

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS STRATEGIC PLAN 2013



Authorised by Jade Tyrrell, NUS National President 2013



FAIR WAGES FOR Fair Work

DO YOU:



WORK IN
RETAIL?



WORK IN
HOSPITALITY?



WORK IN A
CALL CENTRE?

WHERE EVER YOU WORK:
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS,
GET INVOLVED IN YOUR UNION.



unions
australia



1300 486 466

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WHAT IS NUS?

THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS IS TYPICALLY DESCRIBED AS THE PEAK REPRESENTATIVE BODY FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA. BUT NUS IS MORE THAN THIS. IT IS A STRONG, DYNAMIC AND POWERFUL VOICE FOR STUDENTS THAT CAN BE A FORMIDABLE CHECK ON GOVERNMENT POLICY POSITIONS AND UNIVERSITY DECISIONS.

NUS represents over one million students and is comprised of several departments including: Education, Welfare, Womens, Queer, Disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Ethno-Cultural, Environment, International Students and Small & Regional. NUS also has branches in each state with State Office Bearers that mirror the National Office Bearers in each of our departments.

WHAT DOES NUS DO?

NUS acts as a collective voice for university students to make sure their rights are realised and that their concerns are heard. At NUS we believe in the importance of student control of student affairs, the right to free and fair education, collective and meaningful action on education issues and calling for change to improve the student experience. Our departments are responsible for running campaigns relating to issues that affect students and their interests directly or around causes students care deeply about. The elements of NUS campaigns can involve anything from petitions and rallies at a grassroots level to media engagement and lobbying decision makers directly to affect change.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED? HOW DO YOU ACT NOW, TO CREATE CHANGE?

The first step is to get involved in your campus student organisation, which will be in regular contact with the National Union. NUS campaigns are run at a campus level, so you can become part of the action at your university. You should also log on to the NUS website at www.unistudent.com.au to read more about our campaigns, our departments and how to contact us. Follow the NUS President on Twitter @NUS_President to stay in touch with campaign progress, the latest news and actions.



This NUS publication was created, printed and distributed on Aboriginal lands. These lands were never ceded. NUS acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of these lands, and pays our respect to their Elders past and present.

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HAVE YOUR SAY IN 2013 GET OUT THE VOTE

UPDATE YOUR ENROLMENT. KNOW THE FACTS.

visit www.unistudent.com.au

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JADE TYRRELL
National President



INTRODUCTION NATIONAL PRESIDENT

2013 IS A GAME-CHANGING YEAR FOR STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA, AND UNIVERSITIES AS A WHOLE. THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS (NUS) WILL SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH STUDENTS, THE COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNMENT AND RELEVANT SECTOR GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO MAKE EDUCATION A KEY ISSUE IN THE FEDERAL ELECTION, AND TO PUSH FOR CHANGES THAT WILL HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE.

Each department of NUS has a set of important campaigns and events throughout the year that offer students the opportunity to get involved in meaningful activism around the issues they identify with and care about.

NUS will remain a strong voice for university students and will contribute to debates on issues that affect them. By focusing on the key issues identified in my strategic plan and those of our office-bearers on the subsequent pages, NUS can work to achieve reform and build on alliances with key sector groups to push for this change.

We have received the government's response to the Base Funding Review Report, which unfortunately did not include a commitment to increase base funding, yet it did promise that the government would retain the cap on student fees. This year the National Union of Students (NUS) will focus on the fact that student fees for their studies at university are ballooning at an alarming rate. As the peak representative body for university students, we believe that if our higher education system is to be accessible and equitable, there can be no further increases to student fees or any moves towards fee deregulation. It now takes around a decade to pay off a typical HECS debt. Quality will also remain on the agenda, as will the need for income support reform. Our ultimate

position is that education should be free for all students, as it once was. In real terms, the base funding per student has dropped 22 per cent since 1995. The public benefit that a university education provides justifies the desperate need for increased base funding of at least 10 per cent, and a lowering of student contributions through the HECS-HELP scheme.

This booklet has been produced by NUS for the benefit of member and non-member campus organisations and the students they represent. It is intended to provide information about the campaigns coming out of the NUS Departments this year, as well as the strategic direction of NUS as a whole for 2013. It can be used as a tool to generate discussion about the importance of NUS and to encourage students to get involved in our fight for student rights.

It is crucial that students have a national voice to lobby governments and the higher education sector and to run national campaigns to ensure that student concerns are voiced. It is also crucial for students across the country to participate in these campaigns and work with our departments to strengthen the Union's message and its impact.

For more information about NUS and our campaigns, please visit: www.unistudent.com.au

NATIONAL PRESIDENT STRATEGIC PLAN

1 SSAF – STUDENTS MONEY TO STUDENTS & IMPROVING THE STUDENT ADVOCACY GUIDELINES

- Consult with campuses on implementation of the SSAF, to develop a written submission to the review panel regarding the Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy Guidelines.
- Lobby for guaranteed minimum funding for student organisations, stronger student consultation and student representative consultation on the expenditure of the SSAF funds and changes to clarify the legal ambiguities regarding the position of student organisations in negotiations.
- Support student organisations with negotiations and submissions to universities around the SSAF, where required.
- Support student organisations prepare for long-term survival and help with any organisations recently set up, or helping to establish new organisations.
- Generate a Report into the Implementation of the Student Services and Amenities Fee in the form of a booklet for the year of 2013, as was done in 2012 which will include:
 - An audit of services provided on each campus
 - Rankings of universities on the implementation of the SSAF.
 - Best-practice cases on the implementation of the SSAF and highlighting any changes between 2012-2013.

