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MINUTES

of the 7th regular meeting of the 97th SRC held on **Wednesday the 6th of august 2025**. Meeting held in the BHBS LT 2090 and via Zoom.

A. Meeting open at 6:12 pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Ethan Cao be elected Deputy Chairperson.
The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

B. Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council acknowledges the traditional owners of this land (Sydney), the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. We stand on this land today as beneficiaries of an uncompensated and unreconciled dispossession that occurred over 200 years ago. Many of the descendants of those dispossessed live just down the road in abject poverty, and as young people it is important to recognise how this history of dislocation and disenfranchisement has contributed to the inequality we observe in modern society. We acknowledge both our privilege and our obligation to redress the situation as best we can: to remember the mistakes of the past, act on the problems of today, and build a future for everyone who now calls this place home, striving always for genuinely practical and meaningful reconciliation.

C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

Harrison Brennan to Dana Kafina (only until Lilah's resignation is accepted then Dana will no longer be eligible as a proxy)
Bohao Zhang
Lucas Pierce to Starla Bilby
Annabel Pettit to Yoshi Leung

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Annabel Li, Emilie Garcia-Dolnik and Lotte Webber resign from Honi Soit.

Lilah Thurbon resigns as Environment Officer.

Maddie Clark to Tiana Moore
Connor O'Neill – Council to appoint
Lilah Thurbon to Dana Kafina

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.
Moved: Angus Fisher
Seconded: Deaglan Godwin
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

E2. Suspension of voting rights from failure to meet attendance requirements

The Following Councillors have lost voting rights due to absence in accordance with the regulations
Part 1 section 17.

Alexander Buchanan
Arden Skinner
Norn Xiong
Om Karki
Vieve Carnsew
William Khoury

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the **6th** regular meeting of the 97th SRC held on **2nd of July 2025** are **deferred** to the August meeting due to the secretary being ill.

G. Business Arising from the Minutes There was no business for this item.

H. Question Time of 15 minutes, which may be extended by resolution for a further 15 minutes.

Remy Lebreton asked a question regarding the committed actions of council why the President has not acted on motions from past Councils? (Relevant motions include July Q1; July Q5; July Q6; March Q10; March R3; April R3; June Q4; June Q6; March Q6; March Q2.)

Angus Fisher replied that these actions are contingent on materials being submitted to the President via the appropriate mechanisms; and that these actions can also be carried out by councillors directly to Publications. Other actions have been carried out e.g. comms to Premier re: SEC plating.

Emma Searle: regarding the President's report, it does not match the mood of the moment in respect to the Palestine movement and the March for Humanity. The SRC needs to shift in

response to these events. Do you agree that the full resources of the SRC should be devoted to the Palestine movement?

Angus Fisher replied that the campaign for Palestine is extremely important and that a lot of the SRC resources should be put towards the campaign, as it already is doing through the collective budgets and campaigning. Other work of the SRC is important, even if not as important as the Palestine campaign, but which should be maintained.

Deaglan Godwin followed up, asking whether it is appropriate that the majority of the President's time, and the President's report, should be devoted to other campaigns, and that the President ought to be allocating more time to the Palestine campaign, especially given the significance and influence carried by the role of President.

Angus Fisher replied, characterising the role of President as largely bureaucratic, and rejecting the case made by Deaglan Godwin that he has not done work on Palestine. Pointing to meetings and work done on opposing the IHRA definition of antisemitism and other policies. Angus indicated that he was willing to take further actions to employ the influence of his role at the request of Councillors.

Jasmine Donnelly asked Honi Soit if they might provide reasons for the high turnover of the editors.

Imogen Sabey (Honi Soit) replied that the realities of uncontested elections has produced an unfortunate culture of labour distribution, resulting in seven editors now currently working.

Jesper Duffy asked a question to Honi Soit about their reporting on the People's Inquiry into Campus Free Speech on Palestine, asking why Honi Soit censored reference to Jesper's poverty / sex worker status.

Imogen Sabey (Honi Soit) replied that the reportage was aimed to have a broad coverage of events at the Inquiry. Any omissions were not intentional omission but either due to lacking direct relevance to the story, or limited capacity for coverage during a high intensity and long duration event. Honi apologies for any hurt due to the coverage.

Question time elapsed after fifteen minutes.

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

K1. Election of 1 Queer Officer – N/A

K2. Election of 2 First Nations Students' Officer – N/A

K3. Election of 2 Mature Age Students' Officers – N/A

K4. Election of 1 Ethno-Cultural Officer – N/A

K5. Election of 1 Environment Officer

Tara Marocchi nominates for Environment Officer.

