS and the NTEU will be coming together to show a special conference screening of "The Ivory Tower" - a film exploring the neoliberalisation of university education. Join us in the UNSW Hall cinema room from 6.30pm. Note that this is a dry event.

# Tuesday Schedule

9.30-10.00	Welcome to Country - Introduction from NUS organisers - Mechanical Eng G03			
10.00-10.30	Introduction to NUS by President Rose Steele - Mechanical Eng G03			
10.30-11.00	Keynote address - Amanda Tattersal - Mechanical Eng G03			
11.00-11.15	Break	Break	Break	Break
11.15-12.00	Taking on Power & Winning - Alison Rudman - Colombo Theatre B		Yarn Workshop - Warren Roberts - Colombo Theatre C	
12.00-1.00	Social Model 101 - Andrew Day - Mechanical Eng G03	How our organisation works: The Constitution, Rules, and Regs - Tom Nock and Brendan Spackman-Williams - Colombo Theatre A	Autonomous Queer Workshop - Isaac Foster & Danica Cheesley - Colombo Theatre B	Tasmanian education campaign workshop - Hannah Smith and Heidi La Paglia - Colombo Theatre C
1.00-1.30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1.30-2.30	Media Panel - Featuring Alex McKinnon (Junkee), Susan Templeman (Communications trainer), Chris Graham (New Matilda), Michael Koziol (Fairfax), Lucy Watson (Archer Magazine) - Mechanical Eng G03			
2.30-4.00	Activist Plenary: Free Education What does it look like and how do we get there? - Ridah Hassan and Declan Murphy - Mechanical Eng G03		Plenary: Students money to students Exploring alternative student Union revenue streams - Luke Chapman and Izzy Manfield - Colombo Theatre A	
4.00-6.30				
6.30 - Late	Conference Mixer - Roundhouse			

Break		Break	Break	Break
State Politics is More important than Federal Politics Why you should get involved, and how you do it. - Eamon Waterford - Colombo LG01		Winner Never takes All: Why you need friends to gain long lasting change - Lyndon Schneiders - Colombo LG02		
NSW Education Campaign Workshop - Chloe Smith and Ridah Hassan - Colombo LG01	Student and Staff representation and Uni council - Rose Steele - Colombo LG02	Education and the market: The real cost - Lauren Saunders - Goldstein G03	Democracy 101 Methods of Election & How to Count Votes - Jason Giancono - Goldstein G04	The Campaign for Marriage Equality - Clare Francis - Goldstein G05
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch

# Wednesday Schedule

9.30-10.00	Acknowledgement of Country Housekeeping Mechanical Eng G03				
10.00-10.30	Keynote address - Luke Hillkari Mechanical Eng G03				
10.30-11.15	Organising on Regional Campuses - Heidi La Paglia, Dan Westbury Mechanical Eng G03	WA education campaign workshop - Hannah Smith and Jake Wittey Colombo Theatre A	Constitutional Change: What do the members want to see - Rose Steele and Tom Nock Colombo Theatre B	University restructure Decoding the elite universities - David Shakes and Blythe Worthy Colombo Theatre C	The hidden history of students in Australia - Elliot Downes and Lia Vassiliadis Colombo LG01
11.15-11.30	Break		Break		
11.30-12.15	An Introduction to YARN - Warren Roberts Colombo Theatre A		Are you cutting through? a crash course in Social Media - Courtney Sloane Colombo Theatre B		
12.15-1:00	SA education campaign workshop - Hannah Smith and Alison Taylor Mechanical Eng G03	SSAF This workshop is aimed at campus presidents - Rose Steele Colombo Theatre A	Scholarships: Just how accessible are they? - Sinead Colee Colombo Theatre B	NUS 'Talk About It' survey - Jess McLeod Colombo Theatre C	Neoliberalism in Universities: Beyond the Fee - Mali Rea and Sarah Spivak Colombo LG01
1.00-2:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2.00-3:00	Political Panel - Featuring Rose Steele (NUS President), Sue Lines (Labor Senator for WA) Lee Rhiannon (Greens Senator for NSW), Nat O'Brien (GetUp!), Paul Kniest (NTEU) Mechanical Eng G03				
3:00-4:00	Protest What works and what doesn't - Abena Dove and Jess Lenehan Mechanical Eng G03		Student union structures in a post VSU environment - Hana Dalton and Jason Giancomo Colombo Theatre A		
4:00-6:00					
6:00-Late	Movie Night: Ivory Tower - University Hall Movie Theatre				

On Campus Safety - What I've learned in my time attending a poorly lit university in the middle of a forest - Steph Kameric Colombo LG02	ATSI Workshop Indigenous Tertiary Education including ITAS and retention rates - Bridget Cama Goldstein G03	Meeting procedures Central to what we do! The nitty gritty of how to have your say and make it count - Clare Swan Goldstein G05	Education under occupation: university in Palestine and the BDS campaign - Tom Gilchrist and Jack Crawford Goldstein G04	
Break		Break		
Health promoting universities - Ely Howse Colombo Theatre C		Equal Pay today - Diane Fieldes Colombo LG01		
Student control of funding and spaces: Funding and occupancy agreements and why we should be wary of them - Lizzy O'shea Colombo LG02	Running and Organising a State Branch - Jake Wittey Goldstein G03	Berkeley in the 60s: Student radicals and the free speech movement - Ridah Hassan Goldstein G04	Welfare Officer's Meet up - Dean D'Angelo Goldstein G05	The Swedish Model: Democratic socialism or neoliberal success story? - Angelica Fernandez Goldstein G06
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch

# Thursday Schedule

9.30-10.00	Acknowledgement of Country Housekeeping Mechanical Eng G03				
10.00-10.30	Keynote address - Tom Swann Mechanical Eng G03				
10.30-11.30	Union Panel - Featuring Rita Malia (CFMEU), David McElrea (United Voice), Angus McFarland (ASU), George Simon (AMWU), Denis Fitzgerald (Teachers' Federation) Mechanical Eng G03				
11.30-12.15	How students can exploit electoral politics: Demographics and targeting our message - Tom Nock Mechanical Eng G03	The Spoon Theory - Alison Taylor Colombo Theatre A	QLD Education campaign workshop - Hannah Smith and Carl Jackson Colombo Theatre B	Victorian Education campaign workshop - Declan Murphy and Rose Steele Colombo Theatre C	
12.15-1:00	The first revolution is internal* Adding Community Organising to the tool box - David Barrow- Colombo Theatre A	People Power - Ella Weisbroit AYCC Colombo Theatre B	Effective organising of volunteers - Ariane Psomotragos Colombo Theatre C	Movement Action Plan - Fred Stark Colombo LG01	Militancy in the union movement - Danny Cain Colombo LG02
1.00-2:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2.00-2.45	NUS Office Bearer Reports Mechanical Eng G03				
2.45-4:00	Plenary on the Education Campaign - Elly Morley and Jasmine Ingram Mechanical Eng G03				

Bjorn Again: Kicking out Bjorn Lomborg at UWA and reviving activism on campus - Lizzy O'Shea Colombo LG01	Running an Effective Campus in a Hostile Environment - Peter Munford Colombo LG02	Your Rights at Home, Uni, Work - Jasmine Ingram Goldstein G03	Building a Diverse Education Movement and Inclusive Campaigning - Dean Mattar and Tessa-May Zirsak Goldstein G04
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch

# Friday Schedule

9.30-10.00	<p>Acknowledgement of Country Housekeeping</p> <p>Mechanical Eng G03</p>				
10.00-10.30	<p>Your rights as an activist -</p> <p>Sydney University SRC Lawyer Mechanical Eng G03</p>				
10.30-11.00	<p>Exclusive Documentary Preview: The Hunting Ground</p> <p>Mechanical Eng G03</p>				
11.00-12:00	<p>Lobbying and Activism on your campus: How to make an impact -</p> <p>Amelia Veronese, Brianna Colgan &amp; Shannon Colee</p> <p>Mechanical Eng G03</p>	<p>Higher Education Policy and Funding. How the last ten years of decisions will leave you with 10 years of debt -</p> <p>Rose Steele</p> <p>Colombo Theatre A</p>	<p>Education Councils and Faculty Societies -</p> <p>Tom Beyer, Nellie Monatgue and Betty Belay</p> <p>Colombo Theatre B</p>	<p>Anonymous Marking -</p> <p>Shanley Price</p> <p>Colombo Theatre C</p>	<p>Women and the Federal Budget -</p> <p>Jess McLeod and Danica Cheesley</p> <p>Colombo LG01</p>
12.00-12.30	<p>Conference Close</p> <p>Mechanical Eng G03</p>				

<p>Black lives matter: the fight against racism in the US -</p> <p>Hamza</p> <p>Colombo LG02</p>	<p>Problem Solution Action -</p> <p>Amy Knox and Jasmine Ingram</p> <p>Goldstein G03</p>	<p>Managing the Management - University Relationships -</p> <p>Brendan Spackman-Williams</p> <p>Goldstein G05</p>	<p>Anti-Poverty Week -</p> <p>Dean D'angelo</p> <p>Goldstein G04</p>

# Speaker Bios

## MEDIA PANEL

### Alex McKinnon - Junkee

Alex McKinnon is the assistant editor of Junkee, a youth site covering everything from pop culture to politics, and a former editor of the Star Observer, Australia's longest-running LGBTI newspaper. On the other hand, he dropped out of an Arts degree twice, so, y'know, swings and roundabouts."

### Susan Templeman

Susan Templeman is a communication trainer who works with everyone from companies listed on the stock exchange and investment banks through to not for profit organisations and unions. A former journalist, in the 1980s Susan worked in the Canberra Press Gallery, New York and London for commercial radio. On return to Sydney in the early 90s she set up her own media training business. Susan is former Labor candidate for the Federal seat of Macquarie.

### Chris Graham

Chris Graham is the editor and owner of New Matilda, an online magazine focussed on investigative journalism and politics. Chris is the former and founding editor of the National Indigenous Times and Tracker magazine, and is a multiple Walkley Award and Human Rights Award winning journalist. He is based in Sydney, but spends more than his share of time on the road.

### Michael Koziol

Michael Koziol is a journalist at the Sydney Morning Herald, currently working in breaking news, weekend features and youth issues. He has been the editor-in-chief of the City

Hub community newspaper group, a reporter at PolitiFact Australia, an editor at Sydney University's student newspaper Honi Soit, head of the student radio group SURG FM, and host of the Fourth Estate program on 2ser. Michael likes newspapers, wine, Savage Garden and very little else.