TIMELINE
February - September

2 VOTE FOR EDUCATION CAMPAIGN (IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT)

- Assisting with “get out the vote” initiative to ensure all students are reminded to enrol and/or update enrolment details
- Developing major party report cards on higher education policy
- Lobbying Members of Parliament and candidates standing in the federal election to sign “pollie pledges” in support of certain higher education policy platforms; developing corresponding student pledges.

TIMELINE March - September

3 EDUCATION CHANGES LIVES: QUALITY IN A SYSTEM OF DEREGULATED PLACES; NO FURTHER DEREGULATION I.E. OF FEES OR INCREASES TO FEES (PART IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT)

- National Day of Action across Australia – assist campuses with preparation and engagement.
- Lobbying decision-makers in government and in universities not to support fee increases for students or fee deregulation
- Engage meaningfully with the quality measurement instruments for the My University website, and continually advocate for all initiatives to be student –centric.
- Working with campuses facing quality issues including overcrowded classes, general subject cuts or reduced availability of courses, casualisation, high numbers of teaching-only positions, etc to provide support and develop solutions to improve student experience.

TIMELINE All year





4 COMMUNICATION, ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION WITH AFFILIATE MEMBERS AND OTHER CAMPUSES

- Increase and improve communication with members and non-members by regularly updating new website, introducing an NUS newsletter, and regular direct contact with representative organisations
- Regular campus visits where possible, with the provision of reasonable notice.
- Visits to all member campuses in 2013
- Engaging with state branches more effectively to co-ordinate efforts
- Consulting with members on education policy issues at Presidents' Summit and Education Conference in addition to outside the conference setting.
- Improving the conference experience in general by providing sufficient detail to attendees

TIMELINE All year

6 ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SECTOR AND MAINTENANCE OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER SECTOR GROUPS

- Communicate and co-ordinate with relevant groups in the sector regarding higher education issues, including university groupings.
- Build on positive relationships in the sector with National Tertiary Education Union, Council of International Students Australia, Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations and Universities Australia.
- Formation of an 'education alliance' with key sector stakeholders in 2013 to ensure university issues and the student experience are at the fore in the federal election.

TIMELINE All year

7 STRONGER NUS ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MEDIA

- Provide media training to campus presidents at annual Presidents' Summit
- Regular communication with various media outlets on NUS activities, with a focus on a diversity of platforms
- Regular circulation of press releases relating to substantial NUS activity and in response to changes in the sector that affect students.

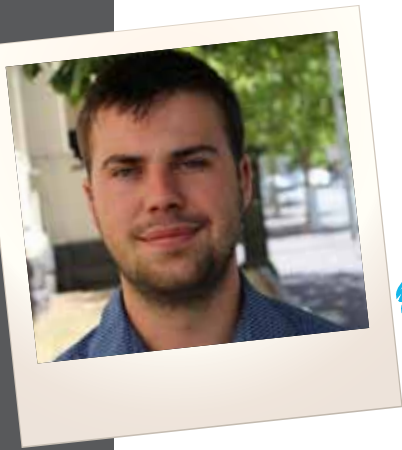
TIMELINE All year

5 A STRONG STUDENT VOICE: PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT OF ON-CAMPUS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

- Create a best-practice guide for student representation on campus from consultation with campus student organisations
- Lobby universities who have removed any forms of student representation to reinstate them
- Work with TEQSA to determine whether any universities are non-compliant with student representation requirements

TIMELINE April - October





TODD PINKERTON
National General
Secretary

THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS
JOB IS TO ENSURE THAT THE DECISIONS
REGARDING THE ISSUES THAT MATTER TO
STUDENTS ARE NEVER MADE WITHOUT A
STRONG STUDENT VOICE.

Representing the over one million university students in Australia, NUS has its work cut out for it. However, the National Union of Students is only ever as strong as its financial position. That's why the job of the General Secretary is so important in ensuring NUS's long and short-term financial position; its capacity to fund its activist departments to ensure that they remain a relevant and effective voice for students. This means two things: maintaining NUS's strong financial position and continuing to build and foster NUS's relationships in the education, union and government sectors.

GETTING THE MOST FROM NUS RESERVES

The National Union of Students keeps a large portion of its money in reserves. We make a profit on these reserves by investing them in term deposits. For the last few years NUS has been able to generate its second highest income stream from its investment of these assets. I intend to continue this practice and will seek to invest an increased amount in term deposits comparing a number of different avenues to receive the best rate possible. Getting the most from our reserves will go a long way to ensuring the national union's long-term viability

2 GUARANTEEING A BUDGET SURPLUS

For the last few years NUS has achieved a budget surplus and it is essential that this continue so as to strengthen NUS's financial position. This is a yearlong goal of keeping track of two things: our levels of spending and the income generated from affiliate members. NUS's reasonably strong financial position is not an excuse to recklessly increase spending. Indeed NUS has managed to successfully balance its spending against its activism, compromising neither to ensure NUS remains in both a strong position both politically and financially. The income generated from affiliation paired with that of our reserves will be critical to delivering a surplus. I intend to work with campuses that have benefited under the Student Services and Amenities Fee legislation to increase their affiliate amounts where able as campuses in 2012 have done. NUS's capacity to return a surplus is dependent on continuing to build strong relationships with affiliate and non-affiliate campuses and other higher education sector stakeholders.