Nominator 1: Grace Street

Nominator 2: Aron Khuc

Thus, Tara Marocchi was declared elected unopposed as the Environment Officer for the 97th SRC.

Procedural motion to suspend the standing orders and move to item Q3.

Moved: Imogen Sabey

Seconded: Victor Zhang

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Q3. Appointment of a new Honi Editor

Per the vacancy in Honi Soit's editorship, the SRC will appoint Ondine Karpinellison as an official editor for Honi Soit 2025, commencing on Sunday 8th August 2025.

Moved: Victor Zhang

Seconded: Imogen Sabey

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural to suspend the standing orders and consider all reports (items L to O) en bloc.

Moved: Angus Fisher

Seconded: Vince Tafea

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the **30th of May 2025**

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 30th of May 2025 be accepted.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L2. President's Report

Angus Fisher tabled a written report:

It may have been the University semester break, but the job of SRC President never rests. It's been an incredibly busy period over the last month. Here's some of what's been happening:

Campaigns and Advocacy

Some members of the SRC took part in the People's Inquiry into Free Speech on Palestine, alongside student representatives from other universities, university staff, and individuals relevant to the fight for a free Palestine and free speech. The inquiry highlighted the increasingly repressive climate for Palestinian advocacy on campuses. I made clear that university policy and bureaucracy have been weaponised to silence voices for justice in Palestine under the guise of "safety" or "code of conduct" concerns. I argued strongly that freedom of speech must include the right to speak truthfully and critically about occupation, apartheid, and genocide. I thank the organisers for inviting me, and I welcome the findings.

The March for Humanity Palestine rally saw hundreds of students join hundreds of thousands of everyday people in calling for an end to Australia's complicity in the occupation of Palestine. I was joyed to see everyone across the board take part in such a powerful action. It is incredibly clear that students and young people want our government and institutions to cut ties with Israel to stop the Genocide. I am hopeful that such a large action will prompt decision makers to rethink their position on this globally broadcasted genocide. Throughout welcome week, all the SRC stalls and many other clubs' stalls had material for the NDA for Palestine tomorrow, which is looking to be another successful action.

University Happenings

We've now formally rolled out the new SRC logo through the soft launch during welcome week. I think the new look enhances the legitimacy and image of the SRC, hence its strength. Thank you to the publication managers, Amanda and Mickie, for getting everything done in time, as it made all the difference. Thank you to Grace for organising the lanyards too. The SRC has never looked better, and I am excited to continue to represent our new look in the events in semester 2.

The \$5 canteen pilot is now live at Laneway Cafe, with hot meals available for all students. There is a daily cycling menu with three different items available each day. This is a huge win against the cost-of-living crisis and shows what's possible when we push the university to take student poverty seriously. The program is already getting strong uptake and will inform a longer-term, permanent model for cheap student food on campus to be implemented early next year.

The SSAF consultation group meetings have begun for the year. These meetings are held with the other student organisations and chaired by the DVC Education, and they determine our staff allocation for the following year. It has already been flagged that any base uplift to SSAF will be small; however, Chitra and I are pushing to get some 2025 contestable projects, e.g a new caseworker folded into the base uplift. The immediate concern is that Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness and the USU wish to put aside \$2 million worth of SSAF for infrastructure projects, which will disproportionately be utilised by those groups and not by the SRC or SUPRA. I will report back as things unfold.

I also took part in the "Campus Collaboration Conversation, which was a meeting organised by the Office of General Council to discuss the university's use of an antisemitism definition. I advocated strongly against such a definition, believing it to be used to silence free speech on Palestine and result in undo harm to student activists. Beyond that, I highlighted that any definition is a result of the norms of the time, considering less than two years ago, using the word "genocide" to describe what was happening to Palestine was a contested term, any definition will ultimately become outdated and hence harmful.

The Racism@Uni Survey, commissioned by the Australian Human Rights Commission as part of the Federal Government's Universities Accord process, is set to launch in the week commencing 11 August 2025. The survey recently received ethics approval and will collect data from both students and staff. This is a vital opportunity to expose systemic racism within universities and demand meaningful institutional accountability. The SRC will be encouraging students to participate and will be monitoring the process closely to ensure student experiences are properly reflected and acted upon.

