



src activism
advocacy
representation

Students' Representative Council,
University of Sydney

Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01)
University of Sydney NSW 2006
PO Box 794 Broadway NSW 2007
t: (02) 9660 5222 f: (02) 9660 4260
int: 12871 www.src.usyd.edu.au
ABN: 597 391 306 68

MOTIONS PASSED BY THE 90TH SRC

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7th OF FEBRUARY, 2018

First Nations Workers Alliance

All Australians deserve the opportunity to have fair, safe and non-discriminatory employment. The Turnbull Government's Community Development Program (CDP) is depriving tens of thousands of people of this opportunity. Of the 33,000 people on the CDP, 31,000 or 94% are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. The Young Worker's Collective and the Social Justice Department of the SRC will not sit back while racial discrimination against our First Nations people is happening in the workplace. CDP workers are not actually classified as workers. They get well below the minimum wage (The dole pays \$11.60 an hour or \$290 a week) for working 25 hours a week. They are not covered by the Fair Work Act, there are no WHS (Workplace Health and Safety) protections or workers compensations and they cannot take annual leave, sick leave or carer's leave. On top of this CDP workers:

- Have 70 times the financial penalties imposed upon them than non-remote dole workers
- Are threatened with fines for missing activities under the CPD
- Are forced to work three times longer than city-based jobseekers to receive welfare payments.

(Information gathered comes from the First Nation's Worker's Alliance)

The First Nations Worker's Alliance is working with CDP workers and their communities to give them a voice with which they can speak out against this exploitation. It plans to campaign against the racist program that is the CDP. The FNWA offers a solidarity membership to unions. If 10 collectives or departments of the SRC contributed \$50, the University of Sydney SRC could join the alliance as a solidarity member. The Women's Collective, Autonomous Collective Against Racism, Education Action Group, Welfare Department and Social Justice Department have already agreed to pledge \$50.

Platform:

1. The SRC recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are entitled to equal opportunities in the workforce and that CDP is a racist program that exploits our First Nations people.
2. The SRC supports the FNWA for their work and campaigns against the CDP.

Actions:

1. With the help of 10 collectives or departments of the SRC, the SRC becomes a solidarity member of the FNWA in order to prioritise and support Indigenous people in the Union movement.

Moved: Aiden Magro

Seconded: Harry Gregg

RBTU solidarity motion

Preamble

For years Sydney train drivers have been facing an increasingly hostile work environment. With constant cuts to services, staff, forced overtime, and impossible new timetable requirements, Sydney's train drivers have suffered under the NSW Liberal Government.

Recently, the Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) has been fighting for a pay rise for Sydney's train drivers to as compensation for the horrendous pressure they face each day. With the NSW Government failing to reach a compromise with the RTBU, the union members voted strike for 24 hours, a move that would have shut down Sydney's rail network and crippled Sydney's economy. However, recently the Fair Work Commission ruled against the RTBU's 24-hour strike, citing threats to the welfare of the greater population. The ruling has left Sydney's train drivers powerless, with no remedy to their intolerable working conditions.

Platform

1. The SRC supports all workers' right to union membership and the right to engage in industrial action.
2. The SRC stands in solidarity with the RTBU and Sydney's train drivers.
3. The SRC encourages all employed undergraduate students to join their respective unions.
4. Action
5. The SRC make a post on its Facebook page supporting the rail workers.

Action

1. Councilors and OBs will attend any public protest organised by the Union Movement or the RTBU in support of rail workers.

Moved: Thomas Manousaridis

Seconded: Harry Gregg

Scrap the Weapon's trade, fund education!

Just last week, Malcolm Turnbull signed a deal to inject 3.8 billion dollars in funding to local arms manufacturers with a direct desire to see Australia become one of the world's top 10 exporters of weapons. This is a 77x increase on last year's budget to arms. Weapons have become a lucrative resource to sell, expensive and required by countries across the world. Increasing arms manufacturing is akin to pouring gas on an already blazing bonfire - war and destruction at the hands of western nations continues every day, particularly in the Middle East. For example, arms sold by western nations to Saudi Arabia have killed thousands of civilians in the ongoing Yemen War, now considered the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The Liberals have insisted this move will revive manufacturing and introduce a new layer of employment, and shamefully the ALP have bought into this argument. Anthony Albanese, of the

supposed Labor 'left' has announced his support for this deal claiming the defence industry is 'important' and saying he's "very supportive of any proposal that creates jobs". The only party to oppose this plan was the Greens, correctly arguing that Australia will become a 'massive exporter of death'.

Whilst weapons manufacturers get billion dollar handouts, students remain under attack from a government crying poor. In the mid-year budget update, it was announced that the government will freeze the amount it pays to universities for two years and students would have to begin repaying their student loans when they earn \$45,000. There would also be a lifetime limit on government assistance of \$104,440 for most students, and \$150,000 for medicine, dentistry and veterinary science students. This is equivalent to \$2.2 billion in cuts.

Whilst \$3.8 billion of public money is being spent on funding murder, students are facing higher fees and a worse quality education. This program of handouts for the rich and cuts for the poor is also visible in the planned cuts to welfare and corporate tax cuts. Students across the country will be standing up against these attacks on March 21, a National Day of Action organised by the National Union of Students.

Platform:

1. The University of Sydney SRC opposes the \$3.8 billion dollar handout to weapons manufacturers.
2. The SRC maintains a strong anti-war position - recognising the historic importance of students in the fight against the Vietnam War.
3. The SRC reaffirms its commitment to fighting for free, fully funded higher education.

Action:

1. All councillors and office bearers will attend the March 21 action and actively support and build it.

Moved: Lily Campbell (Education Officer)

Seconded: Paul Bover

Students stand with NSW train workers

Preamble

The NSW Minister for Transport Andrew Constance and his ilk in the NSW government are committed to running our public transport system into the ground. In the first weeks of January, commuters suffered as the entire network went into meltdown, with trains cancelled and delayed across Sydney and surrounds due to poor planning and mismanagement by those in charge. The recent timetable changes saw every train go into circulation to "meet demand" without hiring more drivers. Constance himself has admitted that the system depends on drivers working overtime to function, with some working 50 days of overtime a year! On top of this, NSW train drivers are the worst paid on the Eastern seaboard.

The Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) is currently negotiating a new enterprise agreement which will cover rail staff for the next 3 years. While the bosses slammed the union for asking for a 6% pay rise, Sydney trains boss Howard Collins, and his fellow executives received a 9% pay rise! The total disdain with which the bosses have treated workers and the union during this negotiation pushed the RTBU to call a ban on overtime from January 25 and a 24hr strike on the 29th. Appallingly, NSW Labor leader Luke Foley opted to take the side of the bosses and the Liberals when he said he was “extremely disappointed” the strike was going ahead.

A train strike would have shut down the entire city and brought the bosses and the NSW government to their knees, with the estimated economic impact of the strike reaching \$90 million. Knowing this, the government applied to the Fair Work Commission (FWC) for an injunction to stop the strike. The FWC ruled in favour of the bosses to suspend the strike on the grounds that it would “threaten to endanger the welfare of part of the population” and that it “threatened to cause significant damage to the economy of Sydney”. This ruling essentially sets the precedent that if you have an “important” job you are not allowed to strike. The power to withdraw labour is the only way workers can force the bosses to give them any real concessions. Without the power to strike, train workers are at the whim of the bosses and a NSW Liberal Government hell bent on destroying a genuine public service. ACTU secretary Sally McManus famously said it’s ok to break unjust laws. Now is the time to act on these words. Unjust laws have only been changed by breaking them. When union leader Clarie O’Shea was jailed under the penal powers in 1969, over 1 million workers across multiple industries went out in defiance of the law to demand his release. These strikes broke the back of arbitration laws that were stacked against workers. The same is true of the Fair Work Act. Years of “boxing clever” has not helped to shift this paradigm, in fact, Fair Work’s decision to suspend the train strike shows they are more and more favouring the bosses. Strike action, legal or otherwise, is the only way workers can win.

If Constance has his way transport in NSW will be privatised and hundreds of people will lose their jobs to driverless trains. The SRC, like every union should stand in solidarity with train workers who get us to where we need to go every day, in their fight for a better and fairer public transport system.

Platform

1. The SRC condemns the decision of the FWC to suspend the train strike
2. The SRC denounces Andrew Constance and the Liberal government’s blatant agenda to destroy the public transport system in NSW
3. The SRC unreservedly supports the RTBU and rail workers in their fight for better pay and conditions

Action

1. The SRC calls for the immediate resignation of the Minister for Transport
2. The SRC endorses all industrial action taken by the RTBU and train workers to secure fair pay and conditions

Moved: Emma Norton

Seconded: Hersha Kadkol (NUS Ethnocultural Officer and Councillor)

Welcome to New Students

That the SRC welcomes all students commencing their studies at USYD in 2018 and wishes them all the best for their time here.