3 CONTINUING TO BUILD NEW RELATIONSHIPS

The National Union is one the key players in the decision making processes of Australian higher education and many other sectors of policy. Our success in lobbying and affecting significant change for students is dependent on not only continuing to foster strong relationships with other stakeholders but also building new relationships. I intend to develop new tools for our national office bearer team to better equip them in their lobbying and campaign ambitions. One such tool will be the creation of a NUS corporate brief. A corporate brief is a useful tool to disperse amongst affiliates and stakeholders to quickly and effectively communicate NUS's key strategic goals and positions on issues. Secondly I will be implementing media and organiser training for office bearers so that department campaigns are not only more effective but cost-effective. Additionally I am exploring opportunities for the National Union of Students to reignite its relationship with the Australian Council of Trade Unions and begin a relationship of mutually exchanging skills and opening ourselves up to their support. The National Union shares many of the same characteristics of industrial trade unions and NUS has a lot to benefit from rebuilding this historic relationship.



EDUCATION CAMPAIGN PLAN

IN 2013 THE NUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL SEEK TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN POLICY AND ISSUES SPECIFIC TO THEIR UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND TO THE FUTURE OF TERTIARY EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA.

1 HEY BABY BOOMERS!

Education changes lives. For the first time in history tertiary students are paying more for their education. But we are getting less. Course cuts, student representation slashed and no increase to funding from the Federal Government. Join the fight for funding and to help save public education in Australia.

2 I AM THE CHANGE: EVERY VOICE COUNTS

This expands upon the NUS 'Act Now, Create Change' campaign from the last two years. 'I am the Change' will provide a tool kit for activists on campuses to run campaigns on campus, as well as a lobbying guide. The kit will include specific examples of successful and unsuccessful campus campaigns as a guide for reference.

3 #NDA2013: OUR EDUCATION IS NOT FOR PROFIT

National Days of Action are a vital part of NUS' history and engagement not just on university campuses. The 2013 NDA focus is on cuts, fee increases, and deregulation. The NDA seeks to raise awareness around current issues in higher education and is broad enough for campuses to run events on local issues.

When: Wednesday the 27th of March (the Wednesday before the Easter break).

4 VOTE FOR EDUCATION

As the peak representative body for students in higher education, NUS regularly lobbies the Federal Government to influence policy decisions in higher education by pushing the importance of high quality standards, the student experience and no fee increases. A change of government is likely to result in dramatic and detrimental adjustments to the current policies surrounding higher education access and increases to fees.

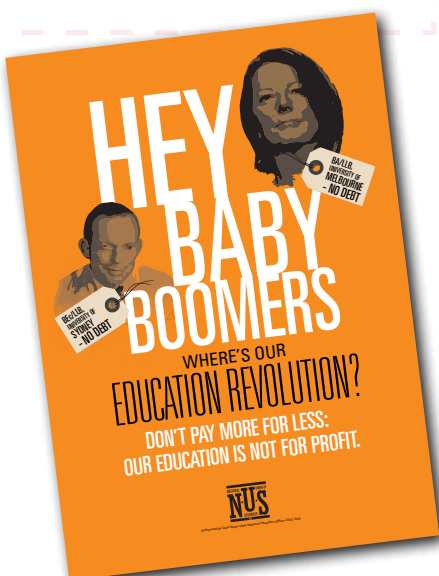
5 BLUE STOCKINGS WEEK: OUR BLUE STOCKINGS ARE ON THE LINE. (IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WOMEN'S DEPT)

In 150 years of tertiary enrolments, women have achieved over 50% of the student population in Australia, yet we are 45% of the paid workforce; of the 39 universities in Australia there are 6 Vice Chancellors who are women. Women's engagement in higher education is an issue of access and equality. Blue Stockings provides an opportunity for partnerships with the NTEU and women in senior management and in the wider community.

When: April 29th-3rd of May

6 FAIR WAGES FOR FAIR WORK (IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WELFARE DEPT)

More students than ever before are working to make ends meet whilst studying. It is crucial that all workers are informed and aware of their rights; students are disproportionately represented in the group that relies on penalty rates, are often paid cash in hand and most affected by youth wages. In partnership with the ACTU, NUS will run an information based campaign for O Weeks on workers rights which will cover penalty rates, cash in hand and youth wages.



WELFARE CAMPAIGN PLAN

HOVIG MELKONIAN
National Welfare
Officer



THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL RUN A NUMBER OF CAMPAIGNS TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF LIVING FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS. WE WILL FOCUS ON GETTING A FAIR INCOME SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT ENSURES STUDENTS DON'T LIVE IN POVERTY. WE WILL FIGHT FOR ADULT WAGES AT AGE 18 AND WORK TO MAKE MORE STUDENTS AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS AT WORK. WE WILL ASSIST AFFILIATES IN STOPPING UNFAIR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION POLICIES. WE WILL FIGHT FOR A STANDARDISED NATIONAL TRANSPORT CONCESSION CARD SCHEME AND RUN CAMPAIGNS TO INCREASE SAFETY ON CAMPUS. THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL RUN THESE CAMPAIGNS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOCUSING ON THE LEAD UP TO THE FEDERAL ELECTION TO ENSURE THESE ISSUES ARE TOPICAL.

FUND OUR FUTURE

Students struggle to successfully complete their studies when their minds are crowded by financial pressure and work commitments take priority. The Welfare Department will campaign to increase Youth Allowance to the Henderson poverty line. To reduce the test of independence from age 22 to 18, and ensure that rent assistance is fair, equitable and that students don't need to worry about cost of living pressures. The Welfare Department will also lobby for the reintroduction of on-campus Centrelink services.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

A reasonable special considerations policy is an integral part of a university's academic process. The vast majority of students apply for special consideration due to a genuine need as a result of unforeseen and/or uncontrollable circumstances. It is often a volatile time and it is important to ensure that special consideration is not restrictive to ensure that students who would otherwise succeed are not stopped by uncontrollable circumstances. Universities have begun to standardise this process across the country. The Welfare Department will assist affiliates in lobbying their administrations to make positive change to their respective University's policies.