Welcome Week and SRC Business

The SRC has a showing throughout the university's Welcome period. I attended the two days of the international student welcome, the FASS welcome, the ADP welcome, the Engineering welcome, and the Business welcome. Students must know the SRC is here to fight for them from day one and what we can provide for them.

During USU Welcome Fest, the main SRC stall attempted to hand out any leftover materials from semester 1, like the calendars. and spoke to hundreds of new students. As noted, it was also an opportunity to roll out the new branding and talk to students about our ongoing campaigns, particularly around Palestine and concession Opal cards.

The much overdue SRC EBA negotiations have begun. I have been working with Grace and Philip to get it done, hopefully in September. There have been a few changes in the national employment standards, for example, specifying minimum domestic leave protections that we have to consider, but beyond that, making sure our EBA is up to scratch with the universities and SUPRA's.

In solidarity,
Angus

M. Report of the Vice-President

This month has seen continued progress across key initiatives, alongside new engagement activities supporting Semester 2 student outreach.

O-Week Engagement and Promotions

In early August, I participated in O-Week stall promotion activities with the International Students Collective (ISC). This included supporting ISC's stall setup and student engagement efforts. I also represented the SRC at the main SRC stall, distributing SRC-produced study planners and speaking with students about the role of the SRC. At the end of the week, I assisted with pack-down and returning materials to the office for storage, laying groundwork for efficient planning ahead of the next O-Week.

Student Housing Advocacy – SUIHAA Roundtable

I continued working with the SRC Student Housing Officer on our contribution to the upcoming SUIHAA Roundtable in August. I assisted in preparing cross-promotional materials and logistical support for joint initiatives. Our focus remains on ensuring student perspectives are centred in

discussions around international student housing challenges. This engagement continues to serve as an important link between current advocacy efforts and long-term alumni collaboration.

I look forward to consolidating this work and further expanding student engagement opportunities in the coming weeks.

N. Report of the General Secretary

Welcome Fest Semester 2 has been great, with both us spending the two days across our SRC and collective stalls. Students love our 'real student handbook' and have been coming back to get more pens and phone wallets from last semester. We have been promoting the collectives, our casework & legal services, and importantly the Student Strike for Palestine this Thursday to each student. The response has been very positive and students are keen to get involved. We have also been filming and editing lots of videos for the SRC social media to promote our work, resources, and opportunities to get involved.

Grace has been on the team talking with our SRC staff to work towards their new Enterprise Agreement that will include things to make us a better employer and a better place to work. SRC Week preparations are ongoing, despite many roadblocks from the University to book a space, but we're looking forward to lots of sessions about student and worker unionism, First Nations justice and USyd's colonial history, housing and renters' rights, placement poverty, and much more – maybe now in Week 3. Grace represented the SRC and joined on the buses we helped to subsidise for the Convergence on Canberra, and also wrote up a recap for *Honi Soit* with Remy. Between the March for Humanity and upcoming Strike for Palestine, it's been a busy period of promoting these events to the community.

During this period, Anu mainly contributed to preparing merchandise for international students. She also supported early preparations for upcoming semester events, including helping with planning and social media engagement. While they received strong media attention, it's equally important to focus on creating a meaningful and supportive community. The goal is to make sure all international students, especially those who want to get involved, have the chance to connect, contribute, and help improve the overall experience and conditions for their peers.

Our SSAF applications are coming up soon, and we will be working with exec and our departments to apply for all the funds that we need for our 2026 SRC services and projects!

O. Reports of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

The Education Officers gave a verbal report, with Jasmine Al-Rawistressing campaigning on the March for Humanity and against Israel's genocide, as a key priority of the SRC, and calling for more organising work towards the campaign for Palestine. Luke Mesterovic indicated upcoming actions on the NDA tomorrow; the AFR higher education summit protest on the 19th and the march on the 24th.

O2. Report of the Women's Officers

Martha Barlow gave a verbal report for the Women's Office, noting their presence at the March for Humanity. The University's Sexual Misconduct report is out with numbers of misconduct down but needs consideration if this is due to reporting or processing issues.

O3. Report of the Environment Officers

Deaglan Godwin gave a verbal report, picking up on the campaign for Palestine and the need for the student movement to do more for Palestine, that paid office-bearers need to be at the vanguard of the movement, not following behind ordinary students. The March for Humanity should not be a one off but the beginning of mass collective action that will force governments to sanction Israel and provide real aid to Palestine. Deaglan indicated his willingness to advise the President, or others, about actions they can take for Palestine, including on campus in a context where repression of Palestine solidarity is rife (e.g. David Brophy's flag being taken down).