Moved: George Bishop

Seconded: Manning Jeffrey

Regional Students Collective

Preamble

Nationally, the number of students who relocated to metropolitan cities from regional areas has increased by 76.3 per cent over five years, from about 29,000 students in 2008 to more than 51,000 in 2014, according to a study funded by the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education.

An increasing number of students from regional areas are attending universities in the city. Since 2012 the University of Sydney has seen an average increase in enrolments from regional and remote students of 8.65 per cent.

There are so many barriers for these students to access equal opportunity at education to those who come from wealthy backgrounds and live in the city. There are large concerns that rural students are contributing to dropout enrolment rates. This is mainly because they do not receive the support that they need to succeed at university, when they must be away from their family and friends in order to study. It renders these new students extremely vulnerable and often can take a toll on mental health.

For Australian students over the age of 18 who live away from home, the full rate of Youth Allowance paid is around \$450 per fortnight, equating to about \$12,000 per year. This amount begins to taper when annual parental income exceeds around \$51,000.

For regional students transitioning to student accommodation or the rental market, living on \$11,000 is a serious challenge, especially in Sydney. Of course, it is then essential that a student would take up a job, however the amount of hours that one must work in order to pay the high rents in Sydney makes it extremely difficult to excel as a full time student in Sydney. These challenges are markedly different to city counterparts who can continue to live at home.

Platform

1. The SRC recognises the importance of increasing support for Regional and Rural students at the University of Sydney
2. The SRC will ensure that these vulnerable students experience an easier transition into Sydney
3. The SRC will reach out to these students to advertise the range of services that are offered if they are in need of help or advice.

Actions

1. The Student Welfare Officers will establish a Regional Students Collective that acts as a supportive network for Regional and Rural students.
2. The Student Welfare Officers will create a Regional Students Collective Facebook group
3. The SRC will share this Facebook group on its Facebook page and invite anyone interested to join

Moved: Sean Young

Seconded: Brandon Hale

4TH OF APRIL, 2018

We Must Act Against Anti-Semitism

Preamble:

1. Antisemitism is often dismissed as a phenomenon of the past, both in public debate and academic discourse. People mistakenly assume that anti-Semitism is merely historical. The opposite of this is true. 2017 saw a 9.5% rise* in recorded anti-Semitic incidents and a huge increase in anti-Semitic activity occurring on campuses across Australia.

*Executive Council of Australian Jewry 2016-2017 Report of Anti-Semitism in Australia (<http://www.ecaj.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/ECAJ-Antisemitism-Report-2017.pdf>)

2. One such example is an incident which occurred at the University of Sydney last year on 27th April. A man was seen handing out leaflets featuring anti-Semitic and Holocaust-denying content outside the Brendan McCallum Learning Hub in central campus, and was confronted by students. The material, distributed by Chemtrails Geelong, claimed the Holocaust was 'demonstrably false' and linked to a website filled with strongly anti-Semitic content.
3. In an increasingly hostile campus environment, it is becoming increasingly difficult to ensure the safety and security of Jewish students. It is vital that the University of Sydney Student Representative Council, the peak representative body for students at the university, acknowledges and acts to prevent the rise in anti-Semitism, consistent with the motion passed by the National Union of Students in December 2017.

Actions:

1. The Student Representative Council condemns anti-Semitism in all its forms as defined by the globally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition. This is the working definition used by both Australian and international Jewish representative bodies. This is also the definition that was adopted by the National Union of Students on 14 December 2017. It states that: *"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities"*.

2. The Student Representative Council commits to working with the Australasian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS), as the peak representative body for Jewish students on campus in Australia and New Zealand, to ensure SRC activist spaces, events, and protests are inclusive and welcoming of Jewish voices and perspectives. There should be no pre-qualifications necessary for Jewish students to attend and/or feel included.
3. Going forward, the Student Representative Council will formally recognise and publicise January 27, as designated by the United Nations General Assembly, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day; and work with AUJS in either partnering or sharing material designed to educate and commemorate the atrocities of the Holocaust.

Moved: Brandon Hale

Seconded: Thomas Manousaridis

11TH OF APRIL, 2018

Students support West Virginia and UK education strikes

Preamble

Education workers from London to Charleston are in the grips of significant and inspiring battles for wages, conditions and dignity. In the face of a decades-long onslaught on conditions, and declining union militancy, these workers provide a rousing example to workers across the world. The attacks faced by workers in both the UK and West Virginia are unsurprisingly similar: wage stagnation, pension cuts, and a repressive environment for the labour movement. But by standing together and taking industrial action, they have proved both the undisputable power of the organised working class, and the value of rank-and-file union militancy.

Buoyed by a resurgent political left, the UK's University and College Union (UCU) voted recently by an overwhelming majority for an escalating strike of nearly 40,000 members, primarily in opposition to pension reform that will leave individual staff more than £10,000 worse off upon retirement. The process of organising and balloting for action created a core of union activists, and began to breathe life into the union from below. With the prospect of strikes at the forefront, the union grew 10% overall during the two months of organising to take industrial action. Some campuses recorded further 25% spikes in membership in just the week leading up to the first round of strikes.

The experience of the UCU proves, that when given a lead from the union leadership, members can be emboldened to fight. Initial reports from the large and lively picket lines have indicated huge public support for the strike, as well as widespread enthusiasm amongst university workers, and renewed belief in their collective strength. Workers are not searching for halfway solutions to the vicious attack on their pensions, but for a total victory. That the Universities UK (UUK) have already begun to fracture in their response to the strike after three

days is testament to the enduring power of workers in struggle, but also the resolve and unity of the striking UCU workers.

West Virginia's remarkable all-out school strike is further proof of the industrial strength of education workers. Facing falling wages, and massive attacks on pension eligibility, West Virginia teachers are well into their second week of an illegal strike. For a long time, the strategy of education unions has been electoral support for Democratic Party candidates, such as that of current governor and coal magnate Jim Justice in 2016. Justice's defection back to the Republican Party in 2017 embarrassed the union leadership, who had pinned hopes of progress for teachers to his election.

Frustrated with the directionless leadership, union members have gone out on strike to defend their rights, shutting down all of West Virginia's schools. In the course of the strike, the union's ranks have swelled with thousands of new, enthusiastic members.

The unity and vitality of this new rank-and-file network has sustained the strike through setbacks and potential dangers. Rather than accepting the in-principle agreement made between union leaders and the Governor, teachers have universally refused to return to work until a bill is passed securing a 5% pay rise, and the issue of pensions is addressed. In what is essentially now a wildcat strike, West Virginia's teachers, bus drivers, and cleaners have proved the power and determination of workers who dare to struggle against restrictive laws, apprehensive union leaderships, and the state.

Education workers in both the UK and West Virginia are teaching us a valuable lesson in struggle, and have indicated a strategy for union revival all over the world. In the face of repressive laws, diminishing rights and conditions, and political attacks on the union movement – all hallmarks of contemporary Australian capitalism – the only viable option to turn the situation around for ordinary working-class people and students is to exercise industrial power through strike action.

Platform

1. The SRC unconditionally supports striking workers in their fight for conditions
2. The SRC expresses its admiration for the UCU workers and West Virginian teachers currently out on strike.
3. The SRC recognises strikes as the most effective method of fighting
4. The SRC recognises industrial action as the sole force capable of reviving union militancy
5. The SRC recognises the vitality of rank-and-file organising to the union movement

Action

1. The SRC will publish two statements of solidarity. One in support of the UCU strikers, and the second in support of West Virginian teachers.
2. This SRC meeting will take solidarity photos supporting the strikes for social media circulation.
3. The SRC will pay for solidarity pizza to be sent to both the Kentucky teachers protesting in the Capitol Building, and the Oklahoma teachers picket lines.

Moved: Harsha Kadkol
Seconded: Kim Murphy

Motion to Condemn The USU, Lifechoices, The Sydney University Conservative Club, and anyone who participates in Pro Life Activism or holds Pro Life Beliefs on Campus

Lifechoices is a dangerous and bigoted Pro Life organisation that has no place on campus. Its website claims that *"We aim to promote the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, through reasonable and informed discussion on the issues of abortion and euthanasia in Australian society."* The notion that human life begins at conception is a false one, and the entire basis of LifeChoices as an organisation is built on lies and deception. The Pro Life philosophy is not about saving lives, rather it is a means to control Women and those with uteruses by restricting their access to reproductive healthcare.

It is deeply disgusting and shameful on the part of the USU that people who have accessed an abortion in particular had to witness the presence of LifeChoices at O-Week. An abortion is a deeply personal decision that is the business of no-one but the person having it. An organisation such as LifeChoices being given such prominence at O-Week is distressing in the extreme. Pro-lifers often say that Abortions cause depression and anxiety- to that I can say with absolute confidence that the dark months following my abortion were not due to the procedure itself, but because of groups such as LifeChoice peddling unscientific and hurtful nonsense. I wish for every person who is a member of LifeChoices, as well as those who hold Pro-Life beliefs, to know that they are deeply wrong and immoral, and that they personally contribute to the suffering of an immense number of people.