SAFETY ON CAMPUS

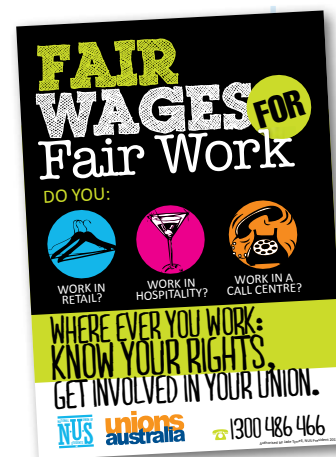
Safety on campus is a major concern for all students. While some advances were made last year through the 'Demand Safety on Campus' campaign through the NUS Women's Department, there are still significant improvements that can be made. The Welfare Department will work in conjunction with the Women's Department and Queer Department to target the 10 campuses that have sub-par infrastructure and procedures when it comes to safety. NUS will lobby university and Vice Chancellors to make our campuses safer.

FAIR WAGES FAIR WORK

Most students are forced to balance study with employment, and many students will start their first job while at university. Some are often dangerously unaware of their rights and entitlements at work. Students are disproportionately reliant on penalty rates, are often paid cash-in-hand, and are subject to youth wages. NUS will work in partnership with the ACTU, the SDA and other relevant unions to run campaigns on campus and promote these issues to students as well as lobby state and federal legislators.

FAIR FARES

A national student transport concession scheme should exist for domestic and international students, both undergraduate and postgraduate. There has been some movement by State Governments on this policy, but not enough. The NUS Welfare Department will lobby for a standard transport concession system across Australia.



WOMENS CAMPAIGN PLAN

MIKAELA WANGMANN
National Women's
Officer



IN 2013 THE WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THE CAMPAIGN WORK DONE IN THE DEPARTMENT IN PREVIOUS YEARS AS WELL AS BUILDING ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH ORGANISATIONS THAT SHARE THE GOAL OF BENEFITING THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT.

The main campaigns for the year will include, blue stockings week (in conjunction with the Education Department), an anti-sexism campaign for O Weeks, Talk About It, a safety on campus campaign (in conjunction with the Welfare Department), an equal pay campaign, and lobbying Triple J to have a 'Hottest 100' for female artists.

1 WHERE DO YOU STAND?

This is an awareness campaign about empowering people to 'take a stand' against sexism and calls for people not to allow sexist and inappropriate behavior to continue unchecked.

2 BLUE STOCKINGS WEEK

This will be run in conjunction with the NTEU and the NUS Education Department. The theme for this year's Blue Stockings Week is all about representation. Female representation on student boards, university administrations and as VC's is still not reflective, considering women make up just over half of all university students.

3 TALK ABOUT IT

'Talk About It' is an ongoing project of the NUS Women's Department, which conducts a survey that gathers statistics and information related to sexual assault. 'The Talk About It' survey was launched at the end of 2012 and will be continued in 2013. The report will be released later in the year.

4 SAFETY ON CAMPUS

Safety on campus is a major concern for students and in particular female students. While advances were made last year through the women's departments 'Demand Safety on Campus Campaign', there are still significant improvements that can be made. The NUS Women's Department will work with the NUS Welfare Department to target the top ten worst offenders for failing to ensure student safety on campus (i.e. those who have sub-par infrastructure and procedures as well as negative cultures when it comes to safety). NUS will lobby universities and Vice Chancellors to make our campuses safer.

6 EQUAL PAY

With the gender pay gap widening last year it is going to be a priority of the department to again run a campaign around Equal Pay Day. This is a really important campaign to run particularly this year as the pay gap has widened dramatically.

5 HOTTEST 100 FEMALE ARTISTS

This campaign will lobby Triple J to develop a mid-year Hottest 100 with exclusively female artists. This is important because the 'Hottest 100' has a history of being incredibly male dominated, with years where there have been as few as five female artists featured in the list. The point of running this campaign is to showcase great female artists to the demographic that Triple J targets, which is the 18-26 year-old age bracket of which the majority are students.



QUEER CAMPAIGN PLAN

THE NUS QUEER DEPARTMENT REPRESENTS AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS THAT IDENTIFY AS QUEER, THAT IS: GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, PANSEXUAL, ASEXUAL, TRANS, INTERSEX, SEX AND OR GENDER DIVERSE, OR NOT CONFORMING TO THE NORMS OF GENDER IDENTITY AND OR SEXUALITY, AND THOSE QUESTIONING THEIR GENDER IDENTITY AND OR SEXUALITY. IT AIMS TO SUPPORT QUEER STUDENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY, IMPROVE THEIR WELFARE AND SAFETY, CHALLENGE QUEER PHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENDER OR SEXUALITY, AND ENSURE THAT UNIVERSITIES PROVIDE THEM WITH THE SERVICES THEY NEED. IT DOES THIS THROUGH RUNNING NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS, WORKING WITH QUEER STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AT CAMPUSES, TRAINING QUEER STUDENT ACTIVISTS, DEVELOPING AND DISTRIBUTING RESOURCES, AND LOBBYING UNIVERSITIES AND GOVERNMENT.

1 PRIDE NOT PREJUDICE CAMPAIGN

A NUS Queer Department umbrella and awareness campaign that has two themes: encouraging positive attitudes towards queer-identifying students, and challenging queerphobia at universities. It also aims to increase the visibility of queer issues on campuses and raise the profile of the NUS Queer Department on campuses.

ACTIONS

Involving students through multimedia such as taking photos with signs featuring messages relating to the two themes of the campaign, video messages relating to the themes, and/or an online pledge to encourage positive attitudes towards queer-identifying students and challenge queerphobia at campuses. This will also involve distributing relevant promotional materials.