Tara Marocchi gave a verbal report, stressing the need for continued building of the movement for Palestine.

Motion to accept Agenda Items L through O en bloc.

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly

Seconded: Remy Lebreton

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Free speech for the ASMOF: Our Doctors deserve better, Shame on Chris Minns and NSW Health!

Motion:

Amidst the industrial action of the ASMOF, The NSW Labor government continues to crack down on workers' rights hand over fist, as they introduce new draconian and dystopian policies in response. NSW health has proposed a social media policy to this end, attempting to silence doctors from further speaking out over their shocking and dangerous workplace conditions.

The policy in question is vague, and contains sweeping restrictions on what doctors would be allowed to say online, in their capacity as doctors or in their personal time. It outlines specifically that staff not "damage public trust" in NSW health, or they could face disciplinary action. Staff are also warned not to act online in a way that 'casts doubt' on their ability, to act 'impartially' or 'apolitically'. This is an incredibly blatant retaliation against the ASMOF, and is an attempt to

prevent similar industrial action from occurring again by threatening their freedom of speech, forcing doctors into complying with whatever conditions are foisted upon them or their patients.

To quote the ASMOF the NSW Labor government is trying to reduce them to “quiet cogs in the machine”. It is a policy that further alienates doctors infringes on their democratic freedoms, their ability to affectively organise for better conditions, punishes them for calling out currently unsafe conditions and will only increase the burnout and isolation already experienced at increased levels in hospitals.

Their fight for better conditions is worth fighting for on principle, but to go further this policy threatens the safety of anyone in our communities who must access NSW health services, and pushes more doctors into the private sector, degrading the already strained public health system. Doctors must be able to speak out, like all workers should, and as student unionists, workers, and members of our respective communities we have a duty to show our solidarity.

Platform:

1. The SRC Echoes the ASMOF demands for safe workplace conditions and the freedom to speak out about these conditions.
2. The SRC Condemns NSW Health, the Labor government and Chris Minns for shamelessly attacking freedom of speech, as well as the working rights of doctors and by precedent all other workers.
3. The SRC commits to solidarity in attending and endorsing all actions of the ASMOF, as well as materially supporting these however possible.

Actions:

1. The SRC will post a statement on its social media and website within one week condemning the NSW labor government and Chris Minns, and affirming solidarity with the ASMOF.
2. The SRC will commit resources to fighting for the ASMOF’s struggle for safe workplace conditions, and will attend any upcoming actions.
3. The SRC will boost and share any posts surrounding the ASMOF’s struggle for safe workplace conditions and freedom of expression.
4. The SRC will commit to ensuring we platform the above in our own capacity, in the event doctors or the ASMOF become unable to do so.

Discussion:

Remy spoke to the motion.

Vince spoke to the motion.

Tobias Hansson spoke to the motion, indicating that the March for Humanity shows the hatred people have for Chris Minns, due to his attacks on workers as well as his support for Israel. Tobias condemned the pattern of attacks on unions by a Labor NSW Premier, locating this within a larger history, and connecting it to the campaign for Palestine as a key weak point and area of initiative for the student movement.

Moved: Remy Lebreton

Seconded: Vince Tafea

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q2. Shame NSW Government: Protect tenants' rights and dignity, reinstate evidence requirements for evictions due to repairs or renovations

The NSW Government has reduced the evidence requirements for landlords seeking to evict a tenant due to significant repairs or renovations, whereby it is no longer necessary to provide evidence for the significance of planned works, such as a quote from a licensed builder or tradesperson or development consent or receipts from the purchase of building materials. Now, landlords only have to provide a written statement as 'evidence' of significant renovation or repairs that would prevent a tenant from continuing to live at the property while the works were undertaken.

This comes only a couple of months after historic changes in the *Residential Tenancies Amendment Act 2024* from May 19, which includes making 'no grounds' evictions unlawful, making it easier to have pets, and improved rental payment rules. The Labor government has shown quite blatantly they only care about renters and housing rights as far as it scores them political points for elections, especially against the background of continued erosion of public housing promised to be preserved. Having introduced so-called no grounds evictions in May 2025 right before the Federal Election, this has effectively become meaningless against the backdrop of this post-election "loophole".

The original evidence requirement was intended to stop landlords from using the excuse of repairs and renovations to evict tenants for other, disingenuous reasons. This is not an unfounded fear; there is international experience in Canada cited by the Tenants' Union NSW, and we know that public housing tenants have recently been evicted from estates under similar circumstances. Essentially it provides a legal cloaking for groundless evictions to be "grounded" on a technicality, whilst still remaining essentially groundless.