### Lucy Watson

Lucy Watson is online editor of Archer magazine, a Brag columnist, New Matilda contributor, and a former Honi Soit editor. She is currently researching the relationship between celebrity media and queer people for her PhD.

## POLITICAL PANEL

### Nat O'Brien- Get Up

Natalie O'Brien is a campaigner. After graduating with first class honours for her thesis on national identity politics in Australia, Natalie worked in inter-governmental coordination at NSW's Department of Premier and Cabinet. Natalie then traveled to New York where she ran a Get-Out-The-Vote campaign in the lead up to the 2012 Presidential Election, before turning her attention to immigration reform as a policy associate at leading LGBT advocacy organisation, Immigration Equality. Natalie works as part of GetUp's Economic Fairness Campaigns Team.

### Lee Rhiannon-Greens

Lee is an Australian Greens Senator for NSW and part spokesperson for higher education. Lee is well-known for her energetic work in the environment and social justice movement over four decades.

She was a Greens MP in the NSW Upper House from 1999 -2010, actively pursuing reform in areas like the environment, public education, transport and industrial relations. Before working with the Greens Lee co-founded and spent five years as Director of AID/WATCH which scrutinises Australia's overseas aid program. She was co-ordinator of the NSW Coalition for Gun Control and member of the NSW government's Women's Advisory Council. Lee trained as a zoologist and botanist. As Australian Greens spokesperson for higher education Lee has worked closely with students, staff and unions to fight the Abbott government's attacks on our public universities and for high-quality public education. She is a strong believer in free education from preschool to university.

### Paul Knies, NTEU National Policy and Research Coordinator

Paul Knies has worked in the Policy and Research Unit of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) Australia since 2002. As the director of the Unit, he is responsible for coordinating the Union's research and analysis of public policies that affect the professional interests and working conditions of university staff, including funding, performance indicators for learning and research, academic freedom, institutional autonomy and intellectual property.

Before working with the NTEU Paul was a lecturer in economics at the University of Newcastle (Australia) and prior to that he worked as a research economist for the Australian government and the OECD.

### Rose Steele, NUS National President

Rose Steele is the President of the National Union of Students.

The National Union of Students is the Peak Representative body for students in Australia and was created in 1987. Rose is a current student at La Trobe University studying Gender Sexuality and Diversity as a part of an Arts Degree. Before NUS Rose was President at the La Trobe Student Union

## Sue Lines

Sue joined the WA Branch of the Australian Labor Party in 1983 and began working at United Voice (formerly LHMU) in 1987 as an organiser. In 2000 she became the Assistant Branch Secretary of United Voice WA and then the National Assistant Secretary in 2007. She has also worked as a teacher and a community organiser. Sue was endorsed as a Labor Senator on May 15 2013 at a joint sitting of the Parliament of Western Australia to fill the casual vacancy in the senate caused by the resignation of Senator Chris Evans. Sue enjoys volunteering and is a member of multiple community groups and in the past has been a member of a number of groups including; including the local fire brigade, the Children's Kindergarten Management Committee, Volunteer Netball and T-ball coach, WA Children's Week Committee and was a board member of the WA Lady Gowrie Association. Prior to becoming a Senator, Sue was a Commonwealth Ministerial appointment to the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA), the Aged Care Funding Authority (ACFA) and the NDIS Workforce and Sector Capacity Expert Group. She remains a proud member of United Voice.

## SEMINARS

### Eamon Waterford

Eamon Waterford is the Director - Policy & Advocacy for Youth Action NSW, the peak body for young people and youth services in NSW. He's a board member for the Sydney Alliance, a coalition of Trade Union, Community and Faith-Based organisations and the Council of Social Services NSW (NCOSS), the peak body for charities in NSW. He's moved into NSW Parliament to protest housing affordability but also sits through long meetings with bureaucrats on a regular basis.

### **Warren Roberts**

Youth Awareness Resource Network is a University Student Program that create safe spaces to engage Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander's and Non-Indigenous Australians to have a understanding of our Australian History. We do this in group discussions on dialogue and respect. Our Workshop will provide students with an introduction to our program and how it could be established at your University. For further information please check out our website at [www.yarnaustralia.com.au](http://www.yarnaustralia.com.au)

### **Alison Rudman**

Alison Rudman is the Campaign Coordinator for the NSW Branch of the Transport Workers' Union (TWU).

She coordinates major organising initiatives in the union's key industries, including the iconic Safe Rates campaign. Her speciality is single-client/multi-company organising campaigns that build member power across supply chains.

Previously, she was the National Road Transport Coordinator for the TWU. Prior to her work with the TWU she spent a number of years in the USA working with the Service Employees International Union (Local 1) and other unions on comprehensive market campaigns to achieve economic and social justice for janitors, food-service workers and car manufacturing workers.

Other recent career highlights have been working with a peak union body and organising call-centre workers during the Workchoices era.

### **David Barrow**

David has a decade of experience working for social change and organisational renewal. During 2004-2006 he was the President of the UTS Union Board organising "student service" organisations to play an active role in opposing Voluntary Student Unionism. As National President he lead the successful campaign in Australia and India to secure the 2009

reforms of International student rights and won increases to youth allowance for rural and poor students. David is proudest of his role in supporting the national network of progressive and labor activists and leaders who banded together in January 2010 to face off a major threat to the National Union of Students. David is the Lead Organiser of the Sydney Alliance. An organisation that brings diverse faiths, trade unions, schools and community groups together to take action for the common good. David plays a leadership role within the Uniting Church bringing an organising approach to congregational renewal, LGBTIQ inclusion and social justice.

### **Courtney Sloane**

Courtney is the National Media & Communications Officer at the NTEU where she has been part of the campaign against deregulation. Prior to this she worked as a media adviser in the former Federal Labor Government. Courtney has previously worked in the not-for-profit sector promoting gender equality & the rights of people with a disability. In 2011, she was nominated for the Young Human Rights Medal for her work on addressing violence against women at Australian universities. Courtney has worked on election campaigns at both the federal and state levels, and has served on several boards. She holds a degree in International Relations from ANU.

### **Danny Cain**

Danny Cain is a prominent member of the MUA, WA branch and has played a major role in recruiting to the union, organising major campaigns and taking on major multinationals such as Chevron. He has recently been elected assistant secretary of the WA branch and has also recently been elected as the International Transport Federation (ITF) youth rep for the Asia-Pacific region."

### **Ella Weisbrot**

ella is a National Campaigner for the AYCC, working on the Reef Finance campaign. She

joined the AYCC as a volunteer in 2013 after attending a seminar on the Galilee Basin and Abbot Point – and immediately decided that she needed to become a climate activist - and was the NSW State Co-Coordinator in 2014. Prior to the AYCC, Ella worked for the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) as Sydney Program Manager Assistant in 2013, and in 2012, worked as a Field Organizer in Wisconsin for President Obama's re-election campaign. Ella is passionate about social justice and believes that solving the climate crisis is the most critical social justice issue we face right now.

### **Ariane**

Having worked on political and environmental campaigns since beginning university, Ariane has worked in both Australia and America. Beginning with NGO campaigns in Australia Ariane's love of working with volunteers and grassroots campaigns took her over to the US to work for Barack Obama's re-election campaign. She has just returned from working in the US on the mid-term campaigns in Colorado and has since helped on both the Queensland and NSW state elections. She is currently writing a thesis on how technology and data is used in political campaigns in ALP and the Democrats.

### **Fred Stark**

Frederick is a 27yr old web developer. He is also a campaigner who was born and raised in the bush behind the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. He has a strong passion to do whatever it takes to solve the climate crisis. He is a past State Coordinator of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. Fred spent latter part of 2014 in Colorado campaigning for the Democrats in the mid-term elections before returning to help on the QLD and NSW elections. Outside elections he helped start the Reef campaign with AYCC and has taken direct action at the Maules Creek blockade.

### **Elly Howse**

Elly completed her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney with First Class Honours in Gender & Cultural Studies. She presented her thesis at the UNSW Kirby Institute's conference entitled 'Dangerous Consumptions' in November 2011. Following this she completed her Masters of Public Health in 2012 at the University of Sydney while working for the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, former Federal Minister for Health.

Since mid-2014 Elly has been the Senior Project Officer for Healthy Sydney University, a health promotion initiative at the University of Sydney that looks at ways to create a supportive university environment for the health and wellbeing of all staff and students. Elly plans to begin her PhD in 2016 researching health promotion strategies for young adults, and is interested in how institutional, social and cultural environments reinforce and drive particular health behaviours and ultimately determine health outcomes.

### **Diane Fieldes**

Dr Diane Fieldes worked as an industrial relations lecturer at UNSW for over twenty years before retiring. She is an expert on the union campaigns that finally won formal equal pay in the 1970s. This was the subject of her PhD, and she has also published about this history, and the current situation of women at work and its intersection with family life, in academic journals such as Labour History and the Journal of Industrial Relations. Dr Fieldes was also an active member of the NTEU branch at UNSW, both as a workplace delegate, and a member of the union's branch committee for 16 years.

### **Lyndon Schneiders**

Lyndon Schneiders has been National Director of the Wilderness Society since 2010 and a campaigner with the organisation since 1993.

He has been involved in multiple campaigns across the country over the past 20 years including on Cape York Peninsula and across northern Australia, in the forests, the campaign across the James Price Point gas hub, protecting Queensland's bushlands from landclearing and now in the campaigns to keep fossil fuels in the country to prevent dangerous climate change.

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## KEYNOTES

### Luke Hilikar

Luke Hilakari is Secretary of Victorian Trades Hall. In 2014 Luke drove an unprecedented union field campaign to remove a first term Liberal Government.

Blending traditional union organising strategy with cutting-edge campaign tech, the We Are Union campaign was hailed as a game-changer in Victorian politics.

Luke was previously the Industrial Campaigns officer at Trades Hall and an organiser for United Voice.

### Tom Swann

Tom Swann is a researcher at the Australia Institute, a Canberra-based think tank. He works on higher education, fossil fuel divestment, public service delivery and other topics. He has Honours in philosophy from ANU and is completing the Master of Climate Change, and has been a key organiser in the Fossil Free ANU campaign.

### Amanda Tattersall

Amanda Tattersall is founder and Executive Director of the Sydney Alliance, a diverse coalition of community organisations, unions, religious organisations and schools.

She has been a union and community organiser for over 15 years, having been President of the National Union of Students, co-founder of Labor for Refugees, co-founding director

and chair of GetUp.org.au and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Unions NSW.

She is the author of the book "Power in Coalition" (Cornell University Press & Allen & Unwin), based on her PhD that compared coalitions across Australia, the United States and Canada.