TIMELINE

Semester 1 and 2

2 QUEER FRIENDLINESS RATING

An audit of the queer friendliness of universities and the services and support that they currently provide to queer-identifying students at universities around the country. It will inform current students of what support is available to them at their campus and future students of which universities are more inclusive of their needs. It can also be used as a tool for campus activists to lobby their universities for improvements.

ACTIONS

Data will be collected through a questionnaire distributed to queer student representatives where they exist and otherwise collectives, clubs or queer activists, or through research directly with universities. There will also be an anonymous 'tell us your story' element to gather the stories of queer student experiences on their campuses to illustrate the personal impact of queer issues on students and the importance of universities making campuses more queer friendly. This information will be compiled into a report that rates or categorises universities based on their performance in the audit.

TIMELINE

Data collection in Semester 1, report release in Semester 2

3 INCLUSIVE QUEER SPACES

A project that aims to challenge sexism, racism, ableism, transphobia, biphobia, and ageism within queer student collectives and clubs, increase representation of underrepresented groups, and create safer queer activist and social spaces.

ACTIONS Working with campuses that have existing queer representatives, collectives, clubs and/or spaces to encourage them to be inclusive and representative, and support those that don't have them yet to establish them with those considerations in mind. This may involve developing a best practice guide and possible promotional materials for queer spaces to promote inclusive messages.

TIMELINE Semester 1 and 2

HIBA CASABLANCA
National Queer
Officer



CATHERINE ROSE
National Queer
Officer



4 MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Continue NUS' significant role in the marriage equality campaign that has existed over the last few years, but in the context of a federal election. Promote the link between student unionism, progressive causes and the role that young people can play.

ACTIONS

Offer NUS' endorsement for campaign, speak on behalf of NUS at marriage equality rallies, assist in organising and coordinating rallies across the country. Engage collectives in attending demonstrations for equal marriage, distribute marriage equality material to collectives. Promote any petitions or interactive campaigns of the various groups that work on this issue. Lobby federal and state politicians on behalf of students, put out press releases and statement on NUS' website.

TIMELINE

Semester 1 and 2

5 TRANS, SEX AND OR GENDER DIVERSE STUDENT RIGHTS

The content, priorities and format of actions will be developed in consultation with trans*, sex and/or gender diverse students and possibly with the guidance of external trans* sex and/or gender diverse groups and NGOs.

ACTIONS

Assist campus activists in lobbying universities for reforms.

TIMELINE Consultation in Semester 1, implementation in Semester 2

6 ENGAGING QUEER STUDENTS

Develop positive and collaborative relationships with campus queer representatives, collectives, clubs, and campus activists. Keep queer students informed of campaigns and activities and provide opportunities for them to participate in conversations on queer student issues on a national level. Also increase visibility of the NUS Queer Department on campuses through the previously mentioned campaigns.

ACTIONS

Consultation will be conducted formally through campus visits and voice link-ups with state and campus queer representatives, and also informally through attending campus events and student conferences. I hope to develop and maintain a blog that will include updates on the campaigns and activities and student contributions of pieces discussing queer issues. I also plan to utilise social media to promote campaigns and activities and provide queer students with opportunities to engage with the NUS Queer Department.

TIMELINE Semester 1 and 2

7 WORKING WITH OTHER NUS DEPARTMENTS

Ensuring that Queer Department campaigns are inclusive of the needs of queer students that belong to other marginalised groups, and attempt to represent the needs of queer students in other departments' campaigns and activities.

ACTIONS

Consulting with other autonomous NUS National Office Bearers and queer students that identify with other marginalised groups in the development and implementation of campaigns and activities. Also possibly discussing other autonomous NUS Departments' campaigns and activities with their respective National Office Bearers to include queer student perspectives in their development and implementation.

TIMELINE Semester 1 and 2

ENVIRONMENT CAMPAIGN PLAN

BUILDING THE MOVEMENT SKILL SHARING

The environment movement has a wealth of resources and knowledge and generally invests a lot of resources in building human capital, that is, training and developing activists to empower them to independently gather resources and campaign in their community. I have been gathering resources to run training and skill sharing sessions with campus collectives to increase their ability to organise effectively.

COMMUNITY NETWORKING

This year I hope to visit more than 35 campuses, about half of those being regional campuses. Regional campuses are often expensive to visit and therefore do not get the same level of support that metropolitan campuses do. My focus on regional campuses is based on regional campuses being more integrated with their local community than their city based counterparts. In ensuring a strong student movement is present and able to connect with community movements, we are bolstering the long term strength of environment movement as a whole and creating pathways for students to remain involved with environmental activism long after they finish their studies.

BUILDING COLLECTIVES

Where collectives do not exist I will support interested activists on campus to establish a collective. This support will typically include a basic sign up sheets, a basic guide to meeting procedure and advice or training in any area the activists are not confident with.

2 COALS SEAM GAS (CSG)

CSG is contaminating massive amounts of land across Queensland and New South Wales and it is highly likely to spread to large parts of South Australia over the next year. CSG has been known to cause death to livestock in the area, contaminate agricultural land and leak large amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, directly into the atmosphere. There has not been adequate research into the long term effects of CSG as most research to date has been funded by CSG companies and has focused on maximising profit.

I will be working with campus collectives to coordinate a campaign against CSG. This will involve collaborating with the Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN) to facilitate resource and skill sharing.