WoCo protested the stall on Friday, resulting in a video created by Lifechoices Australia that has garnered over 25 thousand views and many shares and comments, including some from the University of Sydney Conservative Club. This video has resulted in thousands of comments directed at the students in the video: comments suggesting that we should have been aborted, that we are fat, ugly and unfuckable, that we are terrorists, satanists and bolsheviks. We concede all of this as true apart from the ugly and unfuckable part: as mentioned in our council report we are both very attractive and get laid *a lot*.

Nonetheless this kind of behaviour is unacceptable, and commenting on a woman's physical appearance in such a manner is misogynistic in the extreme. Thus, we move to condemn LifeChoices, the University of Sydney Conservative Club, the USU and any councillors or office bearers who hold these views for the above behaviours.

Action

1. That the SRC condemns the above mentioned
2. That the SRC affirms its status as pro-choice and in support of the safe access zones bill as proposed by Penny Sharpe
3. The SRC collectives use gender neutral language when talking about reproductive rights

Moved: Madeline Ward
Seconded: Jessica Syed

Rest In Power, Patrick Fisher

At our last council meeting I raised a developing news story of yet another murder of a black man at the hands of the police.

Thirty-one-year-old Patrick Fisher, father of three, was at his girlfriend's apartment on 7 February when police kicked down the door with a warrant for his arrest. Patrick was chased over the apartment balcony and plunged 13 storeys to his death. According to his family, Patrick's girlfriend, the only witness to the crime, was swiftly sedated and put in psychiatric care.

This is an appalling, but not uncommon story - Redfern police are infamous racists and have a history of murdering Aboriginal people with impunity. TJ Hickey, a young Kamilaroi man was murdered by police 14 years ago. Each year since, his family have marched for justice, protesting the outrageous injustice.

All around the country, the criminal justice system targets and tortures Aboriginal people. This is part of the ongoing genocidal and racist practices of the Australian state. A solution for this problem cannot be found within any of the structures that maintain oppression - the fight for Aboriginal rights will be won on the streets.

On May 12, FIRE have called a protest to stop black deaths in custody.

Platform:

1. The SRC reaffirms its commitment to standing against the oppression of Aboriginal people and in active solidarity with their struggle.
2. The SRC heavily condemns the actions of Redfern Police.

Action:

1. The SRC facebook page and all other collective facebook pages will strongly promote the upcoming May 12 rally.

Moved: Lily Campbell (Education Officer)
Seconded: Emma Norton

Uncap CAPS

Preamble

The National Union of Students Wellbeing Report, conducted in 2016 alongside mental health organisation Headspace, found that 98% of university students aged 16-25 had experienced at least one symptom of a mental health problem which impacted their ability to study, 65% experienced high or very high psychological distress, and 35% experienced suicidal ideation or thoughts of self-harm. While these numbers are lower for mature aged students, their statistics too are far from ideal. Given the impact university education has on students' mental health, universities have an obvious moral obligation to provide mental health support services to the students whose mental health they damage.

At Sydney University, mental health support is provided primarily through Counselling and Psychological Services. Students have long expressed mixed views on the efficacy of CAPS — unsurprisingly given the complicated, deeply personal, and often unique factors which drive individual mental health problems — but the service is clearly flawed. According to the Higher Education Standards Framework's Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching Student Experience Survey (what a name), USyd is the lowest ranked Group of Eight university in terms of student support services, scoring only 58.7%. And while CAPS isn't the only student support service and can't be wholly blamed for that score, there are some features of the service which even students with generally favourable views of CAPS recognise as flaws.

The most jarring of these is that CAPS enforces a strict cap on the number of counselling sessions it will provide each student: 6, per year. Most students have 26 weeks of class each year, excluding Summer and Winter schools, in addition to 2 weeks of mid semester breaks, 2 weeks of stuvac, and 4 weeks of exam periods. That's 34 weeks of class, study, assessments, and exams, of which they can receive mental health support for 6. While for some students with relatively minor and short-term mental health issues 6 weeks might be helpful, for anyone with moderate to severe mental health issues, which usually require long-term treatment options, 6 weeks will barely scratch the surface. Even if they were to seek mental health support outside of the university in addition to on-campus support, Medicare only covers 10 sessions per year, leaving them covered for a maximum of 16 out of 34 weeks at university unless they're able to afford private mental healthcare. But even this best-case scenario is misleadingly optimistic because mental health problems, whether caused or merely exacerbated by university, don't just disappear over the holidays; with CAPS as it currently stands and Medicare combined, students have 18 weeks of study and 36 weeks overall without any mental health support.

Adding insult to injury, Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence and the university administration defend the lacklustre condition of student mental health support services and the restrictions imposed upon them by suggesting it is “out of the Education Budget to run University health services”. The implication here is that students can’t have both a quality education and quality support services, an incredibly manipulative argument because Spence and the administration set these budgets in the first place. They could choose to fund health services out of any other section of the budget than education, such as marketing or executive remuneration; they choose not to. It is worth noting that Spence himself is paid \$1,400,000, which is just over 20 times the average salary of a counsellor.

Platform

1. The SRC demands that Counselling and Psychological Services uncap the total number of counselling sessions it offers each student per year.
2. The SRC demands that all additional funding required by Counselling and Psychological Services to uncap its counselling sessions be reallocated from sections of the budget other than the education budget.

Action

1. The SRC will publicise the position outlined in this motion through its regular publicity platforms, including but not limited to all its official social media account.
2. The Welfare Officers, in consultation with the Disabilities Officers, will organise a campaign on campus to achieve the demands outlined in this motion.

Moved: William Edwards

Seconded: Rebecca Miller

Stand in Solidarity with Gaza #GreatReturnMarch

Every year since 1976, Palestinians have commemorated Land Day -when Israel illegally confiscated large swathes of Palestinian land and displaced Palestinians in order to build illegal Israeli settlements. This year in Gaza the commemorations took a mass character, with around 30,000 Gazans attending the Land Day protest.

Israel has maintained a military blockade on Gaza and its 2.2 million occupants since 2007, which has seen the continual degradation and destruction of basic living standards. Unemployment in Gaza is the highest in the world: Israel has continually confiscated land related to employment and has heavily regulated major industries like agriculture and fishing, making it very difficult for Palestinians to find work. Last year the last power plant in Gaza was shut down due to lack of resources, leaving Gazans with as little as two hours a week of electricity. Major hospitals have been shut down and those left open are barely operational.

Israel's frequent bombings of the area, and the blockade which prevents building materials from entering, have put the Gaza strip and its people on the brink of total collapse and catastrophe. This is a major humanitarian crisis.

The mass character of this year's Land day is a retaliation to the breakdown of these social conditions, and is part of an ongoing movement called the Great March of Return - a peaceful protest movement with the goal of drawing attention to the plight of Palestinian refugees. This is a particularly important demand for Gazans, as 80% of the population are refugees from other parts of historic Palestine.

This mass, peaceful demonstration turned into a massacre when Israel deployed over 100 snipers to fire on protesters. Israel killed 17 Palestinians and injured over 1500. This was premeditated murder. A quote from the twitter of the Israeli "Defense" force read: "Yesterday we saw 30,000 people; we arrived prepared and with precise reinforcements. Nothing was carried out uncontrolled; everything was accurate and measured, and we know where every bullet landed".

Platform:

1. The SRC stands in solidarity with Palestinians as they continue their struggle for Self-determination
2. The SRC supports the right of return for Palestinian refugees
3. The SRC condemns Israel's massacre of Palestinians at the Land Day protest
4. The SRC condemns Israel's blockade of Gaza which has led to the degradation of Palestinian living standards

Action:

1. The SRC endorses the protest called to stand in solidarity with Gaza on May 2nd at USyd by sharing it from the SRC facebook page
2. The SRC encourages its office bearers to attend the protest on May 2
3. The SRC activist collectives will share the Facebook event for the protest on May 2
4. The SRC will endorse future protests in Sydney in support of the Palestinians, including by the USyd Students for Palestine group.

Moved: Harsha Kadkol

Seconded: Paul Bover

2ND OF MAY, 2018

Say No to anti-Chinese racism

Preamble

Australian society has seen in recent times a growing trend of racism directed towards the Chinese community. Anti-Chinese racism has seen ebbs and flows in Australian history, emerging around the time of the gold rush, manifesting in the racist nationalist agenda of the White Australia Policy, and also appearing in Pauline Hanson's vile bigotry that Australia was under threat of being "swamped by Asians" and a "yellow peril" fear that was whipped up by the Howard government to some extent in the 1990s. And today, the Australian ruling class is once again jumping on stoking an anti-China hysteria that has had some particularly brazen and disgusting manifestations as of late.