She is currently also teaching Australian Politics at Notre Dame and Human Geography at the University of Sydney and working with the University of Sydney on a project to enhance its relationship with the city and its communities.

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## UNION PANEL

### Rita Malia- CFMEU

Rita Mallia is the President of the Construction Forestry Mining & Energy Union, Construction and General Division, NSW Divisional Branch. An official of the Union since 1996, Rita is also a qualified lawyer.

Rita is also a member of the National Divisional Executive for the Construction and General Division of the CFMEU and represents the CFMEU on the ACTU Executive. Rita also represents the CFMEU as a Trustee Director of United Super (Cbus) and is a director of the Australian Construction Industry Redundancy Trust, NSW Dust Diseases Board, Asbestos Diseases Research Foundation and the Schizophrenia Research Institute.

### David McElrea- United Voice

David McElrea is the Assistant Secretary of United Voice NSW. United Voice represents 130,000 Australian workers in a range of industries including cleaning, childcare, health and aged care, hospitality, security and manufacturing. David joined United Voice whilst working in catering during his university studies. He has worked in the labour movement in Australia and England for about 15 years as a union lawyer and official.

### Angus McFarland- ASU

Angus McFarland is an Assistant Secretary of the Australian Services Union NSW & ACT (Services) Branch. In that role his work involves overseeing member-led workplace and industry campaigns in the Social and Community Services (SACS) Division of the union. The SACS division represents thousands of workers in the non-government disability and community services sector, and is one of the fastest growing areas of union membership in Australia. In 2012 ASU members won Equal Pay for all SACS workers in Australia in a historic union campaign.

Before his time at the ASU Angus was an advisor to Senator Doug Cameron while completing his combined Arts / Law degrees at the University of Sydney. At the University of Sydney Angus was elected to the following positions: Union Board Director (2005 – 2007), SRC President (2007), Undergraduate Representative of the University Senate (2008), and National President of NUS (2008). Angus' fondest memories of his time in student activism was the Stop VSU campaign from 2006 – 2008.

### George Simon- AMWU

George Simon is the Campaign Director at the NSW Branch of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU). The AMWU represents a wide variety of workers across the manufacturing sector. George coordinates political and industrial campaigns at the AMWU with the aim of mobilising members to achieve lasting political and industrial change in their lives.

In 2013, George was the Field Director for the Australian Council of Trade Unions' Federal Election Campaign. This role saw him coordinate the largest and most sophisticated voter ID and union member persuasion program ever run by the union movement in marginal seats. During this time, George managed 18 Field Organisers across 30 marginal seats.

### Denis Fitzgerald

Denis Fitzgerald has taught in a range of public

schools across NSW as a classroom teacher and in a variety of promotions positions. He was a foundation member of the NSW Board of Secondary Education, a member of the Curriculum Corporation of Australia and a foundation member of the NSW Board of Studies.

Denis has also been the President of the NSW Teachers Federation, the Federal President of the Australian Education Union as well as a writer and speaker on educational and social issues.

More recently, Denis was Director of Equity and Aboriginal Education in the NSW DEC, a position he left in order to return to schools. Denis has written a book on education history and ideas, *Teachers and Their Times*, published by the University of NSW Press. He has most recently taught at a number of PSP schools in Sydney's west. He is currently working as a casual teacher as well as engaging in research and various education projects. He is a member of the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards [BOSTES] and chairs the Board's Senior History Consultative Committee. He was also the foundation Director of the union's Centre for Professional Learning. He is the editor of the *Journal of Professional Learning*.

# Glossary of Terms

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## **NUS**

the National Union of Students is the peak body representing tertiary students in Australia. It is students' voice to the government and the university sector. Office Bearers are elected each year at the National Conference

## **NOBs**

NOB is an acronym for National Office Bearer. This is the elected National Officers of our union. NOBs include President, General Secretary, Education Officer, Welfare Officer, Women's Officer, Queer Officers, Environment Officer, Disabilities Officer, Ethno-cultural Officer, International Student Officer.

## **Seminar**

At Ed Con, a Seminar is a workshop or presentation by a person outside of the student movement. These people have come from diverse corners of the progressive movement and have a wealth of knowledge from which us as student activists should utilise.

## **Workshop**

A workshop is a peer-led session aiming to impart skills or knowledge to other activists.

## **Plenary**

Each afternoon, there will be two sessions aimed at starting discussion around a particular topic related to activism and education. These will be moderated by two activists with keen interests in these areas, who will later prepare a short discussion paper on student perspectives. All students are invited to participate and anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.

## **Panel**

On each day of the conference, we will host a handful of experienced activists on a particular topic in a panel format. This will be moderated by some of the conference organisers. Attendees will be welcome to ask questions at the end.

## **SSAF**

The Student Services and Amenities Fee was introduced in 2012. It is a compulsory fee collected by universities annually. The guidelines state that institutions will be required to have formal process of consultation with both democratically elected student representatives and representatives from other major student organisations at the university about the specific uses of the funds gained from collected the SSAF. This is not always the case and NUS campaigns for stronger regulations around the SSAF.

## **VC**

VC stands for Vice-Chancellor. A VC is responsible for carrying out most of the administrative duties at a university and are usually the public spokesperson of the university. Student unions regularly run campaigns to shift the position of VCs on certain issues.

## **VSU**

Voluntary student unionism (VSU), is a policy under which membership of university student organisations is voluntary. Australia passed legislation enacting VSU in 2005, which came into force on July 1, 2006. NUS campaigned strongly against the introduction of VSU, which saw a rapid decline in student organisation

funding and ultimately led to the collapse of some student organisations around Australia.

## **Deregulation**

In the context of Higher Education, Deregulation means the deregulation of university fees. Deregulation means universities would be free to charge whatever they like for our degrees and many have claimed that it would ultimately lead to an Americanisation of our education system. Deregulation was introduced to the Parliament in 2014 by the Federal Liberal Government and NUS was a leader in the campaign against it. It has now failed to pass in the senate twice.

# UNSW and Surrounds Explained

The best way to keep up-to-date with all you need know about UNSW and Sydney is through UNSW's own app 'UNSWuni-verse'. This app includes information about events, transport, the UNSW library, emergency points of contact, help services, social guides, and more.

## TRANSPORT

UNSW is situated in Kensington in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney. There is no train surface directly to the campus, however, buses run to Anzac Parade until 11:00pm and sporadically later.

NSW transport uses an Opal card top-up system, however, tickets can be pre-purchased at most convenient stores around the city.

When travelling to and from the airport, delegates should catch the airport line train to Central, followed by a 393/395 bus to UNSW from Eddy Avenue (right outside - follow the signs).

Alternatively, if traveling in a group of 3 or more a taxi from the airport will likely be cheaper. An UBER will be cheaper for a group of 2 or more.

## BUSES

Destination	Bus Number	Ticket Type	Price non-concession (Thanks Liberals)
Central to UNSW	M50 395 393 891	MyBus2	\$3.80
UNSW to City	M50 395 393 891	MyBus2	\$3.80
UNSW to Bondi Junction	400	MyBus1	\$2.40

## TRAINS

Destination	Line	Price
Central from the airport	Any	\$18 (includes airport station exit fee)

# The Hunger Guide Sydney & Suburbs

## COOGEE

### Coogee Bay Hotel

A poor alternative to the Regent Hotel, which is also closer to UNSW, however it does have beach views.

### Coogee to Bondi Walk

For those interested in exercise it is possible to walk along the beaches from Coogee to Bondi. I'll be back on campus, but horses for courses.

## BONDI

### Bondi Beach

The famous location of "Bondi Rescue", Bondi Beach is a picturesque water/sand attraction. It is lined by many restaurants, bars and surf shops. The water / the surrounding air / general environment will however be cold.

### Bondi Junction

This is a bigger shopping center than Randwick. It contains many major chains and department stores. Best accessed via the 400 bus leaving from gate 9 of campus. It'll take 15 to 20 minutes to get there.

## RANDWICK

### Isabella's

If you're looking for something cheap, easy and very filling for breakfast, then go no further! Isabella's has \$7 all day breakfast, including eggs benedict with snitzel

### Pinocchio's on Anzac Pde

This is located just opposite the Kingsford McDonalds, about 2 minutes walk from UNSW. They specialise in a Japanese \$10 Bento Box, which includes, sushi, teriyaki chicken, rice

miso soup, and 3 dumplings-Wow! But make sure you swap the salad for the sushi, because otherwise you just have salad.

### Ritz Cinema

A nice old fashioned cinema, in walking distance from UNSW. Unfortunately despite requests they will not be holding a special viewing of the killing season for delegates. It is located in "The Spot" on St Pauls Street and will take 15 minutes to walk to from campus.

### Shopping Centre

Randwick shopping centre is located on Belmore Rd, near High St. It contains a range of stores including cafes, Coles and Woolies and a small number of retail outlets.

### Bowling

Bowling is available in Randwick, with the entrance right next to coles. There are student discounts, and your standard bowling DJ machine. There is also a bottle shop next to coles. We are unsure about the bowling alleys BYO policies, but better to ask forgiveness than permission.

## UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

### Equity Spaces

There are 3 equity spaces predominantly used by the SRC on campus, and can be located behind Baxter College on Level 1. These include an autonomous womens room, an autonomous ethno-cultural / international room, and a shared welfare and disabilities space. All rooms contain couches, beanbags/cushions, cold and boiling water, internet, fridge, microwave and toaster facilities.

# Tuition Fee Deregulation Update

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## Prayer Spaces

Prayer spaces are available and non-denominational. They can be found on level three of the Warehouse, just next to the roundhouse. For inquiries - (02) 9385 8939.

## Activist Space

The activist space is located Level 2 Arc and is most commonly used for collective meetings and craft sessions for rallies etc. These rooms also contain lounges and computers with internet access, and are open to the general student population Monday-Friday between 8am-7pm.

## Training rooms

Arc contains 2 training rooms on Level 1, these can be used by the SRC or Arc Clubs/Societies for meetings and organising.

## Whitehouse

If you're hovering around middle campus with a bit of a rumble in your tummy, then the Whitehouse is probably what you need. This is our Arc-run student cafe that facilitates anything from your morning caffeine hits to larger events such as movie screenings. They also have a range of gluten free, dairy free, and veggie options.

## Roundhouse

The Roundhouse is your afternoon chill venue and our uni bar. There is often live music and local bands playing in the outdoor courtyard of an afternoon and they have some excellent options on their bar and bistro menus.