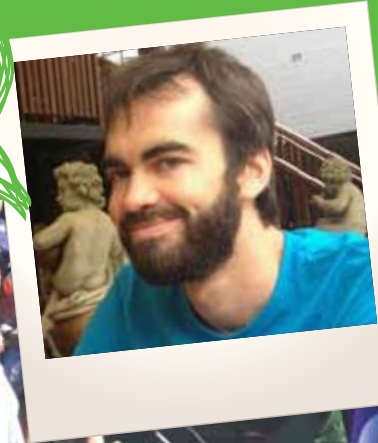
3 SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CURRICULUM

Global society is heading toward a more sustainable future and it's important to ensure the students of today are educated and empowered to thrive in that environment. Including sustainability on the curriculum will ensure students are equipped to adapt to this massive change in global direction.

I will continue the 2012 campaign and encourage collectives to organise an event to put pressure on university administration to ensure they are educating students for the future.



STEPHEN McCALLUM
National Environment
Officer



4 SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

Universities are leading institutions of social change and they have the resources to implement many more sustainability measures. Universities can save a lot of money in the long term by reducing consumption.

Campaigns like 'Flick My Switch', encouraging universities to commit to improving the sustainability of university operations will continue through 2013 and there will be collaboration with collectives to develop campaigns targeted to individual campuses.

6 REPRESENTATION

There will be a focus of making sure there are students on sustainability committees. It is important to have a diverse range of perspectives on any decision-making body and I will be in contact with collectives to discuss this during the year.

5 SUSTAINABLE FOOD ON CAMPUS

This year there will be a three pronged approach to ensuring students can enjoy a vibrant, ethical and sustainable food culture on campus.

a) 'Slow food' welfare breakfasts are a great way to ensure everyone is both sustainably fed and ready to learn. 'Slow food' focuses on locally sourced, organic food.

b) Supporting Fairtrade groups to campaign for sustainable food outlets on campus.

c) Encouraging use of re-usable cups and crockery. Universities to provide or make keep cups available to students and encourage food outlets to provide financial incentives for students who use a keep cup. Food outlets will also be encouraged to make non-takeaway crockery available for use in food court areas.



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED.

Send me an email environment@unistudent.com.au with details about which campus you are at and what kind of campaigns you are interested in and I'll get you in contact with your local environment collective.

I look forward to meeting many new environmental activists over the next year and working with collectives to create change.

DISABILITIES CAMPAIGN PLAN



LIAM McDONALD
National Disabilities
Officer

SMASH THE STIGMA MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

This campaign is aimed at mental health in university students.

The first step of this campaign is about awareness, starting with the distribution of materials beginning in o-week.

Materials include

- Stickers
- Posters
- Materials from “the it gets better project” and hopefully Headspace and Beyond Blue

The second stage of this campaign is a review of university accommodation and a best practice guide, taking into account intersectionality in students, so the effects marginalization can have on students in residences, including:

- Sexism
- Queer phobia
- Racism
- Ableism

4 (DIS)ABILITIES REPRESENTATIVES SUPPORT AND CREATION

- Support those existing (dis)abilities officers
- Support and guide student associations looking at establishing (dis)abilities representatives
- Create a network for (dis)abilities officers to share ideas and support each other.

2 (DIS)ABILITIES SERVICE AUDIT

This campaign is taking a look at the services provided by universities and student associations, including but not limited to

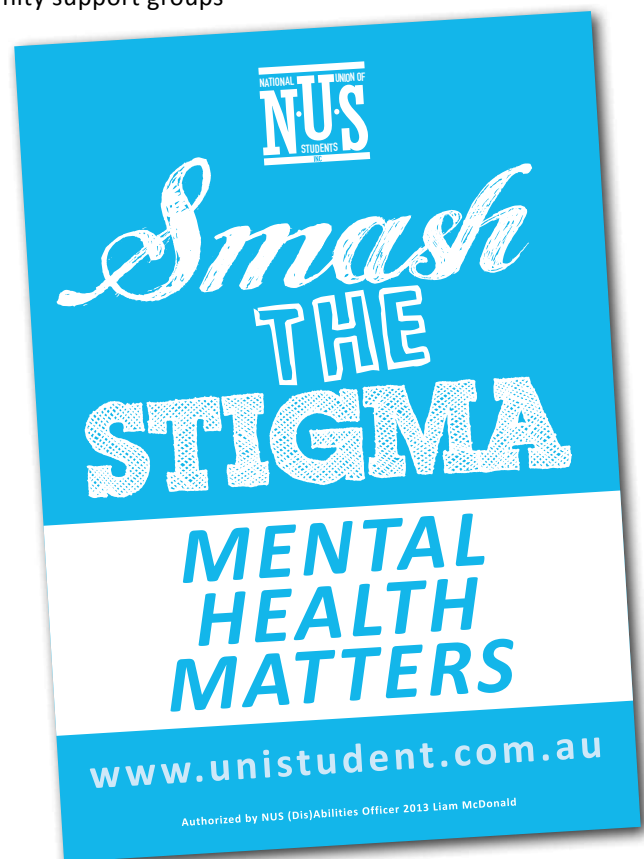
- Alternative access procedures
- Ramp access – housing, social spaces, etc.
- Hearing loops and other adaptive technology
- After hours security
- Grants and scholarship for students with (dis)abilities

The point of this campaign is to let students know what support is available to them at university.

3 (DIS)ABILITIES SUPPORT GUIDE

This guide will focus on the support available for students with (dis)abilities outside of university, including but not limited to:

- Centrelink access
- Government Support
- The effect of the NDIS
- Community support groups



THE SMALL AND REGIONAL CAMPUS OFFICER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF STUDENTS WHO ATTEND A SMALL AND OR REGIONAL CAMPUSES.



MICHAEL PETERSSON
National Small and
Regional Officer

The National Union of Students knows that students at these campuses face unique challenges. Many universities do not provide equal access to services across their campuses and students often face greater financial burdens as a result of this. As well as this, many students attending small and/or regional universities are more averse to incurring liabilities and face a more daunting job market, as casual work is often harder to secure. These are just some of the issues that the Small and Regional Campus Department advocates against.