There has been ongoing scaremongering whipped up in the media, and reinforced by politicians from both the Liberal and the Labor parties, which has taken the form of stoking fear of Chinese influence in Australia through property buying and political donations. From stalwarts of the conservative press through to more supposedly left wing or liberal sources like the ABC, many an 'investigative' piece has expressed deep shock and concern at Chinese political and business influence-peddling and investment in Australia. This is not about politicians and the media cracking down on business' interference in politics (they media regularly remains silent about Australian companies paying \$0 in tax, or on the donations of other foreign Western business people to Australian political parties) - this is a cynical and hypocritical scaremongering campaign aimed at whipping up anti-Chinese hysteria.

And the latest notorious example of this, is the publishing of Clive Hamilton's book "*Silent Invasion: China's Influence in Australia*", which says that the Chinese Communist Party is manipulating the Australian Chinese population to erode the Australian government, a claim likened by critics to the paranoia and fear of yellow peril conspiracies seen in the Cold War. Clive Hamilton is a member of the Australian Greens who himself came second as a Greens candidate in the 2009 by-election in the seat of Higgins, in south-east Melbourne. The publishing of this book (or more accurately, racist propaganda) was lauded by former Greens leader Christine Milne and Greens politicians such as Ben Pennings in Queensland - despite Pennings often having good stances on refugees or Indigenous issues, it appears anti-China racism is one bandwagon he's happy to jump on.

It's worth being clear why anti-Chinese racism is making such a comeback. China has established itself in the past few decades as the key economic and imperialist rival to the world's biggest superpower, the US. China has become the world's second-largest economy and is expected to overtake the US by 2020. Obviously, this is unacceptable to US capitalism and is a threat to the Western establishment aligned with the US. The relative decline of America as a world power, and the rise of China's economic and military capacity, is threatening America's position in the world order, and we've seen the growth of tensions hinting towards war between these two superpowers. Australia's remains a loyal ally of the US and its aims of maintaining its position as global superpower. Australia has followed the US into war in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq - and now the Australian political class is happy to gear up towards confrontation with China. The stoking of anti-Chinese racism by the media and politicians is part and parcel of this imperialist agenda. Anti-Chinese racism has also played a role as a scapegoat. Foreign Chinese political and business influence has been blamed as the cause for exorbitant house prices and the rising cost of living, drawing attention away from the real cause - the anti-working class policies of successive ALP and LNP governments.

Last year white supremacists at Monash and Melbourne universities put up posters in stilted

Chinese saying that all Chinese international students were not welcome and could be deported. The far-right have jumped on and ran with the anti-China scare that has been opened up by the mainstream media and politicians, and now members of the Greens are proudly putting their name to this same whip-up of anti-China racist hysteria that we've seen give gall to the far right.

As the SRC, we need to stand stridently against racism in all its forms, and stand with the Chinese student body in the face of this racist beat-up coming the Australian political class has been concocting. And in an era that looks to be potentially leading up to the break-out of another imperialist conflict, we can't be regurgitating or endorsing the kind of xenophobic propaganda that our government will be using to justify war.

Platform:

1. The SRC recognises the rise in anti-Chinese racism that has been fostered by the Australian political class and the press, as war tensions between the US and China increase.
2. The SRC opposes any and all forms of racism, including anti-Chinese racism.
3. The SRC denounces the book *"Silent Invasion: China's Influence in Australia"* by Clive Hamilton, and recognises it for the racist scaremongering that it is.
4. The SRC unreservedly stands in solidarity with all Chinese students at the University of Sydney, as well as the Chinese community in Australia that are victims of racism at the hands of the Australian state.
5. The SRC stands firmly against war, is not on the side of any ruling class, and will oppose Australia's involvement in any imperialist war that may happen in the future.

Action:

The SRC is committed to creating an anti-racist campus at the University of Sydney and endorses any efforts or actions in order to achieve this.

Moved: Kim Murphy (Social Justice Officer)

Seconded: Sophie Haslam

SRC supports Change the Rules campaign

Preamble

The Change the Rules campaign is a welcome move by the ACTU to put Australia's anti-worker industrial laws back into the center of the political arena. Key demands include ending the use of sham industrial agreements, where employers use one or two unionised employees to get up a dodgy Enterprise Agreement, rolling back employers' ability to terminate agreements, boosting the legal minimum in industry awards, such as providing a living wage, and most importantly, strengthening the right of workers to withdraw their labour.

Australia has some of the harshest anti-strike laws in the developed world. In the UK for instance, workers can take industrial action at any time to defend their conditions, such as

when bosses violate contracts. In contrast, workers here can only take “legal” strike action during negotiating periods once every few years, and only then after jumping through arduous bureaucratic loopholes such as secret ballots and giving bosses three days notice. Even then the right to strike is not guaranteed. Earlier this year, the ironically named Fair Work Commission banned legal industrial action that rail workers planned to take in order to secure a decent pay rise from the NSW government, on the grounds that the strike would cause significant economic damage. The message this sends to workers is that according to our laws, if a strike is effective, it is illegal.

The UN International Labour Organisation (ILO), hardly a bastion of militant unionism, has condemned Australia’s industrial laws as anti-worker and in violation of human rights. ACTU secretary, Sally McManus, hit the nail on the head in her famous interview with Leigh Sales when she said “it shouldn’t be so hard for workers in our country to be able to take industrial action when they need to”. Even the ILO recognises that strike is the principle means by which workers can improve and defend their economic and social interests.

However, the campaign cannot afford to let Labor off the hook. Many of these unjust laws, although upheld by Liberal governments, were in fact written into legislation during the Hawke Keating years and the Fair Work Commission is a product of the most recent Labor government. Notably, the ALP does not seem to be endorsing the campaign. To successfully challenge the state of industrial relations in this country, the union movement will need to confront whichever party is in power, with the key demand being around the right to strike.

The ACTU has called for demonstrations around May Day, with a weekday demonstration called for May 9 in Melbourne. Workplace meetings are being organised in some industries to discuss the campaign and upcoming demonstrations. This is an opportunity to mobilise workers in a campaign that has the potential to build enough political pressure to change the trajectory of the union movement in this country and win much needed labour reforms.

This motion recognises that the SRC has a responsibility to support and participate in the campaign.

Platform

1. The SRC recognises that industrial laws in Australia are anti-worker and must be challenged
2. The SRC supports the Change the Rules campaign especially the demands around the right to strike
3. The SRC supports the ACTU’s call for national demonstrations as part of the campaign

Action

1. The SRC endorses all demonstrations taking place as part of the campaign.
2. All members of the SRC will attend the ‘Strike to Change the Rules’ contingent to May Day.

Moved: Clara da Costa-Riedel

Seconded: Lily Campbell (Education Officer)

Student organisations need to stay in student hands

Preamble

Student unions are entrusted with the task of representing student interests. These interests are increasingly out of line with corporate universities' goals of making profits. This is seen by university managements across Australia cutting pay for staff, charging exorbitant fees to international students, pushing for fee deregulation, increasing casualization of staff and cutting funding to student information services, trapping students in their degrees and prolonging the years they are at university. This context means that student-led organisations are more important than ever. Though student unions can in some instances work with university management, introducing the university administration into the leadership of these organisations necessarily betrays student interests and the goals of these organisations.

Calls made by SUPRA presidents for the university to investigate and intervene in the leadership of the organisation endangers the position of the students they represent. It can only be expected that university management will use this as a way to quell dissent against policies that harm students. It is particularly worrying given a history of student unions being subsumed by university management in the VSU era, a trend that has harmed the students they once represented.

Problems within student organisations must be resolved by students, and the fact that the SUPRA council was not consulted before the approaching of university management is deeply undemocratic. If there are governance issues in the organisation, these should be addressed by incoming elected student representatives on council. There is no reason to believe that an unelected university administration would make these decisions better.

Actions:

1. Condemns all moves by student-led organisations to allow university management intervention into their operations.
2. Calls on SUPRA to make all decisions as to its governance democratically.
3. Calls on SUPRA to affirm its commitment to its EBA with its staff and the availability of grievance processes to assure staff can have safe working environments.

Mover: Nina Dillon Britton

Secunder: Lara Sonnenschein

Disarm USyd: end militarism on campus

Preamble:

The Australian state is engaging in the biggest defence build up since World War Two and universities across Australia are increasing their ties to arms companies. This is evident in three key areas at universities nationwide, namely, governance, investments and research partnerships. Sydney University currently invests over 5 million dollars in companies that contribute to drone and nuclear warfare. For example, the University invests over 3 million dollars in Honeywell, a company that provides the engine for the MQ-9 reaper drone, which

has been described as the world's deadliest killer, killing civilians in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen and Somalia. The university is also engaging in deathly partnerships, with companies such as Thales Australia, and the Engineering school is in talks with Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman and Honeywell.

