

**Report from the National Disabilities Officer:  
Alison Taylor NX1**



**Handover Week**

- Attended handover week from the 5<sup>th</sup> of January until the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- During my time in Melbourne I met with the Disability Officers from La Trobe, Melbourne, Monash Clayton and Swinburne. We discussed their plans for the year as well as my potential campaigns and what my role means for them.
- Started work on my campaign plan and budget proposals for 2015.
- Made a contact list of all of the 2015 Disability Office Bearers or their equivalent on campus.
  - Emailed all Disability Office Bearers and have met with or set up meetings with those who replied.
  - Emailed all of the equivalent Office Bearers to introduce myself and give them my contact details.
- Met with the 2014 National Disabilities Officer (Josh Rebelledo) for our department handover, and to discuss my ideas and campaign strategies for 2015.
- Met with the 2015 National Welfare Officer (Dean D'Angelo) to ensure that our campaigns were not going to overlap, as I will be completing campaigns that focus on mental health and the cuts to the DSP.
- Went through all of the leftover campaign materials from 2013 and 2014 and divided them up to the campuses that were running campaigns on those areas for the year and also to the campuses with a small budget.

**Semester One O week**

- I will be prioritising my time to campuses that already have Disability Office Bearers within their Student Union. Later in the year I will be visiting campuses that do not have a disability department but would like to implement one into their Union.
- As Monash Clayton's Disability department is brand new, I have prioritised this campus for O week to ensure that they have a good start to the year.
- I will be attending the following campuses during their O weeks:
  - MONDAY 23/2: Flinders University

- TUESDAY 24/2: Adelaide University
- WEDNESDAY 25/2: Melbourne University and Monash Clayton
- THURSDAY 26/2: La Trobe University and Monash Clayton
- FRIDAY 27/2: Swinburne
- MONDAY 2/3: Deakin
- I will be working with the Disability Officers (or equivalent) to successfully run their O week campaigns as well as my O week campaign, and also to build or start their campus collectives.
- O Week will be the start of my campaigns against the DSP cuts and improving counselling services on campus.

### **Campaign Plan**

- I have been working on my campaign plan for 2015 which will be ready to be sent to the National President (Rose Steele) by Sunday 5pm. This will include;
  - The Disability Department campaigns for the year,
  - O -week campaign,
  - Goals for 2015,
  - Key dates and,
  - Events
- I have been in contact with the Disability Office Bearers and I have ensured that our campaigns match or don't overlap each other.
- As said previously, I met with the 2015 National Welfare Officer (Dean D'Angelo) during handover week to ensure that our campaigns were not going to overlap, as I will be completing campaigns that focus on mental health and the cuts to the DSP.
- I will be requesting research be done for the Disabilities department in order for a resource booklet to be made for Campus and State Disability Officers.
- I have started getting quotes for posters and stickers and I am currently looking for a graphic designer.

### **Social Media – Facebook**

- Have set up the NUS Disabilities account so that I am an admin and all previous office bearers are no longer admins of the page.
- Have been interacting with a group called "Students with Disabilities Network Australia" or SDNA.
  - SDNA was set up after the three autonomous office bearers pay was cut to \$0. They feel that NUS has let them down by doing this.

- I have been engaging with the students in this group to ensure that NUS maintains a healthy relationship with students living with a disability.
- I will be working with the student who started up SDNA to ensure that the network runs efficiently, and won't become a group that is anti-NUS because of some of the reforms passed at National Conference.
- I was invited to their Skype link up on Monday 12/1/15
  - Skype link up had discussions around NUS. Even though the original person who made the group is seemed to be anti-NUS, the rest of the group want to work with NUS to ensure that the Disabilities Department has as much support as they can offer.
  - I will be working with the student who started up the SDNA page to ensure that it runs as well as it can.
- I will be using Facebook and Twitter as a large portion of my campaigns for the year as students can simply retweet or share an image or comment. This will leave money within the Disabilities budget to pay for other items for the 2015 Disability Campaigns.

## **Media**

- Empire Times Magazine (Flinders University) has requested an interview with me as "a student from Flinders who is now a National Office Bearer". No more details have been given and I have requested more information.

## **President's Summit**

- I will be attending for the entirety of President's Summit.
- I have started working on a short session and my report for those attending.

## **Grants**

- The Disability Department has a relatively small budget and I have started working on applying for grants for the department. I have not applied for any as yet.

## **General**

- I have had small number of students contact me in regards to how things have been running at their universities or within student groups outside of NUS. I have heard reports of groups that are supposed to be safe being unsafe and not intersectional. I have been able to sort these issues out quickly and without any worry.