## The Regent Hotel

Winner best pub in NSW for the last 5 years, the Regent is the standard "afters" venue for UNSW students. You will undoubtedly discover this at the end of a night.

## UNSW IGA

Our local UNSW supermarket is located on lower campus, Gate 2, High St. It contains a small range of fruit and veg, however, is probably best used for smaller last minute shops as it tends to be dearer than the Coles/Woolies at Randwick.

Just prior to the 2014/15 Federal Budget Education Minister Chris Pyne revealed his plans to radically restructure higher education according to neo-liberal principles with tuition fee deregulation at its core. As well as fee deregulation the original legislation introduced market rates of interest on HELP debts, set up a scholarship scheme entirely funded out of student tuition fees, extended HECS places to private providers and introduced tuition fees for postgraduate research places.

In the USA's deregulated tuition fee system the inflation-adjusted tuition fees at public universities have increased by 300% since 1980. New Zealand's brief five year experiment with fee deregulation in the 1990s led to fee increases of up to 350%. Australian students would face exorbitant fee increases at many universities that would far exceed CPI increases or teaching costs, particularly at prestigious research universities such as the Group of 8. The University of WA has indicated that it will increase its fees across the board to \$16,000 a year if fees are deregulated.

The legislation was blocked by the Senate last December. Minister Pyne made some amendments and re-introduced the legislation to the House of Representatives. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives on 25 Feb 2015:

- The most substantial amendment was dropping the market rate of interest on HELP debts.
- A pause on HECS indexation for the primary carers of children under 5;

- A structural adjustment fund of \$100 million to assist universities, particularly those in regional areas (funded by stopping progressive income support eligibility for masters by coursework students);
- Creation of a new scholarship scheme within the Higher Education and Participation Program for universities with high proportions of low SES students (funded by abolishing other equity measures in the HEPP program);
- A guarantee that domestic student fees are lower than international student fees for the same course (a meaningless guarantee as international student fees are always higher due to ESOS compliance costs)

In a final desperate move to get the legislation passed Pyne agreed to split the 20% funding cut into a separate bill to be voted on at a later time. The message was clear, an ideological victory on fee deregulation was more important than budget savings. This was not enough to sway enough of the cross-bench. The Senate voted on the 17 March 2015 to reject the revised legislation 34 – 30. This was a big victory for the student movement but Pyne vowed to continue regardless.

# Student Poverty: The Facts

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NUS examined the 2015/16 Federal Budget for signs of further changes to the twice defeated legislation. There were no changes apart from a strengthening of arrangements to get overseas graduates to repay their HELP debts. Unless there are further changes announced by Pyne arising from negotiations with cross-bench Senators we should assume that the legislation will be the same as HERA v.2 although it is unclear whether or not the 20% funding cut will be a separate bill.

Another unknown is whether the Department will withhold the budgeted 20% cut to Commonwealth Support Places funding from universities in 2016 even if the legislation is not passed. This has already occurred with the efficiency dividend cuts that were announced by the Gillard Government, and then adopted by Abbott Government even though the legislation has never passed by parliament. This threat could force a crisis of brinkmanship amongst the cross-bench towards the end of this year.

Single students living in share house and receiving the maximum Youth Allowance, Austudy or Abstudy and rent assistance are 50% below the poverty line; this forces many students to take on excessive amounts of paid work to the detriment of their study;

In 2012, more than two-thirds of students reported being worried about their financial situation. The level of concern about finances has risen substantially since 2006 – by about twelve percentage points across the board. The highest overall level of concern was expressed by full-time, low SES undergraduates, of whom 76.6 per cent indicated that they were worried about finances.

An average of about 17 per cent of students reported regularly going without food or other necessities because they were unable to afford them, and there was an increase from 14.7 per cent of full-time domestic undergraduates in 2006 to 18.2 per cent in 2012 who were regularly going without.

Somewhat fewer domestic, full-time undergraduates were in employment in 2012 (80.6 per cent) than in 2006 (85.5 per cent), yet the average hours worked during semester by all full-time students who were in employment has increased; from 14.8 to 16.0 hours for undergraduates; from 17.0 to 20.1 hours for postgraduate coursework students, and from 8.0 to 10.5 hours for HDR candidates. Overall, around one quarter of employed, full-time undergraduates were working over 20 hours per week during semester.

Increased hours of work are affecting students' educational experience, with 50.1 per cent of full-time undergraduates reporting that their work adversely affects their performance at university. This is a rise of 10 percentage points over 2006 levels. One in three domestic undergraduates, and one sixth international undergraduates, reported that they regularly miss classes because of employment obligations.

Two-thirds of full-time domestic undergraduate students had incomes of less than \$20,000 a year; including 21.0 per cent who had annual incomes of less than \$10,000

A higher percentage of employed low SES students (57.6 per cent) indicated that their work commitments adversely affected their performance at university, compared with other employed undergraduates (52.6 per cent).

Almost half (47.0 per cent) of all Indigenous undergraduate students received ABSTUDY benefits, and significant proportions of Indigenous undergraduates also received other government income support (19.2 per cent), and government or university funded scholarship support (29.1 per cent and 21.1 per cent).

Campus student organisations continue to report that there are widespread problems of student homelessness (sleeping in cars, couch surfing) and free breakfasts put on by student organisations continue to be widely used services. Proposed government legislation will introduce a 4 week waiting period before young people can receive income support payments.

# Why We Support Free Education

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## What Happened

Australia briefly had a free higher education system for all domestic and international students from 1974 – 79. Under the Whitlam Government the Commonwealth took over direct responsibility for funding universities from the state governments and paid for around 90% of the operating costs for higher education institutions. A small international student tuition fee was introduced in 1979. The HECS loans system for domestic undergraduates was introduced with a flat \$1800 fee in 1989. HECS fees were substantially increased in 1997 and 2005.

## International Comparison

According to the most recent OECD Education At A Glance Report 2014 over half of the reporting OECD countries have free university education (Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, Mexico, Norway, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden). Recently Germany and Chile have also switched to free public university education. Several other OECD countries such as France charge only nominal fees. High student fees in the OECD are confined to the five Anglo-phone countries with extensive student loan systems and the two Asian countries, Japan and South Korea where family wealth has long been the primary determinant on access to university education.

## More than just a right, it's the right thing to do

The tens of thousands of students who marched in the 1980s to save free education chanted: "free education is a right, not

a privilege". Free education was seen as a basic human right. The slogan was linked to demands that free education could be fully funded by closing corporate tax evasion loopholes. These insights are just as relevant now as issues of massive taxation evasion of global multi-nationals are being debated.

It is more than just a right. It's the logical and prescient thing to do to adapt to the 21st century challenges. The issue of affordable lifelong learning will become central to national productivity debates and the needs of the future workforce. We are currently witnessing the massive disruption that new digitalisation and automation technologies are having on the media and manufacturing workforces. Much of the financial services industry is expected to be automated by the end of next decade. Futurologists are predicting that the rapid technological-driven changes will lead to the rapid obsolescence of many current occupations. Today's graduates should expect to have seven or eight different careers over a life-time. The old 20th economic paradigm where a one-off bachelor degree led to a lifetime full-time career is fast disappearing (the human capital economic models used by neo-liberal policy makers comes from the 1960s).

If today's graduates are expected to be doing so much training and re-training over their lifetime then these life-long learning processes will need to be free. The idea that universities can charge \$100,000+ each time a worker needs to be retrained is not sustainable. The tertiary education system (higher education and VET) will shift from mass to near universal participation. This will only increase the logic

that higher education system should be fully funded by a progressive taxation system that also addresses multi-national corporate taxation evasion. Many other OECD countries can see this, our challenge is to revive popular support here for this view.

## How Much

The cost of restoring free education depends on how far it is extended. If it was applied to all domestic undergraduate students at current enrolment levels the annual cost would be around \$4.9 billion (Universities Australia estimate, 2014). If it was applied to all Commonwealth Supported Places (including CSP postgraduates) the cost would be around \$6.2 billion.

# The USA Higher Education System

The proposed Abbot Government reforms have been described as an attempt to 'Americanise' our higher education system (that has drawn historically from English and Scottish traditions). Here are some basic facts on the US system:

## Size

There are about 17.8 million undergraduate higher education students (and 2.9 million graduate students) enrolled at 4,600 degree granting institutions in the USA. 2870 institutions offered four year undergraduate degrees (equivalent of Australia's bachelor degree). 10.6 million of the undergraduates are at four year institutions.

## Degree Types

Typically US undergraduates either do a two year diploma/associate degree program at a community college or a four year bachelor at a university. Professional degrees (medical, dental, law, vet science, journalism, business) are commonly offered at the graduate school level.

## Who Runs Higher Education

In the US the administration of higher education is mainly done by the 50 state governments. The federal government is primarily involved in the provisions of the needs-based PELL student grants and a couple of merit based scholarship programs, underwriting the federal loans and national research funding projects. State governments also provide student aid programs to students not eligible for federal grants.

## Tuition Fees

In the USA tuition fees are fully deregulated. Private not for profit four year institutions have much higher average fees than public and private for profit institutions. Despite being a fully mature market there is no sign that market competition in the USA is holding tuition fee prices down. The Washington Monthly commented in September 2011 that: "Since 1980, inflation- adjusted tuition at public universities has tripled; at private universities it has more than doubled. Compared to all other goods and services in the American economy, including medical care, only "cigarettes and other tobacco products" have seen prices rise faster than the cost of going to college." ("Administrators Ate My Tuition", [www.washingtonmonthly.com](http://www.washingtonmonthly.com))

Several reasons have been advanced by US higher education commentators for this tuition fee spiral:

- The depressed labour market;
- Higher debt limits on federal student loans;
- Student demand for high quality and up to date amenities, support services and information technology;
- Reduction in public funding per student from the state governments;
- Higher Tuition Fees Acting As A Proxy For Quality (ie as rivals raise their prices high status institutions raise their prices to maintain their perceived status)

## Graduate Debt

Graduate debt in the USA is closing in on the \$1.2 trillion mark. It is now the second biggest form of personal debt in the USA, only exceeded by the national mortgage debt. Since 2010 graduate debt has exceeded the national credit card debt and loans to purchase cars. In 2012 the average bachelor graduate from a not for profit institution left the college with a \$US29,400 debt.