Universities should be progressive anti-war institutions and students, the main stakeholder in the debate over the role and nature of our educational institutions should demand that they be so and act to realise this.

Platform

1. That the Sydney University Students' Representative Council stands against increasing militarism and continues to promote itself as an anti-war union.

Action

1. That the Sydney University Students' Representative Council actively supports USyd divesting from weapons manufacturers
2. That the Sydney University Students' Representative Council will advocate for no more university partnerships with arms companies
3. That the Sydney University Students' Representative Council advocates that Chancellor, Belinda Hutchinson should either step down from her role from Thales Australia, or the chancellery of the University.

Moved: Lara Sonnenschein (Education Officer)

Seconded: Liam Donohoe

Autonomous issue of Honi Soit edited by the Disabilities Collective

Preamble

Disabled people make up a fifth of the general population, and likely more than that in the University of Sydney student body given that university students are disproportionately likely to experience psychiatric disability.

Disability justice and liberation are not ideals that are highly prized by the university, nor historically by the SRC, whose offices are still located down a flight of stairs. And yet 45% of disabled people in Australia live near or below the poverty line. 90% of intellectually disabled women will experience sexual assault in their lifetimes. Disabled people make up 50% of the population in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The term "ableism" has been in use since 1981, replacing the earlier "handicapism", but people still act as if it is not only a new term but a facetious one.

Too often disabled people are excluded and ignored, sometimes because we physically cannot get into the building and sometimes because our presence is not welcome. Our voices are suppressed. Some of us are still fighting for the right to live outside of institutions. Disabled people have given a lot to this university, but it has not given back to us. In the 1970s Jacob Baldwin and Joan Hume fought for the right of people like me to be allowed to study at the University of Sydney. In 1991 Bronwyn Moye and her contemporaries led an action in which

they parked their wheelchairs in the middle of the road at Broadway and blocked off the street to protest the lack of accessible buses. But we are still fighting for things as basic as lecture recordings. I am only still an undergraduate because one of my seminar professors refused to move to a wheelchair accessible lecture theatre.

The Disabilities Collective is the only autonomous identity based collective that does not produce an annual special issue of the SRC newspaper, Honi Soit. We've been trying to correct that for some time now. We very nearly managed to organise a disability issue last year, but it didn't happen, and since then we've been bouncing around between the interim Honi editors and the SRC as to who is capable of making the decision to introduce a new special issue.

The current Honi editors have expressed their support for an autonomous disability issue of Honi Soit. If the SRC can affirm this decision as a motion then hopefully this will clear up any confusion as to responsibility for the decision at least for this year, and we will put forward a motion for a regulations change at next council meeting to set a structural precedent so that the issue can continue into future years also.

I have edited two issues of Queer Honi, in 2013 and 2014. For the 2014 issue I was the primary organiser though we chose not to appoint an official Editor-in-Chief. I have edited two issues of ARNA, the University of Sydney Arts Students Society annual journal, in 2014 and 2017, and am editing it again this year as one of the Publications Directors. I am currently finishing up a project as editorial assistant to Alice Wong on an anthology of essays written by disabled activists. I am very practised at herding cats (i.e. queers, crips, and arts students). I have the experience and skillset to make this issue happen without putting undue burden on the current Honi team or on other members of the SRC.

Platform

1. The SRC recognises that disability activism is equally as important as activism on behalf of other marginalised groups, and that our struggles are interconnected.
2. The SRC affirms its commitment to fighting for the rights of disabled people, and to supporting disabled-led activism and literature.

Action

1. The SRC will publish an autonomous issue of Honi Soit edited by the Disabilities Collective for the year 2018.

Moved: Robin Eames

Seconded: Mollie Galvin

An Investigation into Lecture Recording Accessibility

Preamble

Lecture recordings are of course put in place by academics primarily so that students can go back and review the content having attended the lecture. Yes, this is often abused by people who just decide to skip class. But that's not the people I'm bringing this motion forward for. There are many students whose disabilities limit them from learning in the environment of an

overcrowded lecture theatre, or those students who must work in order to battle the ever-rising cost of living. I have heard countless complaints from students across my own years at university who have been impacted by the choice of lecturers to not record content or to purposely leave out parts of a lecture such as exam tips. I myself have been saved by recordings in my own course this semester, where the choice was affording rent and food or attending.

I know that there is argument against this on the basis of lecture attendance and staff rights such as free speech or teaching style, so I will address these.

Of course, some students will abuse the use of recordings. However, to make the argument that those already facing hardship such as students with disabilities or from low socio-economic backgrounds should continue to suffer because of the actions of others is simply not acceptable. Some lecturers have worked around this with success and I shall provide an example.

For first year psychology, obviously some of the content is covered by copyright and therefore cannot be included in recordings. As such, the staff make a verbal recording available to all and as comprehensive lecture slides as possible so that someone relying on recordings is still able to put the pieces together and face as little hardship as possible when it comes to their learning. This method also discourages completely skipping lectures if you can make them because it requires extra effort in a mad StuVac rush to put two pieces of media together.

Staff rights are of course important and I fully acknowledge the concern that they would be undermined by a push to provide recordings for every course. For staff who prefer to teach by writing or other styles, it is often seen in maths courses for example that staff use overhead projectors and clear paper so that no one is impacted by their preferred teaching style and people can view it at the lecture and at home. Freedom of speech is obviously also important on campus and to cite that a staff member voicing their opinion might have dire consequences and therefore shouldn't be recorded strikes me as interesting. If anyone has more information of staff who have been fired or faced consequences over issues like this please do say so because I would very much like to open a discussion on that. It's worth noting that recordings could mean that staff behaving inappropriately for example being racist towards international students could be held accountable.

I am not saying this is an issue without strong arguments on both sides, but I believe that it is an issue that we should address and I think we owe it to all students to act in their interests as well given it is their money that helps us operate. This is an issue I'm passionate about and one of the election promises I was elected on, so I hope to achieve real change around this.

As this is a contentious issue I won't make the argument that we should put forward an opinion of the SRC as a whole, but rather take the following actions:

Actions:

1. The SRC will open a dialogue with students and academics about lecture recordings and the issues surrounding this including the facilitation of an anonymous submission page for the use of students and academics to voice their concerns.

2. The SRC investigates why lectures are not being recorded including discussions with academics involved and also inquires if students with disabilities are being given access to recordings if requested.
3. Where possible, the SRC works with academics to implement recording of the reported courses or at least a solution which has as little impact as possible on students who face adversity around this eg. verbal recordings.

Moved: Sarah Cutter-Russell

Seconded: Manning Jeffrey

Solidarity with Melbourne University

Action

That the SRC take a photo to show support with Melbourne University strikes.

Mover: unknown

Secunder: unknown

No Cuts At James Cook University!

Preamble:

Students at James Cook University are facing course and staff cuts at the hands of a neoliberal education agenda spearheaded by JCU Vice Chancellor Sandra Harding. 32 jobs will be lost in the proposed changes with many course including creative arts courses cut. The university management has launched this attack on students and staff without any consultation.

JCU management has done this as a result of \$2.2bn in funding cuts by the Liberal government and a nation wide march towards turning universities into soulless degree factories where the only thing that matters is the financial value of a student. Students at JCU are fighting back, shutting down the opening of a new building and taking the fight directly to the VC and Liberal Ministers present. Police at the action pushed back protesters but they didn't give in, refusing to leave for a massive two hours before the VC received their petition of 720 signatures.

Platform:

1. The SRC supports the students of JCU in their struggle to keep courses open and staff employed
2. The SRC condemns university managements executing a neoliberal agenda of education
3. The SRC condemns the Liberal government for gutting university funding, denying students like those at JCU the right to an education
4. The SRC condemns JCU management for cutting 32 staff and acknowledges that staff working conditions are student learning conditions
5. The SRC acknowledges the importance of rural and regional activism and commends students in the country standing up for their rights and futures

Action:

1. The SRC calls on the NUS education department to provide material support to the campaign

Moved: Harry Gregg

Seconded: Will Edwards

International Students Opal Card Concessions

Preamble:

NSW is the only state in Australia that does not offer its international students concession prices on travel. It is also the largest recruiter of international students in Australia - currently home to 300,000 students, including study abroad and postgrad programs. International students contribute an incredible amount to the academic, social and cultural life of Sydney University. However they are discriminated against in many ways including being denied the same student concession travel as their domestic peers.

This is wrong, it creates an inequality that disadvantages international students on the basis of them not being from Australia. It is racist and xenophobic to deny international students the same rights as anyone else.