In a joint statement issued by the Tenants' Union NSW and various community, legal and union groups, the following demands were put to the NSW Government:

1. Amend the Residential Tenancies Regulation to reinstate all the evidence requirements for landlords seeking to issue a notice of termination due to significant repairs or renovations
2. Monitor complaints and investigate any misuse of the significant repair or renovations termination grounds
3. Commit to following a transparent consultative process for any future changes to rental laws in NSW

There is no trust left in the tenancy reform process and we cannot look beyond the lies of consecutive governments of the major parties, both Liberal and Labor, about their intentions to protect renters and public housing. This change has come without consultation and in spite of the

input of tens of thousands of people and organisations in the process to change the *Residential Tenancies Amendment Act 2024*. Many fear that the progress made to ending 'no grounds' evictions will be next to be rolled back. Labor has proven to be utterly complicit with and further exacerbating the housing crisis.

Platform:

1. The SRC echoes the three demands from the joint statement of community, legal and union groups:
 - a. Amend the Residential Tenancies Regulation to reinstate all the evidence requirements for landlords seeking to issue a notice of termination due to significant repairs or renovations
 - b. Monitor complaints and investigate any misuse of the significant repair or renovations termination grounds
 - c. Commit to following a transparent consultative process for any future changes to rental laws in NSW
2. The SRC recognises housing as a human right and supports calls to increase public housing
3. The SRC condemns the NSW Labor Government for using renters' rights and protections as a misleading and manipulative electoral moves, and condemns Labor's capitulation to landlords

Actions:

1. The SRC will post this statement in full on its social media and website
2. The SRC will commit resources to fighting for housing justice, across public housing and student accommodation like International House, and for the rights and dignity of tenants
3. The SRC commits resources to further promote the SRC caseworker and legal services amongst students so they are aware they can have support with evictions and to ensure the SRC staff are equipped to sufficiently support students through these new changes; and
4. The SRC will campaign for the creation of further cheap university accommodation for students with student-led committees.

Discussion:

Remy spoke to the motion, concurring with speakers in the previous motion that Palestine campaigning is crucial.

Grace spoke to the motion, characterising Labor policies as window dressing aimed at winning votes, not changing lives.

Victor Zhang spoke to the motion, criticising the change in rental evictions policy that will enable 'renovictions,' and that even the original policy has key loopholes that facilitate landlord eviction powers. The Minister in reply to Victor characterised this as a minor regulatory change. A disallowance motion was moved by the NSW Liberals, supported by crossbench and the Greens.

Laura Alivio spoke to the motion, outlining how this attack on renters is not isolated, and reflects Labor being on the side of landlords.

Alex Poirier proposed an amendment.

That Council amends the motion to add to the actions the following:

3. The SRC commits resources to further promote the SRC caseworker and legal services amongst students so they are aware they can have support with evictions and to ensure the SRC staff are equipped to sufficiently support students through these new changes; and
4. The SRC will campaign for the creation of further cheap university accommodation for students with student-led committees.

The amendment is amenable to the movers and so added. Amended sections highlighted.

Moved: Remy Lebreton

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q4. Justice for Collin Burling: Deaths in Custody Must End - Send Healthcare Workers to Mental Health Calls, Not Police

Preamble:

On Tuesday, July 15th, the NSW Police Force restrained and murdered Collin Burling in custody during a welfare check at his home in Waterloo. Burling, a 45-year-old gay man, had made a call to emergency services requesting they check his apartment for carbon monoxide. He was ordered to get in the ambulance to be taken to hospital against his will. When he did not comply to NSW Police's perceived standard of co-operation, police officers violently pinned him to the ground until his heart stopped.

Collin stated to the police that he had no weapons, was not a threat, and did not understand why the police were approaching him. NSW Police clearly stated that he was not being charged with anything but nonetheless forced him to the ground. While Collin said he could not breathe and called for help, police demanded he stop resisting and continued to violently restrain him until he died. Paramedics were unable to resuscitate him.

This appalling murder comes only two weeks after the South Australia Police similarly assaulted Gaurav Kundi, a 42-year-old Adelaide father, by violently pinning him to the ground. Kundi later died in the hospital.

In the same week, off-duty Northern Territory Police murdered Kumanjayi White, a 24-year-old disabled Warlpiri man, by kneeling on his neck in a Coles supermarket until he lost consciousness.