## Income Support

85% of full time students at US four year institutions receive financial aid in the form of a grant, loan or scholarship or combination. In the USA there are wide array of grants and scholarships available to students (from state agencies, endowments and private organisations) but the principle federal student grant is the Pell Grant from the US Department of Education (about \$US 5,500 annually.). About a third of students take out commercial loans to supplement their grants even though the interest rates can be over 18%



# Social and Private Rates of Return on Studying at University

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Private rates of return arguments are commonly used to justify tuition fee increases and deregulation. The Education Minister, Chris Pyne, has repeatedly used the argument that on average graduates will earn over \$1 million more than students who only studied to Year 12 and that Australian university graduates on average earn 75 per cent more than school leavers who have done no further study. When the Wran Committee introduced the first flat HECS in 1988 the student private benefit was estimated to be 20%. The policy changes since then under discipline-differentiated HECS have shifted the average student contribution to over 40% (although the figure varies considerably by discipline).

## Private Rates of Return

Private rates of return are often measured as the extra income that graduates make over a lifetime minus the financial costs of participating in education. The research that underpins the Minister's claims about graduates incomes being 75% higher are based on the Group of 8's policy note, Graduate Skills and National Productivity (based on 2011 census data) and the (University of Melbourne) Grattan Institute's Graduate Winners (based on 2006 census data and authored by Andrew Norton). Norton co-authored the government's review of the demand driven system.

Other modelling such as University of Canberra's NATSEM have put the average lifetime earning benefits of graduates over Year 12 completers at a much lower level, around 40%. Australian graduates are also in the low end of the private returns compared to most OECD countries. Most of the OECD countries

with the low rates of private return also have no fee or low fee regimes. The exceptions to this are Australia, Japan, and New Zealand that uniquely combine high fees paid by students with relative low rates of private return. The Australian rates of internal private return are 35% below the OECD average for males and 32% for females. Notably in light of deregulated tuition fees the Australian rates of private return are 54% lower than those in the USA for males and 47% lower for women.

## Social Rates of Return

Economists refer to social rates of return as external benefits of education participation that are not captured by the individual. According to market theory these external social benefits provide the basis for some level of public subsidy for education.

One significant financial social benefit is that the higher wages of graduates generates higher taxation revenue for the government. Over a lifetime a typical graduate will pay around \$350,000 more tax than the average non-graduate. Graduates are also much less likely to need income support after the completion of their degree (12% for Bachelor degree holders compared to 29% for those only with year 12 qualifications).

There are a variety of non financial social benefits although economists disagree on what should be included and how the benefits can be costed. Higher rates of volunteering, tolerance, civic engagement and lower crime rates as possible benefits that are correlated to higher levels of education.

Attempts by market economists to calculate the social benefits of higher education nearly always under-estimate these benefits, ie limiting the benefits to financial benefits and a few measures that are easily quantifiable. For example none of these models capture the technological and productivity benefits that flow to society from the research that graduates will perform at universities or their future workplaces.

# OB Reports

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## PRESIDENT ROSE STEELE

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The primary focus for 2015 has been the 'Demand A Better Future' campaign. I have worked in collaboration with Hannah Smith, Education officer to roll out the campaign focussing in my role on media and communications for DABF.

The three key demands for nus in 2015 are Opposition of the deregulation of university fees Increased funding for universities, No wait on newstart and an increase in income support

We worked to great the success of the March National Day of Action and snap reactionary actions in reply to the federal budget released early May.

At the time of NUS' first major action of the year in March deregulation had already been defeated in the senate, however we have continued to see the coalition government and Christopher Pyne with a strong agenda to re-introduce deregulation, cuts to the sector and make drastic changes to income support.

The federal budget in May was another blow for students, unsurprisingly although being defeated twice the government have kept an agenda to deregulate universities fees, make cuts to funding, and introduce a 4 week wait on income support for young people.

As well as this during O Weeks we were able to get to many campuses to roll out the Demand a Better Future Campaign. In conversations with students and representatives we have seen that students are much more aware of the issues facing them in higher education.

### Administration

We kicked off the year with Presidents Summit in January, which was a great success for all involved. The primary aim of Presidents summit is a knowledge sharing summit for presidents and a crash course in NUS' aims and priorities for 2015. In particular it is chance for campus presidents new in their roles to workshop the 2015 NUS campaigns with National Office Bearers, engage in panels on trade unions, media training and hear from speakers running campaigns. Members of National Executive were also given board directors training and an outline of National Executive in 2015.

Internally this year has been dominated by the outcomes of 2014 and a focus on changing NUS' often inflexible financial and operating structure. In 2014, the NUS team undertook a structural audit and created a Constitutional Reform Committee after working with members through state branch forums to remain relevant and member led.

This year the General Secretary, Tom Nock and I have been working to amend this and bridge a discussion with our members about reform. With a program for development and reform now being sent to our members we will both be focussing on channelling this into relevant and needed areas of change for NUS to remain sustainable financially and operate effectively for its members.

NUS has held several fee review meetings as of education conference to discuss affiliations of our member unions and is on track to meet our budgeted affiliation revenue.

The development of the new website has been a major achievement for NUS in 2015. After having a barely active website for the past few years – from the development work of the 2014 team, the general secretary has put a lot of work into functionality and workings of the website and I have worked with Tom in raising content. You can find our new website at [NUS.org.au](http://NUS.org.au)

Along side this, the work of Hannah Smith and Isaac Foster in developing a social media policy for the NUS National Executive, we have been focussing on regular content for the NUS facebook, instagram and twitter.

### Facebook

[facebook.com/NationalUnionofStudentsAU](https://facebook.com/NationalUnionofStudentsAU)

### Instagram

@nus\_australia

### Twitter

@NUS\_President

### Media and Communication

I have engaged throughout the year with NUS member organisations and with campus presidents through regular updates and emails of NUS media releases, research and submissions as well as campus visits / email or phone link ups and have spoken at many campus events.

NUS have retained a reasonably high media profile this year with articles in the major papers, budget coverage on Sky news, regular national radio, appearances on the 7:30 report, Hack and channel 9.

### Lobbying and The Sector

I have engaged throughout the year with other relevant peak bodies such as AMSA, ALSA and CISA in particular through the first peak body forum organised by Hannah Smith which will now be a semi regular catch up on priorities and issues facing students with opportunities for collaboration.

NUS remains to have a close working relationship with CAPA and the NTEU. Jeannie Rea and I have an ongoing dialogue. I have also been liaising with other trade unions such as United Voice in preparing campaigns and submissions in particular in working in on social services and penalty rates research.

The sector however, in opposition to the governments claims they are united on fee deregulation could not be any further from the truth. Multiple Vice Chancellors have come out in opposition to deregulation and through sector groups such as the ATN it is clear that there will be further discussions to move away from unsustainable funding.

I have met with key people in Parliament this year including Senator Kim Carr, Lee Rhiannon, Jenny Macklin, Bill Shorten, Cathy McGowan, Don Markwell (advisor to Christopher Pyne) Most important have been the meetings with cross bench senators John Madigan, Nick Xenophon, Jacqui Lambie, Ricky Muir, Glenn Lazarus, David Leyonhlem, Dio Wang. I will continue to meet with them as the year progresses on Higher Education and Income support in particular.

I have also been working with the Office of Learning and teaching for their ongoing project on student leadership and input within universities, this project will be coming to a close in 2015 and I will be giving final feedback before the report is written.

### Research

Our research officer Graham Hastings has prepared a number of research papers and submissions most notably our submission on the second HERR bill and submission on Social Services and Youth Unemployment I have attended the senate committee on education and employment to discuss our submission further with CAPA.

## Second half of the year

Looking towards the second half of the year NUS and student activists in Australia are still facing threats around deregulation and underfunded sector, large threats to support as well as continuing to advocate for the retention SSAF. I will be strongly focussing on discussions on internal reform throughout the remainder of the year.

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### NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY TOM NOCK

The past 6 months have been extremely fast paced and challenging however NUS should be proud of what it has achieved. At our National Conference in December we heard that NUS' finances were in bad shape – the obvious cause of this being the protracted consequences of the change from CSU to VSU and the lack of change in NUS' funding structure. Last year NUS embarked on an ambitious reform program and general re-organisation of the Union. My first 6 months as NUS National General Secretary have largely been taken up trying to improve our practices and processes and explore a range of options regarding financing outside of affiliation fees. NUS needs to improve in all these aspects because without a strong, efficient, well-resourced Union we do not have a hope of organising and influencing decision makers. NUS is the sole national student voice and it has been my job to keep that voice functional. Below I will outline my main activities in prosecution of this task and summarise where we are headed into the next 6 months.

#### Affiliations & Finance

At the beginning of the year NUS put out a call for increased affiliations from its members as these figures had been falling steadily for some time. I am pleased to report that many university unions have substantially raised their

affiliation fees to support the national union in its fight against university fee deregulation. We have received expressions of interest from universities that have not been involved in NUS in the past, wanting to be involved. I credit this with the work NUS has been doing combating fee deregulation and the exciting prospects of our Quality Survey and upcoming Wellbeing Survey. NUS increased social media presence and subsequent increased presence in the media in general has also been a positive form of feedback from our members.

Where concerns about the union have been present myself and other office bearers have been able to address university student representative councils or student boards to address concerns. We have made a big point of being receptive to member feedback and concerns at these meetings have been incorporated into our reform program. It has been really great traveling the universities. As mandated by National Conference I have explored other revenue streams for NUS. As NUS at its core is a Union of its members I am of the firm belief that our main source of income should be affiliation fees. However if we want to expand we must branch out into secondary sources of revenue – in the last 6 months I have explored extra revenue through research grants, negotiating increased interest rates for our term deposits, and advertising on our website and other platforms. Into the next 6 months I am going to explore the latter as a solid source of additional income for NUS. Early on in the year we changed some of our processes to ensure we were getting all debt owed to us from conferences and other services. I am confident that NUS is on a good financial track leading up to the end of our financial year on the 30th September. Early on in the year NUS was brought up to date on all our reporting and regulatory obligations with the ACT Office of Regulatory Services.

#### NUS Budget

The NUS Budget was passed through National Executive at our March meeting – the budget

figures were carefully projected from previous years using conservative estimates for income.

#### Website and Communications

After years of not having a website NUS now has one. A Nationbuilder website initiated by last year's team was brought online this year and I would like to thank all the National Office Bearers who were involved in its construction. The website's purpose is to make diffusion of information more efficient as we upload materials, reports, and information about our conferences/events. In the second half of the year I will also be looking at its potential to produce revenue.

Rose and I are in weekly contact with campus presidents – they have been receiving monthly National Executive reports, research briefs, and campaign materials and media releases from NUS.

#### Presidents' Summit

Presidents Summit was a fantastic success and was revenue neutral thanks to the generous hosting package from the University of Sydney Union. Feedback from campus Presidents was positive and it was a great opportunity to get on the same page for activism in the year to come.