Platform:

1. The Sydney University SRC demands the NSW government offer concession travel to international students
2. The Sydney University SRC demands that any political party that forms government at the next state election offer concession travel to international students.
3. The SRC supports campaigns being run by international students, other student orgs at USYD and other universities to fix this injustice
4. The USYD SRC demands Michael Spence publicly call for international students to be allowed concession travel

Action:

1. USYD SRC activists, councillors and office bearers will support and attend any actions and campaigning for international student concessions
2. The USYD SRC will work with other student orgs to build pressure on parliament to pass this into law

Moved: Harry Gregg

Seconded: Jacky He

Keep The NDIS Public

Preamble:

The Turnbull Liberal/National government have outsourced the call center of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to multinational giant Serco. There is no evidence to prove that essential services are best run by private corporations. No public service run for the public good should be compromised for corporate profit. This is the Liberal party turning the genuine needs of people with a disability into a source of corporate profits. This affects many students

with a disability at USYD who rely on government support to have the same opportunities as everyone else.

In addition to this policy being wrong because privatisation doesn't benefit the public, Serco also runs detention centres and prisons. As a corporation Serco have carried out racist and discriminatory policies of successive governments, particularly imprisoning refugees, people of colour, Aboriginal Australians and young people.

Platform:

1. The SRC demands the NDIS remains in public hands
2. The SRC believes that privatisation is wrong and only benefits corporations over people

Action:

1. The SRC will publicise and support any actions the CPSU or other activist bodies take to stop this
2. The SRC condemns the Liberal government for privatising the NDIS
3. The SRC supports full universal public disability care and recognises that the NDIS is a move away from this.

Moved: Harry Gregg

Seconded: William Edwards

Budget lockup lockout

Preamble

In order to allow journalists to scrutinise the budget prior to its official release, the government traditionally allows them a few hours to read over the documents and gain an understanding of the policies contained therein. In previous years, journalists from student newspapers including Honi Soit have been allowed to access the budget papers to provide a critical student voice in the discourse surrounding the budget. Recently, however, the government has refused to grant this access to student newspapers.

This represents a clear attempt from the government to restrict the voice of students as they introduce some of the harshest cuts to higher education in recent memory. The government's excuse of "space restrictions" is a pathetic attempt to conceal their anxiety that a student voice on the budget will reveal it for the neoliberal assault on higher education it is bound to be. In order to defend the rights of students, it is imperative that we have a voice on the issues that affect us.

Platform:

1. The SRC condemns the Turnbull Liberal government for its bare-faced attempt to restrict the voice of students by neglecting to allow student journalists to access budget papers in the 'budget lock-up'.

Action:

1. That the SRC Facebook page posts a condemnation of the Turnbull government for locking the media out.

Moved: Felix Faber

6TH OF JUNE, 2018

Defend free speech - Student control of student affairs!

Preamble

There has been a disturbing rise in the use of discourse around comfort and safety in order to censor progressive political speech.

Numerous students are facing disciplinary hearings for political campaigning against Liberals in SRC elections that was judged acceptable by the returning officer, anti-war activists have been formally warned for calling Saudi Arabia a repressive dictatorship in a lecture announcement, and now pro-Israel organisations have complained to the university about the editorial decision to support Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation of Lebanese and Palestinian land.

Enough is enough.

Each of these attacks on free speech and independent student activism on campus has been done in the name of safety and anti-harassment. Ironically, the codes of conduct used to discipline the left in this way were fought for by students to protect the vulnerable, and yet they are being used to safeguard the privileged.

Defenders of recent Israeli massacres should be confronted about their bigoted views, that it doesn't happen more often is an indictment on the mainstream media and the political establishment. Supporters of the brutal Saudi monarchy should expect to be challenged about their views. And anyone running for public office should expect the full scrutiny and political contestation that will inevitably come with the voluntary decision to participate in such a process.

Platform

1. This SRC congratulates those who put together the women's edition of Honi for their brave and highly defensible cover depicting a Palestinian freedom fighter who sacrificed her life to oppose the illegal Israeli occupation of Lebanon and Palestine.
2. This SRC condemns AUJS for suggesting that the university should intervene to censor a student run publication, and reiterates its commitment to maintaining student control of student affairs.
3. The SRC oppose any attempt to apply regulations designed to protect women and other oppressed groups to censor political speech of left wing activists.

Action:

1. The SRC president will write an open letter to the VC explaining our position on the right of progressive activists to speak their minds and challenge conservative ideas, especially in student run newspapers and elections.

2. The SRC will put out a press release pointing out the cynicism of the university administration using codes of conduct designed to make women safer to vilify progressive women for engaging in robust political debate.
3. The SRC will investigate a regulation change that would make SRC campaigners immune from university disciplinary hearings for political activity during elections, except in extreme cases.

Moved: Lily Campbell

Seconded: Lara Sonnenschein

Stop punishing the poor - Raise Newstart

Preamble

The Newstart Allowance has not been raised since 1994. In a society with an increasing relative cost of housing, transport, and basic goods; and decreasing wages and jobs, Newstart forces people to survive on \$278 a week, or less than \$40 a day. A sizeable proportion of Newstart recipients are students or recent graduates. Newstart payments as they stand equate to receiving just 60% of the minimum wage. It is no wonder that 55% of people receiving Newstart payments live below the poverty line. While Newstart payments have not increased, Australia has seen 26 years of uninterrupted economic growth, which has had little material benefits in the lives of working class Australians.

Unsurprisingly the Liberals did not raise the Newstart allowance in the most recent budget, despite many advocacy and even business groups recommending it. Liberal MPs Julie Bishop and Julia Banks insultingly claimed that they could survive on the Newstart Allowance - their \$285 daily travel allowance is more than Newstart recipients earn weekly.

Unfortunately, Labor has also refused to commit to raising Newstart payments should they win the next election. Shorten has claimed that he will review Australian welfare payments, but made no definitive comment on Newstart, so it is highly likely that the 'review' will amount to nothing. The statistics and realities of the difficulties that people on Newstart face are already so obvious and accessible. It's an insult to people struggling on Newstart for Shorten to suggest a 'root and branch review' needs to be taken before there can be even a hint of maybe improving their situation.

Labor 'left' frontbencher Anthony Albanese came out in defense of his party's refusal to commit to increasing Newstart just after the budget was released. In response to the criticism of his party for this he argued that "you can't do everything, what you have to do is outline your priorities". Evidently, the hundreds of thousands of people living on Newstart, who are some of this country's poorest, most vulnerable, and often students, are not a priority for the ALP.

Unfortunately, both major parties are committed to keeping welfare payments down, refusing to redistribute money from the corporations and high-income earners to increase welfare and social services that would benefit students, workers, and the poor.

Platform

1. The SRC condemns the government's refusal to raise the Newstart Allowance for unemployed Australians, and recognises this disproportionately affects students and recent graduates.
2. The SRC condemns the Labor Party's refusal to commit to increasing Newstart.
3. The SRC supports the right of students and other groups to be able access welfare payments that do not require them to undergo punitive processes of drug-testing, monitored job-searching, robo-debt collection, and long waiting and processing periods without backpay, and supports the right for immigrants and refugees to be able to access welfare in equal measure to Australian-born citizens.
4. The SRC supports a increase of Newstart to above the poverty line (currently \$426.30 pw), as well as significant increases to other welfare payments like Youth Allowance and AusStudy.
5. The SRC supports the Newstart 'age of independence' being lowered to 16 years old.

Action

1. The SRC will publish a note on their Facebook page outlining their opposition to the government's most recent budget and supporting the increase of welfare payments.

Moved: Sophie Haslam

Seconded: Kim Murphy

No Ableism In Student Unions

Preamble

At the previous SRC meeting on May 2nd two motions regarding disabilities activism and issues were debated and passed.

The first motion was to establish an autonomous edition of Honi Soit for students with disability, similar to the existing Queer, Women's, Ethnocultural, and Indigenous editions of Honi. This motion was passed near unanimously by all councillors and proxies in attendance except for members of Socialist Alternative. Only one member of Socialist Alternative chose to defend their position, saying "Sorry I don't want to help pad someone's resume." Denying the right of students with disability to access the same platforms and modes of representation as other marginalised students is ableist, as is dismissing their struggle for representation as resume padding.

The second motion was to promote lecture recordings, which for many students with disability are the only way they can reliably access their classes and complete their education. Once again Socialist Alternative constituted the key opposition to this motion, with one member thereof telling a student with disability, who was explaining why their disability prevented them from attending lectures in person, that "We all have problems." It is a fact that many students with disability simply cannot complete their courses without lecture recordings, and it follows that denying them access to such necessary accessibility measures is ableist.

While all councillors and proxies are entitled to vote however they choose, Socialist

Alternative's actions at the previous SRC meeting fit within an established pattern of ableist behaviour on the part of that organisation. Socialist Alternative has consistently rejected attempts by other members of the SRC to promote accessibility measures within the SRC itself, such as choosing physically accessible routes for protests and arranging AusLan interpreters at large rallies. A previous Socialist Alternative Education Officer summarised the organisation's approach to disability activism best when they defended their refusal to change a protest route in an Education Action Group meeting by saying "I'm not concerned about people who want to protest but can't, I'm concerned about making more people who physically can protest show up."