Collin's death also comes more than a year after the murder of gay couple Jesse Baird and Luke Davies, whom the queer community is still mourning and still waiting for a verdict about from the involved officer's trial.

While every one of these deaths is a tragedy on its own, police forces across so-called Australia are killing people in crisis, people with disabilities, people of color, First Nations, and queer people with alarming frequency. Police are killing people seeking support. Police are killing with and without the use of "lethal" weapons. Police are killing repeatedly and with no consequences for the officers involved, no changes to police duties, funding, or weapon access, and with complete financial and diplomatic support from local Labor and Liberal governments.

Evidence shows training police officers on mental health does not reduce their violence against people experiencing or perceived to be experiencing mental health crises. Police cause fear and distress to those in crisis, and officers take the lives of already struggling people with no hesitation nor remorse. There is no role for police to play in responding to mental health callouts.

Furthermore, each time there is a death in custody, police investigate the murder themselves. These internal investigations by killer cops, shamefully but unsurprisingly, never fault the officers involved or spark structural changes to prevent further deaths.

Among continuous deaths in custody, the Minns NSW Labor government in 2024 granted the NSW Police a 40% pay rise over the next four years. This is more money to an institution that was built on violence, only knows how to respond to crises with violence, and accordingly is unwilling to change.

Doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, and other healthcare workers in the HSU, NSWNMA, and ASMOF have long been fighting for better and safer pay, staffing, and working conditions, and Chris Minns has been blocking them every step of the way. Healthcare workers should be the ones responding to mental health crisis calls, yet they are denied the necessary conditions to even maintain their current jobs.

By refusing to meet the demands of healthcare workers and instead funnelling money into the NSW Police, the NSW Labor government had a direct hand in murdering Collin Burling. The NSW government could prevent every instance of police violence by divesting from the police and investing in public infrastructure and life-saving care, but it instead chooses to work toward an increasingly repressive and dangerous police state.

Deaths in custody must end.

Healthcare workers must get the pay, staffing, and working conditions they need to work safely and effectively.

The NSW Police should never be called to mental health crises. The NSW Police Force must be defunded, disarmed, and dismantled in favour of community-driven infrastructure that responds with care rather than violence.

Platform:

1. The SRC offers its deepest condolences and shared grief and anger with the family and friends of Collin Burling, and to all those who have lost loved ones to police brutality.
2. The SRC recognises that the NSW Police Force is a fundamentally and un-reformably violent, ableist, queerphobic, racist and colonial institution.
3. The SRC condemns Australian Police forces as first responders to mental health crises.
4. The SRC condemns the Minns Labor government's continued support of police violence and the 2024 decision to give NSW Police officers a pay increase of 40% over the next four years.
5. The SRC supports the HSU, NSWNMA, and ASMOF demands for increased pay, better staffing, and safer working conditions.

Action:

1. The SRC will publish this motion from its social media accounts and on its website and will circulate it through any relevant means.
2. The President will work with the Queer Action Collective to write a letter to NSW Premier Chris Minns on behalf of the SRC condemning the use of the NSW Police as mental health emergency responders, condemning the Police pay rise, and calling for the NSW government to agree to the healthcare worker unions' demands.
3. The SRC will publish the letter set out in point 2 from its social media accounts and on its website and will circulate it through any relevant means.
4. The SRC will publicly endorse the Mental Health Carers NSW and Being Mental Health Consumers letter to the Police Minister, found here, on its social media accounts and on its website alongside this motion and the letter to Premier Minns: https://being.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/MHCN-BEING_Joint-Letter-to-Minister-for-Police_20250731_Final.pdf

Discussion:

Wendy spoke to the motion.

Jesper spoke to the motion.

Aron Khuc spoke to the motion, noting that this is the 600th death since the Royal Commission; and that the NSW Police are killing First Nations people, disabled people, and queer people. Calling for higher wages for health professionals, not police.

Shovan Bhattarai spoke to the motion, indicating the total impunity that the police enjoy in Australia; noting that the NT Police maintain they do not know how Kumanjayi White killed himself, despite the fact that he was murdered in custody. Adding that the problem stems from the permissive attitude of the Minns government, from pay rises to anti-protest laws.

Moved: Wendy Thompson

Seconded: Jesper Duffy

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The President resigned the Chair to the Deputy.

R. General Business

R1. Never Again Is Now: The Bridge Was Ours — So is the Fight for Palestine. The SRC commits to prioritising the Palestine campaign.