#### Constitutional Reform

NUS National Executive re-established the Constitutional Reform Committee to work on proposals for National Executive and National Conference to reform the National Union. Key areas that have been identified in our first few meetings are reforming the affiliations and accreditations process, addressing how NUS represents oppressed groups and issues associated with autonomy, national conference and other structural issues. NUS needs to adapt to a more restricted funding environment than it enjoyed 10 years ago and I hope this process kicked off a multi year program to future-proof the union.

#### Conclusion

The General Secretary's department has been very busy in the first 6 months of this year and it is set to get busier as the year progresses. The aim of this department is to ensure that NUS is fully capable of performing the activism it needs to win for students.

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### EDUCATION OFFICER HANNAH SMITH

My first six months in office have been occupied by work on dereg and the education campaign, planning education conference, rolling out the Quality Survey and co-ordinating the first National Student Organisation Roundtable.

The Education Campaign had another fantastic win with the defeat of Pyne's legislation in the senate for a second time earlier this year. It was great to see numbers against the bill grow in the senate. We have hosted a range of NDAs/actions and small campaigns to maintain the momentum around higher ed and dereg and I am looking forward to another fantastic NDA on August 19.

I have spent a great deal of time working with UNSW on putting together Education Conference for 2015. I am proud of the diversity of presentations and evening events that aim to stamp out drinking culture at NUS conferences. I have been working with campus Presidents and Education Officers to rollout the Quality Survey and have been incredibly impressed at the work ed officers have put into getting it out to students on their campuses. At the time of writing, we have had sufficient responses for the data to be considered sound, and I hope to increase the amount of responses we collect. The report should take approximately 6 weeks to put together and will be distributed prior to National Conference.

Finally, I have been working with Council of International Students Australia, Australian Medical Students Association, Australian Law Students Association and CAPA to put together a quarterly Peak Body Roundtable meeting to increase cohesion across the student representative space and ensure there is a united student voice on important political issues.

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## NATIONAL WELFARE OFFICER DEAN D'ANGELO

### National Day of Action: The Budget

Despite the limited response time to the budget, the May 20th National Day of Action represented a strong and unified effort from the student movement for the most part, in protesting against the 2015 budget measures.

Budget 2015 was misleadingly sold as a win for young Australians. Despite the presence of university fee deregulation and the introduction of a 4-week waiting period for income support, media coverage of the budget was disappointing with the overall negative impact of the budget undersold.

Going forward it is important for the student movement to unite behind the NUS campaigns against deregulation and cuts to income support. The only beneficiaries of disagreement and dysfunction within our movement, are our enemies. It was fantastic to see students in Melbourne united behind the NDA.

### "GRADUATES DESERVE A FAIR GO" NEWSTART CAMPAIGN

#### a) Campaign overview

The Graduates Deserve A Fair Go campaign is a campaign by the Welfare Department, launched during o-weeks, opposing the introduction of a waiting period and eligibility age increase for youth income support payments. Engagement has been low, with a small number of affiliates responding to my emails and

returning signed petitions. I would encourage affiliate campuses to get petitions signed and return them, as we need more signatures before I can table the petition in the Senate.

With the recent introduction of a bill by Social Services Minister Scott Morrison that will introduce a 1 month waiting period for income support, and increase the age of eligibility for Newstart to 25 it is more important than ever for students to engage with this campaign and collect as many signatures as possible.

#### b) Lobbying

At the time of writing, I am in the process of setting up post-Budget meetings with MP's to ensure students voices are heard by our legislators.

#### c) Petition

The response to the campaign has been very disappointing. I have received far less petitions returned to me than I had hoped. Many affiliate campuses have not engaged with the campaign at all. A petition is a simple, straightforward campaign method, whereby everyone can engage and support the campaign. I have requested and encouraged campus presidents to make sure copies of the petition are on stalls during union barbeques and the like, to ensure students have the opportunity to sign the petition. I urge all campuses to collect as many signatures as possible. With limited time and resources for NOB's, the National Union and its campaigns are only successful if affiliates are willing to push them.

### Student Wellbeing Survey

The NUS Student Wellbeing Survey is a joint research project undertaken by the Welfare Department and the Disabilities Department.

With a lack of current research undertaken by NUS in the areas of student income, welfare, wellbeing, cost of living, health and access, we have sought to launch a survey and produce a subsequent report that our affiliates can use going forward.

Much work has been completed looking at previous research undertaken, trends, changes and relevant issues to ensure that the survey is ready for launch in Semester 2.

### NUS Submission to Fair Work Commission

At the time of writing, in conjunction with the National President we are working on a submission to the Fair Work Commission's inquiry into penalty rates and the minimum wage.

Work on this will continue with a view to having the submission completed before the due date in August.

### Welfare Department Blog

The Welfare Department has been afforded a blog on the departmental page of the new NUS website. I will continue to post relevant updates here throughout the year, regarding campaigns and issues in play. You can visit the blog at: [http://www.nus.org.au/welfare\\_blog](http://www.nus.org.au/welfare_blog).

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## NATIONAL WOMEN'S OFFICER JESS MCLEOD

### Fee deregulation and attacks on higher education

The education campaign has been a major priority. I produced and distributed campaign material, titled 'The Liberals won't believe it, but women can do the maths', as a contribution to the National Day of Action on March 25. This highlighted the effect of education cuts and fee hikes on women and other disadvantaged social groups, and was used on campuses nationally as well as being shared by Get Up via social media. I visited campuses to put up posters, hand out leaflets, and discuss the campaign with students, activists and office bearers. I attended cross campus meetings in WA, and national phone link ups. I spoke at the Perth rally on March 25, and attended the NDA on May 20. During o'week I distributed material for the ACTU Fight For Our Rights

rallies, which opposed fee deregulation, cuts to penalty rates, Medicare, the ABC and more. Fighting attacks on education will be a focus for Semester 2.

### The Federal Budget

Unfortunately the national media coverage of the budget covered up the many attacks that it contained, including fee deregulation and cuts to funding for education, healthcare, welfare and other services. Cuts to welfare and services disproportionately affect women, as women work overwhelmingly in lowerpaid jobs and undertake more of the caring work for young children, the sick and the elderly. Women were vilified as the cuts to Paid Parental Leave were introduced. I wrote and distributed a budget summary for use on the campuses, which is also available on the NUS website.

### Talk About It

The 'Talk About It' survey aims is to gather information about the experiences of women university students in Australia. It will look at accommodation, safety, services, and challenges that face women enrolled in tertiary education institutions. The survey will be launched before Semester 2. I have expanded and rewritten some of the questions and obtained advice from a trauma specialist and sexual assault counsellor from Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia. I was given important feedback to ensure the survey questions were appropriate considering the serious issues being discussed.

### WA Indigenous community closures

This has been a political issue on the campuses, particularly after Abbott's racist "lifestyle choices" comment. I have supported, promoted and attended actions against the closures, talked to students about the issue, and distributed campaign material on the campuses. I will continue to look for ways to show solidarity with the campaign.

### Antiracism activism

I have attended actions and vigils against Islamophobia and racism, and in support of refugee rights. I have regularly attended the campaign meetings of United Against Bigotry and Racism WA. I have worked to promote the Rally Against Racism, which is standing up to the racism of 'Reclaim Australia' and the 'United Patriots Front'. There will be counter-demonstrations across the country on July 18/19.

### Bluestocking week

Bluestocking week is happening August 10th to 14th. Rose and I met with Jeannie Rea and Terri MacDonald from the NTEU to discuss and plan Bluestocking week 2015. The theme for BSW is "Storylines", which will focus on women's narratives. This is a broad theme and is open to different approaches. For some the focus may be on current issues such as equal pay, or fee deregulation and higher education. There will be a variety of campus activities happening, such as a discussion panels, film screenings, stunts, socials and meetings.

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### NATIONAL QUEER OFFICER'S REPORT ISAAC FOSTER

#### Department Progress

Last year's conference set a number of changes to union expenditure to ensure the viability of its core campaigns, with a view towards restoring full and adequate resourcing of all autonomous Departments. The direction taken by National Conference this December will also set the direction queer activism will take in the student movement in ensuing years. To ensure the Queer Department is best placed to respond to whatever outcomes conference decides, this year I have taken the following approach:

- Collaborating with NUS Education and autonomous Departments to build

intersectionality and accessibility for Queer students in NUS' Education campaign and autonomous campaigns;

- Communicating with state and national peak bodies aimed towards representing LGBTIQA students to ensure they are best placed should NUS' resources change;
- Continuing to develop successful ongoing Queer Department campaigns, as well as rolling out campaigns supported by conference in December.

### PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNS

#### We All Need to Pee (Campaign)

This year the Queer Department has continued the successful 'We All Need to Pee' campaign started by Queer Officers Cat Rose and Hiba Casablanca in 2013. By the time this report is published materials should be available to collect at Conference as well as distributed to affiliates. We have also sought to develop the campaign further through a new online presence on social media. This year's materials have benefited from the input of participants in a Queer Collaboration workshop run last year by Queer Officers Bec Thompson.

#### HIV Awareness (Campaign)

Conference last year called for a renewed fight for HIV Awareness and against discrimination towards individuals with HIV. A series of graphics and posters are being developed, which will be available at conference.

#### Queer Students Handbook

This resource will be targeted towards queer students and will be drafted in collaboration with campus affiliates, as well as NUS state and national officebearers. It aims to address core issues affecting LGBTIQA student living. I aim to consult and develop this resource with queer students at Queer Collaborations. The publication will be costed and viability of financing investigated closer to completion, as well as being released online.

### Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Act Amendment

The Hodgman Liberal government passed legislation in Tasmania's lower house allowing Tasmanian schools to refuse admission of queer-identifying students on religious grounds. Danica has spearheaded a campaign targeting MLCs (Members of Legislative Council) with the support of Tasmanian students. Updates and outcomes will be discussed at conference.

### Federal Budget & NDA Materials

Following passed changes to NUS' Social Media guidelines, we are taking advantage of increased access of autonomous departments to NUS' social media to publish materials pertaining to queer students to a wider audience. I will be releasing a full set of materials for NUS' third National Day of Action, which will be available at Education Conference.

### Supporting Affiliate Projects & Campaigns

The most time-consuming (and important) part of our responsibilities as National officebearers are our support to affiliates in addressing on-campus activities. In first semester I worked on a range of campus-based campaigns, ranging from addressing negative representations of Queer, Intersex and Non-binary students, addressing problematic staff policies and regulations, and supporting a number of campus-based campaigns. In addressing sensitive matters on campus I am constantly inspired by the spirit of our affiliates and queer students who have sought our support for small campus campaigns. Although they cannot be named, I want to thank everyone for their input in Semester 1, and especially Danica for support and correspondence in tackling some of the bigger challenges.