Disability activism is frequently neglected in student unions, where most young activists across the political spectrum prioritise political issues with higher public profiles. Students with disability deserve better – more activism, more consideration, and more support – from all student unions and the political groups within them. And they absolutely deserve to be able to engage with their student unions without experiencing ableism, intended or otherwise, from student representatives therein.

Platform

1. The SRC is committed to making all its events (council meetings, protests, organising meetings, socials, etc) accessible to students with disability. We will advocate that all events run by the university itself will share this commitment.
2. The SRC condemns Socialist Alternative for their consistent pattern of ableist behaviour. We call on them to consult with disability activists both within and without the SRC on how they can improve their understanding of disability activism and the issues affecting students with disability. We condemn all other forms of ableism in the SRC, the university, and broader society.

Action

1. The SRC will share the full text of this motion on its official Facebook page.

Mover: William Edwards

Seconder: Thomas Manousaridis

Unlearn Mid-sem Break

Preamble

As we would all be very aware of, the University of Sydney "mid-semester" break is placed in week 4 of a 13 week semester, rolled into Easter break. To our knowledge, this is in order to avoid reducing the number of teaching days, which would be Easter Friday and Easter Monday. However, it is difficult to understand how the University of Sydney does this when the majority of other Universities give students a break at a reasonable time.

Although this motion seems like a simple administrative point, there are two important reasons for which students must be given a break at actual mid-semester:

1. Mid-semester exams – the idea of holding this break is based on the idea of "STUVAC". In fact, students from other universities will be heard referring to this break as such.

Most students at USYD during week 6-8 will have to find the time to study for mid-semester exams and assessments, while continuing to keep up with general class commitments, and most likely external work and life pressures. In this way, it can be said that students would not have the opportunity to achieve their grades to their full potential. It is unnecessary to have a break so early in the semester when assessments are minimal.

2. In relation to the first point, the pressure and unnecessary pile up of assessments without break will take a toll on the welfare of students. It is very difficult to stay at 100% efficiency from week 5 all the way to week 13, and this could very possibly affect the mental and physical health of students.

This is not only a simple admin issue, but an issue of student welfare and student rights. It is an issue that has been complained about time and time again by students, and as student representatives, it should be in our interest to amend this in order to directly improve student lives.

Platform

1. The University of Sydney SRC supports the implementation of a real, one week study break during the middle of semester in the academic calendar, in replacement of the current dates.

Action

1. The president of the SRC will advocate this issue to the academic board
2. The SRC will take the necessary actions to back this change of the academic calendar.

Moved: Sean Young

Seconded: Tom Manousaridis

New Student Housing That Is Affordable

Preamble

The Student Housing and Student Welfare Office Bearers strongly believe that Student Housing on campus should be affordable and should be prioritising regional and international students. We also believe there should be strong support given to students who feel they have been short-changed or made to feel uncomfortable by the University administration running the accommodation, especially if a student feels they have been unfairly evicted. This is an area we believe the SRC as the advocates for students whose fees go towards paying for the University administration, should take seriously and fight for on behalf of these students.

In light of the University administration spending around \$40 million, an expenditure which students pay into with their money, our money, to redevelop 38 student terraces on Darlington Road and the Darlington House apartment block into a new complex for student accommodation, the SRC should fight to ensure this new accommodation is affordable for students to live in, at least no more costly than it currently is. A maximum of 150 students live in this current accommodation and the redevelopment should more than double this number, with slightly over 330 students being able to live here with shared facilities. This is an initiative

that we should support given how this will allow more students to live on campus and become part of a community through these extensive shared facilities. However, given the fact that seven of these terraces to be part of the redevelopment were privately owned causing these residents to sacrifice their living arrangements for the sake of these students, the SRC should ensure that for the sake of the over 300 students who will live there and these residents who will have to move because of this redevelopment that this new student housing is affordable and isn't part of a ruthless scheme driven purely by capitalist greed for the University to increase its profits.

Furthermore, the SRC should advocate for regional and international students applying to live in this accommodation to be prioritised. Regional and international students need this more than local students, especially more than students who are privileged enough to afford to live in the expensive College accommodation.

Platform

1. The SRC supports new accommodation that is affordable for students
2. The SRC believes regional and international students should be prioritised as applicants to new accommodation
3. The SRC endorses the Make Rent Fair campaign

Actions

1. the SRC should communicate to the University administration its views of the redevelopment:
 - i. prioritising students
 - a. regional
 - b. international
2. This new accommodation should be affordable, at least no more expensive than the current ones at Darlington road
3. The SRC will take future action through campaigns or protests if there is a raise in cost of this accommodation
4. Any developments around this new accommodation, whether it be in terms of revealed costs of living there, the demographics of which students are living there and planned actions of protests against the University administration should be publicised on the SRC Facebook page

Moved: Brandon Hale

Seconded: Sean Young

Standardized Simple Extensions

Preamble:

For university students, issues with mental and physical health, work, and general misadventure are commonplace. Currently we are seeing the highest proportion of young people struggling with mental health issues, making it hard for many students to stay on top of course content and assignments. Many students also struggle with physical health and reoccurring illness. Students face issues at work and at home, and encounter general

misadventure from day to day. With help being often inaccessible, the university has to be compassionate to students who are at times not able to complete assessments by the deadline. Although the special considerations system provides support for many students, it requires a substantial amount of documentation, and takes a while to be processed, often leaving students in panic. The special considerations system has many issues that need to be addressed- but until such a time comes, simple extensions are a system which provides a much less stressful, more personal way to extend deadlines. With simple extensions, students have the option to contact the unit coordinator to attain a 2 day extension on any assignment. It's an informal process, providing students with an outlet to explain their situation to their coordinator, and is often a much more compassionate system. However, there are several schools and faculties e.g the school of psychology and the school of pharmacology which don't allow simple extensions in any circumstances. This means students can only attain extensions through the special considerations system, which is troubling for students who experience misadventure, or students who struggle with mental and physical health but don't have documentation. Standardized simple extensions would ensure that all faculties must offer simple extensions as an option to students.

Platform

1. The SRC supports a compassionate and consistent simple extension regime across every faculty.

Action:

1. The SRC will investigate which schools and disciplines don't offer simple extensions.
2. The SRC will bring up this issue to the University Executive and Academic Board, and will investigate how a university-wide policy could be implemented.
3. The SRC will support this initiative, and any future campaigns surrounding the issue.

Mover: Adriana Malavisi

Secunder: Sean Young

1ST OF AUGUST, 2018

Save The ABC! Public Broadcaster In Public Hands!

Preamble:

In June the 60th Federal Council of the Liberal Party voted to privatise the ABC and in the most recent federal budget \$83m was cut from the public broadcaster. This has led to job cuts and cuts to programming with the most recent loss being 'The Checkout', a popular comedic consumer affairs program.

The ABC has often been a balanced shining light in a right wing, corporate media landscape. Flagship current affairs programs such as Four Corners, Lateline and 7.30 have been key in reporting on the big issues facing Australia and the world. Exposing and highlighting issues such as government corruption, the deplorable conditions international students face at university, rape on campus, wage theft, the rise of racism and the far right, income inequality and the housing crisis the ABC has been critical in bringing student issues to light.

In addition to the incredibly important and valuable reporting the ABC does it is the standard bearer for the arts and TV in Australia. From platforming suppressed voices through programs like Redfern Now and Riot, to supporting music through triple J and Rage the ABC is central to Australia's cultural fabric and is something we can't afford to lose or privatise.

Platform:

1. The SRC believes in the public ownership and proper funding of the ABC
2. The SRC notes how important the ABC is for rural and regional communities. Particularly ABC radio.
3. The SRC acknowledges that the ABC is central to a functioning democracy
4. The SRC supports the ABC being central to story telling, music, arts, comedy, children's programming, current affairs and culture in Australia.
5. Michael Rowland and Virginia Trioli are just better journalists and breakfast TV hosts than Sam and Kochie

Action:

1. The SRC will support and attend any actions in the Save the ABC campaign being spearheaded by several organisations including GetUp! And the MEAA
2. The SRC will publicise Save the ABC content on it' Facebook page when appropriate

Moved: Harry Gregg

Seconded: Tom Manousaridis

STOP THE CUTS! FUND EDUCATION:

Preamble:

In the latest federal budget the Turnbull Liberal/National government has taken another sledge hammer to higher education and Sydney University has had funding cut again. The 2018/19 federal budget means the following for Sydney University Students:

- A fresh cut of \$62m from Sydney University alone.
- A decline of 2.8% in public funding.
- Students will have to start repaying HECS when they earn \$44,999. This is only roughly \$6,500 above the full time adult minimum wage.

These disgraceful attacks on students from the federal government must be opposed at every turn. They will impoverish students, saddle them with higher debt sooner and lock them out of education.