1 COMMUNICATION

This year the Small and Regional Campus Department will facilitate a greater level of communication between student organisations from small and/or regional campuses through regular phone link ups. These ongoing opportunities for students and their student associations to network and discuss their campus issues are vital to student representation in small and/or regional campuses. This allows for students to get insights and advice from campuses that are likely to have experienced the same issues.

2 SMALL AND REGIONAL CONFERENCE

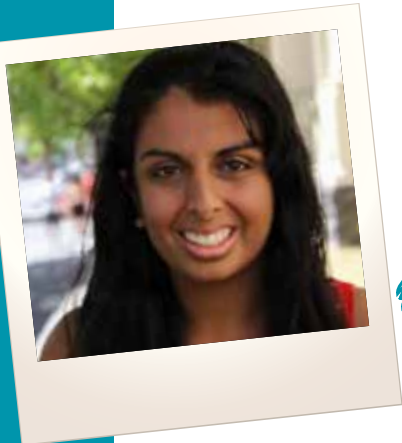
The annual Small and Regional Conference is the culmination of these link ups and allows for student activists from around Australia to share their skills through workshops and lectures as well as gaining insight from prominent speakers on the future of small and/or regional campuses. This is an important event for all students passionate about equal access to university and the relevant services.

3 STUDENT SERVICES AND AMENITIES FEE

With the successful introduction of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF), many students will see an increase in campus services. It is my goal this year to run a campaign on each campus advocating that all students be treated equally in regards to student services - far too often small and/or regional campuses are neglected in an expansion of student events and services. As always, there will be thorough consultation with relevant stakeholders and student activists from small and/or regional campuses to ensure the success of this campaign.

As well as this, the role of the Small and Regional Campus Officer is to assist student organisations and students from a small and/or regional campus in any issues that arise throughout the year. If I can be of assistance throughout the year, I urge you to get in contact with the department.





KERRIE KAHLON
National Ethno-Cultural
Officer

THIS YEAR WILL BE AN EXCITING TIME FOR THE ETHNO-CULTURAL DEPARTMENT. A MAIN FOCUS WILL BE RAISING THE PROFILE OF THE DEPARTMENT, BY RUNNING CAMPAIGNS, SUPPORTING AND ESTABLISHING ON CAMPUS ETHNO-CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING WITH THE BROADER COMMUNITY.

1 CAMPAIGN – STAND UP AGAINST RACISM

Ethno-cultural students continue to face racism on campus. This takes a variety of forms from stereotyping, inappropriate jokes, bullying to physical assault and students and university staff can perpetrate this behaviour. To combat this hatred, a 'Standing Up Against Racism' campaign will be run on campuses. The purpose of this campaign is to first recognise that racism exists on campus. Identifying this problem is a key step to a solution, as in some cases students either do not recognise or choose not to recognise the issue of racism at university. The key point of this campaign is for students to understand that they can stop racism by having a voice and standing up!

2 SURVEY – SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Special consideration policies can directly affect student's educational outcomes and reasonable policies are important to ensure students can perform to their academic potential. Ethno-cultural students have raised concerns over special consideration procedures. Of particular concern is the process of extensions or special consideration for assessment tasks when a family member dies. This occurs due to a number of reasons, particularly the university classification of family may not be the same as an ethno-cultural students definition and the culturally required mourning times are not always respected. This issue may also affect non ethno-cultural students, particularly Indigenous Students. Consequently this department will be working in conjunction with the Welfare Department to lobby universities to make positive changes to their current procedures.

3 SUPPORTING AND ESTABLISHING ETHNO-CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVES ON CAMPUS

Most student organisations currently do not have an ethno-cultural representative on campus. Consequently a main focus this year will be contacting these student organisations and providing the necessary support to establish an ethno-cultural representative. Further, for the current ethno-cultural officers it is important that these officers are provided with the necessary support to understand the myriad of issues that may face ethno-cultural students. These could range from lack of halal or kosher options to ensuring universities have adequate prayer spaces. Therefore, the NUS Ethno-Cultural Department can provide resources and support with lobbying universities.

4 MULTI-CULTURAL DAYS ON CAMPUS

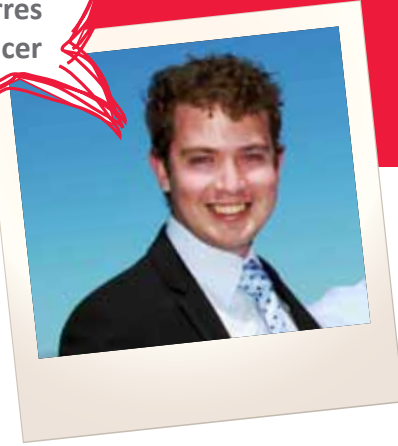
It is important that student organisations celebrate multiculturalism on campus. In many cases multi-cultural days on campus are already held. However in more regional campuses, where ethno-cultural students can feel isolated, this is not always the case. Therefore a main goal will be to ensure that each campus hosts at least one day to celebrate multi-cultural diversity on their campus and in doing so create strong relationships with ethnically and culturally diverse clubs or collectives on campus.

5 WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Many ethno-cultural students have links with ethnically and culturally diverse community groups, however they may not engage with their respective student organization. Therefore it is important to build relationships and contacts with other multicultural organisations across Australia, especially those organisations that have a large youth focus or membership. In particular, I wish to continue working with the Federal Parliamentary Friends of Multiculturalism. Building these relationships will help NUS tap into community needs and run more successful campaigns targeted to ethno-cultural students.