### NOWSA Organising Committee

This year I have had the pleasure of supporting the Network of Women Students Association (NOWSA) as a member of its Organising Committee for its annual national conference. This has involved a wide range of discussions

and actions in the run up to the conference, including helping to author its publication and running a workshop, 'Queering Affirmative Action.'

### Second-Semester Plans

In Semester two I will:

- Be taking the Queer Department to the Northern Territory with NUS materials, to help in developing a supportive relationship towards our underrepresented non-affiliates in Darwin, Batchelor and Alice Springs. (This trip was planned and priced in May to ensure minimal costs and fair representation of each state and territory in my travel budget. )
- Observe NTEU National Council 2015 and build networks with the union's Queer Staff PAC, Q.U.T.E. (Queer Unionists in Tertiary Education).
- Attend the National LGBTI Health Alliance's Queer health conference, 'Health in Difference' and prepare a report for campus office-bearers.
- Continue campus visits and supporting affiliates to develop policy for debate at National Conference.
- Prioritising closer collaboration with AQSN and existing state-based queer student associations to continue to discuss NUS' support networks with these associations and our shared future directions.

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### NATIONAL QUEER OFFICER DANICA CHEESLEY

#### Abbott, the budget and the ALP

The Abbott government's 2015 budget continued along from the 2014 budget which represented a massive attack on workers, students, and all oppressed sections of society. Many

of the measures in the budget, if passed, will be disastrous for queer people. Obviously the third attempt to deregulate university fees and cut funding to universities will disproportionately impact queer students who already face structural barriers to accessing, and staying in, higher education.

The immediate 4 week wait on Newstart, and the move to lift the Newstart eligibility age from 22 to 25 is also an attack that queer students will feel the brunt of. Queer students can be less likely to be able to access the support of family, which many will be forced to rely on to survive while they are waiting to access the pitiful welfare available to them.

Amongst other attacks, there is also the changes to the pharmaceutical benefits scheme will make medications more expensive. This is a change that will particularly impact on trans and gender diverse people.

Alongside the budget, one of the other federal issues impacting queer people has been the recent discussions around marriage equality, sped up by the successful referendum in Ireland. It is positive to see both the Greens and the ALP moving bills to legislate for marriage equality: one aspect of queerphobia enshrined in Australian law. It is important however to recognise though the hypocrisy of the ALP who are moving this bill, but not binding their members to vote in favour of it. The upcoming protest at the Labor Party National Conference, calling for the party to bind, which I have been central in organising, will be an important part of forcing the hand of the ALP.

### **Campaigning**

A considerable portion of my time this year has been devoted to education campaign, as should be the priority of all NUS departments. Being based in Melbourne, I have attended all the demonstrations in Melbourne. The first NDA of the year was particularly great, with hundreds showing up in the wake of deregulation again being voted down in the Senate.

This demonstration was so successful because of the hundreds of hours activists spent putting up posters, handing out leaflets, chalking, making announcements in lectures and talking to students at university campuses.

Alongside this, I have been involved in organising demonstrations in Melbourne around a variety of issue relating to queer students. I spoke on queer issues at the International Women's Day Protest in early March, I was central in organising the Melbourne protest on International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia and recently I helped organise a victorious protest against Swastika tattoo sporting neo-Nazi's who wanted the Rainbow Flag it flies above the building, as well as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags which it flies.

I am also working on resources surrounding gender neutral bathrooms, alongside the various local issues I have assisted campus queer officers with throughout the semester.

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### **NATIONAL DISABILITIES OFFICER ALISON TAYLOR**

Hello everyone! I hope you have had a wonderful first semester and you are enjoying Education Conference.

This semester has been about putting the disabilities department back on track. By speaking to as many campus and state office bearers before the start of semester, I was able to see what they wanted from me and the department; I was able to re-focus on what would be good for as many students as possible.

I sent out soft copies of some posters that both myself and some state disabilities officers were able to make, and I have been working hard on ensuring that the National Days of Action have been accessible to as many students as they can be. The NDA's this year have been

successful in improving the accessibility for students across the board, but there is still room for improvement. I have been working on the Wellbeing survey with the National Welfare Officer. This survey will ask students on welfare initiatives at their campuses, finance, health and counselling services, housing and much more. The survey will be set to run periodically so that NUS and campus student unions are able to compare the data from year to year.

Communication with outside groups has also continued from last year, with a lot of groups being very helpful when it has come to information for the upcoming survey and for campuses who have requested it. Many NGO's and not for profit groups are excited to work with NUS, but struggling to work out what we are able to complete together. After the survey results are released this may be an easier task.

Over the past semester I have held two skype link ups for state and campus disability office bearers or equivalent. I hope to continue these link ups, as they are a good way to share ideas and have good discussion. I have also been visiting campuses both in my home state of Adelaide and in Melbourne. I travelled Melbourne for O Week and I was also very lucky to have been invited to Monash Clayton for their very first Disabilities Week.

As always, if you would ever like to speak to me, please don't hesitate to send me an email! I hope you enjoy the rest of the conference and semester 2!

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### **ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER BRIDGET CAMA**

This year the ATSI Department has namely been focused on the ATSI Student Conference. This conference has previously been an occurrence in the department, however hasn't run for a couple of years. This year the Conference is sponsored by UTS and will be held at UTS from the 22-25th

July. There are approximately 50 ATSI students attending coming from all over the country including WA, Victoria, NSW and SA. The conference will include workshops in leadership, campaigning, fundraising and policy writing. There will also be several independent workshops provided by students and YARN. It is hoped that the Conference will be opened with traditional welcome and smoking ceremony.

There will be a lot of sessions around discussing ATSI Student issues and how to combat these. These will include proposed changes to ITAS Funding, Indigenous student representation on campuses, the Sisters can Speak campaign and planning for the NDA.

Furthermore, the ATSI Department has been supporting the condemnation of the forced closure of Aboriginal Communities in WA. I have attended all the NDA's in Sydney along with many other students from around the country attending their cities rallies. Latoya Rule from FUSA is doing a great job in being an advocate for this issue and is also working to establish connections with other SA Universities Indigenous departments.

In terms of representation on campuses for Indigenous students, Hannah Armstrong from LTSU contacted me about her concern of the Indigenous Officer not having voting rights. In response to this, I wrote a letter, which was taken to the meeting and passed.

I have been contacted by several university representatives in regards to their concern for ITAS Tutoring. Indigenous students at Griffith University in particular have stopped receiving ITAS tutoring, with only first years being able to access the service. This is obviously just the start of what will be a common occurrence in the next few months for some universities. The proposed changes, as I outlined in my article in Tharunka, is that the ITAS money will go into a larger funding pool called the 'Indigenous Advancement Scheme' and from

here universities and their centres will have to work in a bidding system to access the money. This means that some universities that do not have a strong Indigenous centre may miss out all together, affecting namely rural and smaller campuses and further, that there may not be a set amount of money given, where previously universities receive ITAS based on how many Indigenous students they have apply for ITAS. We will discuss our strategies as to how to combat these changes at conference when the announcement comes in September.

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### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OFFICER YANG LIU

It was a great half year in NUS, I met many people and I learnt a lot from them. At start of the year, I didn't do much because of my family problem. At late February, I start to think about how to the campaign, I had meetings with previous international officer Johnny, he gave me some suggestions.

I start a campaign is called Anti-Plagiarism campaign at Deakin university. I saw the news from NSW, a Chinese company helping students writing assignments for commercial purpose, Universities including UTS, University of Sydney caught some students who asked for assignment writing, they failed the course, and some of them have been exclude by university. The company did not care about the students, they received money and walk away, and they put students in to risks.

I heard in Melbourne, there are similar company in some campuses, and the worst one is in Deakin University. I went to the Deakin University and saw the posters in Chinese, they post them at back of the toilet door! I talked to Deakin University student association (DUSA), they felt worry about this in the campus. In this case, we start the Anti-Plagiarism campaign at Deakin.

First of all, we collected the evidence, we took photos of the posters, and talked to some students from Deakin. DUSA wrote an English version letter and I wrote a Chinese version, the letter is telling students that there is a company in campus that writing assignment for students, University will be highly monitor the company, if some students get caught, they will get penalty, the letter will deliver the idea for students, this is very serious. Based on the letter, DUSA asked their designer to design the posters, we had three English version and three Chinese version posters, these posters will be post at campus and Facebook pages. I will also give them to the Chinese social media.

At this stage, our campaign is going well, and this will continue to next half of the year, the campaign will go to other campus as well. I had a discussion with Johnny, I will start another campaign which I mentioned early of the year, the workplace right campaign. I had a plan to do this campaign and it will start from next semester.

I haven't been to other campus, I will do so at second half of the year, I need to hear international students' issues from different states, and they have different issues need to be solved. Next semester, the student election will be start at campuses, I would like to ask more international students involve in to this.

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### NATIONAL ETHNO-CULTURAL OFFICER MICHAEL BEZUDENHOUT

#### E-Newsletter

I have been sending out e-newsletters approximately once a month in order to share resources and let everyone know what I have been up to in a less formal way than my monthly reports to National Executive (which you can find at [www.nus.org.au/ethno\\_cultural](http://www.nus.org.au/ethno_cultural)).

Subscribers are predominantly campus

presidents and ethno-cultural/international student officers however anyone is welcome to subscribe if interested  
at: [www.eepurl.com/beuYX9](http://www.eepurl.com/beuYX9)

#### Multicultural Calendar

The many diverse diaspora and community groups in Australia celebrate a range of national, religious and cultural days and festivals or significance which are crucial to the maintenance of their culture and the formation of their identity. It is important that the university environment is one which supports the observance of these significant days.

Therefore, one of the first projects I completed this year was creating an online and publically available google calendar to assist student organisations in engaging with and supporting ethno-cultural students by being aware of as many multicultural days of significance as possible so that they can plan celebratory events, provide extra support, and be aware of particular sensitivities on certain days.

You can find a link to the calendar on the Ethno-Cultural Department section of the NUS website ([www.nus.org.au/ethno\\_cultural](http://www.nus.org.au/ethno_cultural)), please don't hesitate to email me on [ethno-cultural@nus.asn.au](mailto:ethno-cultural@nus.asn.au) if you have anything to add to the calendar.