Platform:

1. The Sydney University SRC condemns the Turnbull Government for yet again cutting tertiary education funding.
2. The SRC calls for fully funded and free university education for all students, both domestic and international.
3. The SRC acknowledges these cuts disproportionately affect LGBTI students, women students, students of colour, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, working class students and students from rural and regional areas.

4. The SRC acknowledges the need for a strong national campaign against these attacks on higher education.

Action:

1. The SRC will include its opposition to these cuts in education campaigns in semester 2.
2. The SRC will support the NUS 'Bury the Bill' campaign which seeks to fight these changes that will be voted on in the senate in August.

Moved: Harry Gregg

Seconded: Will Edwards

Recognising the importance of promoting inclusion and access of students and staff living with a disability

Action:

1. The SRC urges the university to install disability access ramps and/or lifts in Footbridge Lecture Theatre so that staff and students can reach the front of the theatre.
2. The SRC encourages the SRC Executive to advocate accordingly in discussions with university decision makers.
3. The SRC Encourages the SRC Executive to seek further feedback and advice from the Disability Officers and the SRC Disabilities Collective on what would be most helpful for students and staff living with a disability in relation to accessing Footbridge Lecture Theatre."

Moved: George Bishop

Seconded: David Wan

Ramsay Centre

Preamble

The Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation was created in 2017 with part of a \$3 billion bequest from health care magnate Paul Ramsay. Sydney University Vice-Chancellor Mike Spence has announced that the university is in negotiations with the Ramsay Centre over the establishment of a degree in "Western Civilisation." Tony Abbott's comments to the right-wing *Quadrant* journal that the degree isn't just "*about Western civilisation but in favour of it,*" indicates the ideological purpose of giving academic respectability to racist ideas. In the *Quadrant* interview, Abbott went on to favourably compare Paul Ramsay with Cecil Rhodes, the architect of South African apartheid.

One of the main excuses for the Ramsay Centre has been that it is an opportunity to recoup some of the funding that has been cut to humanities subjects in recent years. In reality, it has been the same people who sit on the Ramsay board, like Tony Abbott and John Howard, who have systematically gutted higher education funding over the past two decades. Sydney University academics, in their open letter against the Ramsay Centre, note that the classics,

languages, gender studies and normative philosophy have all suffered heavily under federal tertiary education cuts.

Beyond the immediate concerns around the racist content of the proposed degree, the NTEU has raised central concerns over academic freedom. Ramsay Centre CEO Simon Haines has said *“We would not be willing to hire somebody who is coming in with a long liturgy of what terrible damage Western Civilisation had done to the world.”* Tony Abbott implied that the Ramsay Centre CEO and academic director would wield considerable influence over staffing and curriculum decisions. This is reason for great concern over academic freedom, integrity and independence. A *Sydney Morning Herald* report notes that the Ramsay Centre intends to sit in on classes, monitor content, and have the right to veto curriculum decisions by academics in any future Western civilisation degrees.

Platform

1. The SRC opposes the Ramsay Centre having any presence on Sydney University campus.
2. The SRC recognises the Ramsay centre as a right wing, racist organisation with the goal of promoting European supremacy.
3. The SRC recognises the serious threat the Ramsay Centre poses to students and staff - further privatising education and restricting academic freedom.

Action

1. All SRC councillors and OBs will attend the rally against the Ramsay Centre on 15th August. The SRC will also share the rally event from its main Facebook page.
2. The SRC supports and will be actively involved in the EAG Forum organised against the Ramsay centre on August 8. The event will be shared from the SRC Facebook page.

Unite against Trump

Preamble

US President Donald Trump will be visiting Australia in mid-November. Inspired by the scale of the protests against his UK visit, organising for a mass demonstration has begun. Last Wednesday night, the Unite Against Trump alliance was formed, comprised of a broad coalition of left-wing politicians, activists, unionists and students, all outraged at Trump’s vile racism, sexism, homophobia and war-mongering.

The first meeting was a success, with 80 activists in attendance to discuss the campaign going forward and a launch of the alliance’s Facebook page. The alliance is open and inclusive to all campaign groups, unions and community groups and individuals who want to get involved, so we can give Trump the biggest “welcoming” he deserves.

The University of Sydney SRC should join the United Against Trump alliance and be active in the campaign. Trump’s election has emboldened the far-right globally, including Australia, and the SRC should fight against all forms of discrimination. A mass mobilisation not only sends a message to the far-right that their bigotry is not tolerated, but to the Australian government, that their actions will not be silently accepted. Moreover, the SRC needs to stand in solidarity with persecuted migrants the world over against Trump’s muslim ban and increased attacks on refugees - recognising that his inspiration for locking up children comes from the bipartisan

Australian policy of torture. As David Shoebridge, Greens MP said, this protest is “not just no to Trump, it's yes to peace and equality because these are the values Australians will rally around.”

Platform

1. The SRC opposes Donald Trump and every thing he stands for
2. The SRC condemns the Australian government for facilitating his visit and calls for him to be denied entry to Australia
3. The SRC supports holding a mass protest against Trump’s visit

Action

1. The SRC will join the Unite Against Trump alliance and will participate in the protest against Trump’s visit in November
2. The SRC will give serious resources to organising, building and promoting the future protest

Moved: Sophie Haslam

Seconded: Kim Murphy

3rd OF OCTOBER

Save Amyl

Preamble

On September 10th the Therapeutic Goods Administration published an interim decision to reschedule amyl nitrate and similar inhalants into schedule nine of the Poisons Standard, the same category in which it classifies drugs such as heroin. This interim decision is open to public submissions until October 11th and a final decision will be published on November 29th. The rescheduling, if approved, would take effect on February 1st next year and would legally ban the production, sale, and use of amyl (also known as poppers) in Australia as a criminal offence.

Amyl is a popular drug which provides users with a brief recreational high and relaxes muscles across their bodies, making it popular as a sexual aid. It’s particularly associated with the LGBTI community, especially gay and bisexual men, many of whom use amyl to significantly enhance their sexual health and comfort. The risks associated with amyl use are minimal and harm rates are so low as to be statistically negligible, furthermore amyl is considered neither dependent nor addictive, unlike much more harmful and legal substances like alcohol and tobacco.

Banning amyl will criminalise large segments of the LGBTI community and demonstrates a homophobic double standard. 20 years ago, the TGA legalised Viagra, a drug predominantly used as a sexual aid by heterosexual men and which is known to have much more dangerous side effects than amyl. The TGA legalised Viagra on the basis that criminalising it would not reduce demand and users would be safer if the drug was properly regulated instead of banned

and pushed underground, the same argument sexual health activists are now prosecuting against the amyl ban.

Platform

1. The SRC condemns the Therapeutic Goods Administration's interim decision to reschedule amyl nitrate and similar inhalants into schedule nine of the Poisons Standard, thereby banning the sale and use of amyl nitrate and similar inhalants. The SRC considers this ban wholly unjustified, damaging to amyl users, and homophobic.

Action

1. The SRC Facebook page will share Paul Gregoire's article 'Calls to Stop Baseless Ban on Amyl Nitrate', published by Sydney Criminal Lawyers on September 28th.
2. The SRC President will consult the Queer Officers and any other interested Councillors and Office Bearers to determine if the SRC should make a submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration appealing their interim decision.

Moved: William Edwards

Seconded: Brandon Hale

Call to action against conversion therapy

Preamble

The queer action collective, along with community action against homophobia have called a rally against conversion therapy in the light of our new Prime Minister's incessant homophobia and disregard for the wellbeing of LGBT individuals, despite claiming to 'love all Australians' (which is nationalistic and bad as a concept anyway).

The description of the event is going to double as the explanation of this motion because no one reads the descriptions of rallies anyway.

"We call for an end to the homophobic rhetoric that has been spurred on by the so-called leader of this country.

We demand an end to gay conversion therapy. This is an ongoing practice in Australia that our new PM has described as simply "not an issue for me". We call bullshit on this. Conversion therapy has been deemed as 'torture' by the United Nations.

Morrison's response shows a deep lack of respect and is just one example of his incessant homophobia and contempt for LGBT+ Australians. Even when the postal vote returned an overwhelming Yes for marriage equality he left the room in parliament instead of voting for equality. Now since becoming PM he has re-raised the issue of religious discrimination in an attempt to roll back our rights post marriage equality.

He has also joined the train of inflammatory comments directed at trans young people and the schools who support them. As he tweets "let kids be kids" and "we don't need gender

whisperers in schools” these are genuine statements that we direct back at him, conversion therapists and the government-funded school chaplains that have interfered with trans kids’ lives. No person should be put through mental torture because of someone else’s bigotry.”

So in terms of action, because it's all well and good to nominally not support conversion therapy I propose that :

Action:

1. Call on the SRC to promote the rally on the 20th
2. Call on SRC councillors and office bearers to attend said rally

Moved: Jazzlyn Breen

Seconded: William Edwards