Preamble:

"I walked to protest against the Vietnam War and I will protest again because it is the right thing to do when children are starving to death. Take note, Premier Minns." Zuzu Burford, Heathcote

Sydney made history on Sunday. 300,000 people came out to march across the Harbour Bridge for Palestine in the rain. Even Chris Minns had to admit, "if the weather wasn't appalling, I think it would have been bigger than that, maybe even double the size." This march for Humanity was one of the largest protests in Australia's history. But what made this protest even more historic was that it was opposed by both major political parties and police. Two other great protest marches across the bridge: the 2000 March for Reconciliation and the 2023 World Pride march were endorsed and even led by most of the official society. Chris Minns used his power to lie that the rally would plunge the city into "chaos". But we know it was never about commuters, or logistics, it was about protecting Israel and the Labor government from accountability for their role in arming the genocide.

The news of the protest reached those in Gaza, with heartbreaking messages of hope being written by those suffering from acute malnutrition and starvation. We have shown that the people have not abandoned them.

What this means for the SRC:

There is a movement for Palestine that has to be the utmost priority for student activists. The March for Humanity brought out tens of thousands of students to protest for Palestine. This is a galvanising moment for not just students but society in general, and represents not just a passive growth of support for Palestine, but a support that is active and can be mobilised.

It has come to light that mainstream lies about protests being a threat to safety and social cohesion do not resonate with ordinary people. People are not afraid of protests, only the state is. The protest has forced the Labor government to backtrack on their comments and provide symbolic concessions. But if we want to win real change, the movement has to continue to grow. It is the responsibility of our student union to give a lead to students who are moved by the horrors in Gaza and inspired by the outpouring of solidarity.

There are 3 upcoming Palestine campaigns that the SRC needs to pour all its resources into building.

1. The National Student strike for Palestine on August 7 organised by Students for Palestine.
2. The August 24 Nationwide March for Palestine organised by the Palestine Action Group.
3. The National Student referendum on Palestine organised by Students for Palestine.

Platform:

1. The SRC understands that the movement for Palestine as the key priority for the student union.

2. The SRC supports the National Student strike for Palestine on August 7 organised by Students for Palestine.
3. The SRC condemns the Labor Premier Chris Minns and the NSW police for their role in attempting to ban the democratic, peaceful protest across the Harbour bridge.
4. The SRC condemns the Labor government for their inaction on Palestine.
5. The SRC demands sanctions on Israel and an end to the two way arms trade.
6. The SRC endorses the August 24 Nationwide March for Palestine.
7. The SRC urges NUS to officially endorse and organise the student referendum for Palestine.

Action:

1. The SRC commits to mobilising for the National Student Strike for Palestine; USyd contingent meeting at 11am Eastern avenue, Aug 7.
2. The SRC will share and build the Student Referendum on Palestine and encourage students to participate. The SRC President will send this motion in an email to the NUS President urging them to endorse and help organise the national referendum.
3. The SRC will share and build the Aug 24 Nationwide March for Palestine and encourage students to attend.
4. The SRC will commit financial and practical resources towards the Palestine campaign.
5. The SRC will take a solidarity photo endorsing the aforementioned Palestine campaigns.

Discussion:

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion.

Shovan Bhattarai spoke to the motion.

Angus Fisher spoke to the motion, commending the motion and the March for Humanity; and condemning how the state and Federal government undermined the protest despite 5% of Sydney's population attending; and relating a story of dealing with objections regarding the alleged limited effects of protest campaigning on Palestine, and arguing that action is necessary even if it is minute; and that history will bring a reckoning on our political leaders. Angus commended the national student referendum and the devotion of resources to Palestine.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion, supporting the call for action; noting the way in which this has shifted media opinions from the ABC (calling it genocide) to the Guardian (Sydney says enough) and the breaking away of Labor MPs. Ishbel noted that they have called on RAFFW to support the Palestine campaign and calls on others to do the same with their unions in building future actions.

Emma Searle spoke to the motion, commending the campaign to date, and calling for further action and not just words; including by the SRC in supporting future organising work, and calling for members of Council to attend the Students for Palestine meeting.

Remy Lebreton spoke to the motion, commending the campaign, and noting that 5% of Sydney's population is greater than the common 3% figure required to achieve social change; the

movement includes ordinary people, and not just student activists; Remy called specifically for joining pickets to impact the war industries.