#### 'Racism Is...' Campaign

The 'Racism Is...' Campaign is a photo campaign launched at O-weeks and will continue throughout the year. The campaign aims to provide ethno-cultural students with a platform to express what racism and discrimination means to them from their personal experience. My intention is to utilise the campaign to spread awareness of experiences of racism and discrimination in a more personal and engaging way in order to ensure that the people who experience racism are the ones who define it and lead the conversations and campaigns to tackle it, allowing others to be informed and active allies.

Once I have gathered more photos and messages I hope to utilise the campaign's social media pages and targeted advertising to share these messages in order to encourage more sensitivity and the celebration – rather than misunderstanding – of diversity.

The most successful event so far was the 'Racism Is... Week' at ANU which was incredibly well attended and produced a huge number of insightful and profound messages from a wide variety of students. I'm very grateful to DaHye Kim, Vice President for Events at ANU ISD, for putting in the huge effort it took to run such a large campaign which attracted nearly 500 RSVP's on Facebook.

I'm currently liaising with several campus office bearers for me to visit their campuses in Semester 2 to run a 'Racism Is... Day' and simultaneously collect data for the ethno-cultural student experience survey and campus audit. If you would like to run this event you can find all the materials and links on the Ethno-Cultural Department section of the NUS website, please don't hesitate to let me know so I can help out however I can.

#### Ethno-Cultural Student Experience Survey

The online survey will collect a range of information including ethnic and linguistic diversity, access to income support, educational background, course area studied, experiences of racism and discrimination both within their discipline, their university and the community, awareness of university cultural services and awareness of ethno-cultural representation on a university level.

I have consulted heavily with a number of stakeholders and provided all subscribers of my mailing list with an opportunity to give me feedback on the proposed survey to ensure that the right questions will be asked and that the data we need will be collected.

I have been engaging with campus Ethno-cultural representatives, collectives and clubs as well as student organisations more generally

to utilise as many mailing lists as possible to distribute the survey which will most likely be at the start of Semester 2. I also intend to create and distribute poster artwork to be displayed on campus to promote engagement with the survey.

The findings of the survey will be released with recommendations in the 'Ethno-cultural state of the Union' report late this year.

### **Ethno-Cultural Campus Resources and Representation Audit**

Similarly, I have been carrying out an audit into the services and representation available to ethno-cultural students across Australia with its outcomes also presented in the 'Ethno-cultural state of the Union' report.

The outcome will be to create a register of what representation exists for ethno-cultural students within campus student organisations and university administrations, what services are available to specifically assist CALD students, if any cultural sensitivity or diversity training is provided to student activists and representatives as well as university and student organisation staff, and the presence of any ethno-cultural/CALD/PoC clubs or collectives on campus.

A key focus for me will be to use the data collected by this process to provide extra attention and support to specific campuses with room to improve ethno-cultural student representation and support services including helping to establish new ethno-cultural collectives. I hope to use the report to create a dialogue with student organisations and university administrations on how to better cater for the varied needs of CALD students with a particular focus on how to support students during times when their cultural practices or days of significance may clash with academic demands.

### **Reclaim Australia Rallies**

While it was great to see these racist rallies were generally very poorly attended, it is of course upsetting that enough people think that

way for them to have occurred in the first place. While we can take solace in the fact that public's reaction was to overwhelmingly denounce Reclaim Australia's counterfactual statements and intolerant ideology, these rallies nevertheless can make people from diverse backgrounds feel less safe and more anxious when going about their daily lives.

I have spoken to a number of people that have said that the community's support for the counteractions of a number of organised groups as well as individuals really helped to diminish the negative impact of the reclaim rallies. Unfortunately Reclaim Australia have announced further rallies in July. As such, with the above feedback in mind, I will be holding a phone linkup in early June to discuss a coordinated approach on how best to react to and tackle these rallies in a way that celebrates multiculturalism and highlights how fringe and unpalatable Reclaim Australia is to the Australian public while limiting the exposure Reclaim so badly crave. Check the Ethno-Cultural Department section of the NUS website for updates.

### **Semester 2 Travel**

I plan to do much of my traveling in Semester 2. I am currently lining up trips to run 'Racism Is...' events, conduct campus audits, run the ethno-cultural student experience survey, and engage with university administrations on best practice in terms of maintaining an inclusive environment, encouraging the celebration of diversity and providing support where necessary. I'm always open to suggestions for which campuses are the priority to visit!

### **Cross Campus Ethno-Cultural Network**

I plan to launch the 'Cross Campus Ethno-Cultural Network' in Semester 2 utilising the contacts made during the audit. The Cross Campus Ethno-Cultural Network will be a formalised structure consisting of a Facebook group, a regular national phone meeting schedule, and the capability for physical

state-branch meetings. The intention is for this network to act as an advisory and consultation body to the National and State NUS ethno-cultural departments to ensure the diversity inherent in the portfolio is able to be adequately considered and represented.

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## **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT OFFICER CARL JACKSON**

### **Networking**

At the beginning of the year I met up with outgoing National Environment Officer Damian Ridgewell for handover. Cheers for that Damo. My first task as National Enviro Officer was to collate all the contact details for all environment departments/collectives/relevant officebearers around the country, which to my knowledge has never been created by the Environment Office before. This will be an incredibly useful resource for future officebearers. I will be making this resource available to fellow environmental activists at EdCon, as I believe it will greatly help facilitate networking and coordinating national campaigns in the future.

In terms of general networking, I have been able to forge relationships with a variety of people and organizations so far this year, including scientists, trade unions, activist organizations and more. Most useful to NUS is my ongoing relationship with the Greens, who have pledged great support for our National Days of Action this year in the way of printing.

I have also made lots of media contacts, including with a national Triple J Hack reporter, 4ZZZ FM in Brisbane, Channels 7, 9 and 10, ABC TV and radio, various university media outlets, small newspapers and more. In the lead up to our National Days of Action this year I was able to utilize my radio contacts to get last minute on-air promotion, which is useful and generally free advertising that our union should employ more regularly!

### **Environment Campaigning Fighting for the reef in the Queensland elections**

I did extensive building work for (flyering, postering, Facebook advertising etc.) and also was one of the speakers at the Rally Against Newman. My article on why we need to fight to save the Great Barrier Reef, and not just vote for Labor, was published in Red Flag and Semper Floreat: <https://redflag.org.au/article/we-need-fight-save-great-barrier-reef>

I also spoke at the Rally for the Reef at Nundah, which was also a very good networking opportunity. I made contact with a whole bunch of climate scientists, some Greens candidates, Sea Shepherd activists, an activist from Galilee Blockade and more.

### **Galilee Basin Coal Mines**

I interviewed Adrian Burragubba, spokesperson from the Wangan and Jagalingou Traditional Owners Land Council. My subsequent article was published in the Red Flag newspaper, available at the link below:

<https://redflag.org.au/article/wangan-and-jagalingou-people-take-coal-giant-adani>

I also participated in a rally against Adani at the University of Queensland.

### **Fossil Fuel Divestment**

I spoke at the UQ Fossil Free divestment rally on the importance of challenging our university administrations in the divestment campaign. Upon request, I am also in the process of published generic divestment policies to be made available on the NUS website for environment officebearers and activists around the country.

### **March 25 National Day of Action**

I coordinated last minute promotion for the March 25 National Day of Action, liased with media and spoke from the platform and led the chanting at the Brisbane demonstration. The day was a real success - we got 150-200 students out for what was as always a very loud and energetic demonstration. We had a decent showing of solidarity from the NTEU, QUT and

Queensland Council of Unions as well. Now we should prepare for demonstrations where possible after the next Federal Budget comes out in May, which will no doubt contain further attacks on students and young people.

### **Protest Against Christopher Pyne**

I organized, promoted and chaired a snap protest against Christopher Pyne when he visited the University of Queensland on Wednesday 11 March (he was there to talk up the supposed merits of fee deregulation to an audience of Young Liberals!) The event was very successful with statewide reporting on Channel 7 and ABC television news, and we very much had a focus of using the event to promote the March 25 National Day of Action. The NTEU endorsed the event and sent a speaker along, and we also had a focus on Pyne's proposed \$150 million research funding cuts and its associated 1700 researcher jobs, with a PhD student speaking to that. So I highly endorse fellow OBs to protest the shit out of Liberal ministers whenever they set foot on our campuses.

### **Indigenous Solidarity**

This has been a very important focus of my department so far this year. In addition to the fact that all student unions on principle should take a stand against racism and with indigenous Australians against the ongoing genocide in this country, issues surrounding environmental destruction often intersect with indigenous struggle.

### **WA Community Closures**

So far this year I have pledged a lot of my time to building the demonstrations against the WA Community Closures, including organizing printing of leaflets and posters with the Greens; mass leafleting and postering around Brisbane, particularly UQ, QUT and Griffith Universities; organized a banner painting and student contingent to the community closures rally at the University of Queensland; attended an NTEU and Goorie Berimpa Collective Fireside Forum on the community closures and more.

### **Sticker Campaign**

I am launching a sticker campaign titled "Land Rights Not Mining Rights!" This campaign will focus on drawing the important link between the struggle for indigenous land rights and the fight against environmental destruction, particularly the massive mining land grab that is the current attempted closure of WA communities, and the ongoing attempted theft of Aboriginal land in Central Queensland to build the Carmichael coal mine. Below is the tentative design for a sticker which I'll be distributing at EdCon 2015. I would like to thank National ATSI Officer Bridget Cama for her feedback on the materials. Which are still under development. Any feedback is welcome! Please email me at [environment@nus.asn.au](mailto:environment@nus.asn.au)

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### **NATIONAL SMALL AND REGIONAL OFFICER ROSE GOSPER**

As Small and Regional Officer I have been working to connect campus representatives from regional campuses. I have established a Small and Regional Campus Network. If you are from an S&R campus join at [www.facebook.com/groups/776944002359490/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/776944002359490/)

My primary goal as Small and Regional Officer is to establish contact with all campuses, this in the past has been patchy. Small and Regional campuses are more often than not isolated. As a former campus president I am aware that one of the most valuable resources is the shared experience and knowledge of other student activists. If I have not contacted you, please feel free to contact me. I am offering support for regional campuses on a range of issues, including ensuring NUS materials are distributed and support for student associations experiencing difficulty.

I have been visiting campuses where possible, including UNE and UoW, as well as attending and speaking at Newcastle's NDA.

I ran a workshop at Presidents Summit about engaging students at small and regional campuses, and will be running a workshop at NOWSA about the issues affecting regional women. Within NUS I have been a member of the website working committee.

For the remainder of the year I intend to continue to build the regional campus network, and continue to offer support to campus representatives.





[www.nus.org.au](http://www.nus.org.au)