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CAMPAIGN PLAN

BLAKE MOONEY
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Officer



THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF INDIGENOUS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

NUS is committed to better recruitment and engagement practices for Indigenous Australians, and works to improve the overall university experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. 2013 will be an active year for the Department with campaigns targeting constitutional recognition and equal representation, as well as holding a National Indigenous Student Conference.

1 STUDENT REPRESENTATION

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Department is dedicated to increasing Indigenous student representation on campuses. This year the Department will be reviving an Equal Representation campaign to encourage and support student leadership and ensure Indigenous voices are being heard on local matters of importance. Student representatives are best placed to foster Indigenous dialogue and best able to invest the wealth of knowledge and experience available on campus into greater student service outcomes. Knowing this, the Department will be active in creating, maintaining and revitalising Indigenous student representative bodies across the country.

3 A NATIONAL INDIGENOUS STUDENT CONFERENCE

A National Indigenous Student Conference will be held again this year, giving all Indigenous students an opportunity to gather with one another and talk about the issues and ideas they've come across in their universities. The Conference will give occasion to coordinating successful programs through policy discussion and debate, as well as equipping Indigenous students to effectively engage university structures and hierarchies for better outcomes. The Conference will be attended by Indigenous academics, community leaders and university staff members who will all contribute in different ways.

The Department will continue to monitor changes in services offered to Indigenous students and warmly welcomes any feedback concerning your student experience.

2 EDUCATIONAL DISCUSSIONS

In 2013, the Department will be utilising the national network of committed student Office Bearers to instigate broad ranging educational discussions on the issue of constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians. Public lectures and workshops sponsored by the Department will ideally raise the awareness of the issue among the general public and encourage students to become active in the campaign. The Department's campaign will run alongside and in association with You Me Unity.

KEY DATES 2013

13 February

National Apology Day

21 March

Harmony Day & National Close the Gap Day

26 May

National Sorry Day

27 May – 3 June

National Reconciliation Week

7 July – 14 July

National NAIDOC Week

9 August

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN PLAN



JAY NG
International Students
Officer

AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OFFICER I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR FIGHTING FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD AND TO ENSURE THEIR NEEDS ARE MET. NUS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DEPARTMENT (ISD) WORKS CLOSELY WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DEPARTMENTS AND ASSOCIATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ON CONTEMPORARY ISSUES SUCH AS UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE, DAY-TO-DAY MATTERS AND GENERAL WELFARE.

We understand the needs of the international students' population; simultaneously we also encourage everyone to speak up if they are indeed facing any problems. With approximately 600,000 plus International Students studying currently in Australia, NUS represents and advocates for the welfare of its overseas students and fights for the basic needs to make the international student experience in Australia a holistic and equal one. Such advocacy and welfare involve the following:

1 QUALITY FAIR EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN AUSTRALIA

There is no doubt that Australian education has a great reputation internationally. However, tuition fees across Australian universities are increasingly growing higher each year and as such this creates obstacles for current students to reasonably afford their education. It has been reported that there are a number of students working in the sex industry in order to be able to pay for their study – this demonstrates that the cost of study and living standards in Australia is getting unmanageable for overseas students to be able to support themselves and afford the basic necessities of every day. The ISD would like to work with the Department of Education and the array of Australian universities in order to appropriately inform students about financially supporting themselves and maintaining affordable, less-strenuous living without having to resort to extreme measures.

2 WOMEN'S RIGHTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

As a female International Students Officer, I would like to work with the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) and the Women's Collectives of Australian universities to organise joint campaigns that advocate gender equality on campus, particularly for the day-to-day life and workplace environment for female students. Moreover, counselling and help should be provided to overseas students who are engaged in the sex industry as mentioned in the above section.

3 ACCOMMODATION

Australia, particularly in popular education destinations such as NSW and VIC has some of the world's highest housing costs. On this issue, which deeply affects overseas students, ISD would like to continue to work with Australian Home Stay Network to ensure quality and affordable accommodation. Furthermore, we hope to negotiate with universities to provide more on-campus living space for overseas students.

4 EMPLOYMENT WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Particular cases have shown that International Students are being exploited by their employers. On this serious issue, we are hoping to work in conjunction with DIAC and other workforce-related organisations and departments to expand student awareness and strongly inform these students about their inherent rights and visa regulations.

5 STUDENT TRAVEL CONCESSIONS

In late 2012, the Australian Government announced travel concessions for international students when purchasing the 'Mymulti2' and 'Mymulti3'. Having to pay the full-fare for travel concessions would further increase the difficulties currently faced by international students today. In particular, it would prevent them from fully enjoying their daily lives and supporting themselves in Australia, and would hinder other aspects of their lives such as studying, socialising and being away from home and their loved ones. While the government concessions are a great achievement in student activism, we do believe more can be achieved on this matter for a fairer and better education experience for all. The ISD aims to work with all International Students' Representatives and their collaborative organisations on this important topic again this year.

#NDA2013: OUR EDUCATION IS NOT FOR PROFIT

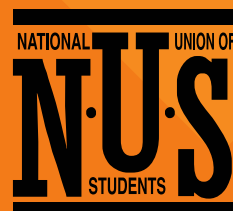
**JOIN THE
FIGHT AGAINST
FEE INCREASES,
DEREGULATION
AND CUTS.**



**SAVE THE
INDEPENDENT
STUDENT
VOICE**

**MARCH 27TH
2013**

Authorised by Jade Tyrrell, NUS President 2013





ACT NOW CREATE CHANGE

Women's

Education

(Dis)Abilities

Welfare

Queer

Ethnocultural

Aboriginal & Torres
Strait Islander

Environment

International
Students

Small &
Regional



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