Zavier Skazlic spoke to the motion, commending the March for Humanity as historic; in the current context, it is necessary to focus the SRC's efforts and resources towards the Palestine campaign. Xavier called on everyone to take action and participate in building the Palestine campaign.

Vince Tafea spoke to the motion, citing a quote from Palestine regarding Gaza's children being malnourished ("A mother told me her daughter has dreams of eating a cucumber.") Vince noted his pride in the movement for Palestine and the conversations with students at stalls on Welcome day who had attended the March for Humanity and were receptive to the campaign for Palestine.

Starla Bilby spoke to the motion, commending the mass character of the Palestine movement, and calling for further disruptive action; specifically from the SRC and its leadership in order to enhance pressure on politicians and institutions to deliver action for Gaza.

Yoshi Leung spoke to the motion, concurring with Starla and noting the historic character of this moment; as well as how this indicates the value and significance of protests (e.g. how the protest has reached Gaza in solidarity); Yoshi called for concrete commitments from those present to join the campaign and build the movement for Palestine.

Max Dao spoke to the motion, commending the March for Palestine.

Grace Street spoke to the motion, indicating actions that can be taken now: from hanging up flags in defiance of the Flags Policy; to indicating the University's / USU's ties to Israel and against BDS; to exploring accessibility for disabled students; to a 'Con'-tingent Marching Band; to a renewed focus on opposing the police's misrepresentations; to producing advice to counter the new draconian rules, including for international students; to mini-referenda in classes; to mass meetings on the Quad Lawns.

Alex Poirier spoke to the motion, noting that the Coke sponsorship is inappropriate and potentially against the ethical sponsorship policy; commending the March for Humanity, and how this has galvanised people's support for Palestine by seeing the mass support; Alex noted that it would be good for Unity to support the campaign, and noted the joint organised Young Labour contingent. Adding that a 'Con'-tingent is a good idea but infeasible on short notice; and commends the idea for a national referendum.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion, concurring with Angus' comments on the strategic utility of a national student referendum, because of its huge scale, as with the March for Humanity, which has crystallised mass support for Palestine. 600 people at the SGM can be doubled this year, given that support has doubled, and the urgency has doubled. The proposal is for a national student referendum to be more or less simultaneously to show this mass support. Deaglan picked up on Grace's ideas for further action; and expressed that some members of Council who ought to take more action for Palestine, including by leafleting at university societies; Honi Soit can plan materials at its workshops on Palestine [*Honi Soit interjected to say that they are planning a range of events.*]; Deaglan called on Penta to support outreach to international students on Palestine

[Anu replied to indicate support, but noted the prospects of visa problems.]; Deaglan says that everyone needs to do more for Palestine.

Procedural motion that the meeting extends by fifteen minutes to brainstorm campaigns actions for Palestine after this motion as a committee of the whole.

Moved: Shovan Bhattarai

Seconded: Jessica Heap

The procedural motion was put and **CARRIED**

Moved: Jasmine Al-Rawi

Seconded: Shovan Bhattarai

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The President resumed the Chair.

The meeting closed at 8:41pm.

Campaign Action Brainstorm Notes

National Student Referendum

Two motions:

1. condemnation of government complicity in genocide
2. anti-weapon's trade

*via preferably SGM style meetings but also online ballots if necessary
in the week of Thursday 28th August*

Building for referendum

- Sydney-specific press release to be launched ASAP
 - Sydney-specific press conference ASAP
 - Register attention to attend
 - Endorsement form
 - University Clubs and Societies – Jasmine to make spreadsheet of C&S and coordinate their endorsements and announcements; Angus to message endorsement form to big President's chat
 - Graphics for endorsements with "Endorsed by" logo/blank
 - NTEU / CPSU
 - Food not Bombs
 - Campaigning to Students
 - Facebook groups / chats in Faculty society etc.
 - Wednesday 13 August SRC Building Day from 10AM–5PM (to be planned at the S4P meeting Tuesday) – with an evening component too
 - Chalking Crew
 - Banner Drop
 - Graffiti Tunnel
 - Consistent graphic designs / style guide for materials
 - Make poster with Palestine flag
-
- Hanging up flags in defiance of the Flags Policy
 - Indicating the University's / USU's ties to Israel and against BDS
 - Exploring accessibility for disabled students; to a 'Con'tingent Marching Band
 - Renewed focus on opposing the police's misrepresentations
 - Producing advice to counter the new draconian rules, including for international students
 - Mini-referenda in classes
 - Mass meetings on the Quad Lawns