

REPORT FOR GUILD COUNCIL

Guild President Dylan Storer (he/him)

Period: 16/5/2025 – 19/6/2025

Travel

- Visited Singapore Campus whilst on Annual Leave – no cost to Guild

Leave

- Wed May 28 – Mon June 9 (Annual Leave)

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Summary

I've been on leave for a large chunk of this reporting period, but the work of the Guild has continued. We are making strong progress on developing a better food security framework for our students, have continued pushing for student housing and have seen the incredible news that Curtin has cut ties with Ben Gurion University.

On the academic front, our reps on Academic Board were able to push through significant amendments to the Assessment and Student Progression Manual and are pushing hard for universal submission times. We have also made amendments to the Academic Calander to bring the first tuition free week earlier in Semester 1 after what was a rough semester for many students this year.

In Solidarity,

Dylan

Meetings

University Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
19/5/25	Vice Chancellor	Monthly meeting, food insecurity was discussed
19/5/25	Curtin Foreign Risk Team	Introductory meeting in light of the conflict in India and Pakistan
22/5/25	Academic Board Executive	
30/5/25	Academic Board	Called in from Singapore campus
10/6/25	University Council Strategy Day	
11/6/25	Coordinator, Students as Partners	Monthly meeting
12/6/25	Chief Student Services Officer w/ PSC President	Discussion on Commonwealth Paid Pracs
17/6/25	Curtin Volunteers	Discussion regarding how they managed the Curtin Community Pantry
18/6/25	Vice Chancellor	
18/6/25	Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic	

Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
19/5/25	Managing Director	Weekly Meeting
20/5/25	Managing Director	Discussion around ECA negotiations
20/5/25	VPA, VPSW, Womens Officer & Queer Officer	Period product dispenser program check-in
20/5/25	Executive Meeting	
20/5/25	Secretary & Deputy Chair of GC	Discussion about regulation changes for an Ethnocultural Officer
21/5/25	Managing Director & David Price	Strategic Planning Pre-Meeting
22/5/25	Exec, Managing Director, David Price and Deputy Chair of GC	Strategic Planning Session
22/5/25	Guild Council	
23/5/25	Foodbank WA visit and tour w/ VPSW	
23/5/25	VPE, PSC President and Student Assist Officers	ASPM Draft discussion
26/5/25	Managing Director	Weekly Meeting
26/5/25	Manager, Student Engagement	Weekly Meeting
12/6/25	Murdoch Guild President w/ VPSW	Discussion about the Murdoch Food Bank
16/6/25	David Price	Discussion on Strategic Plan consultations
16/6/25	Operations Committee	The committee resolved to move monthly meetings to the week after Guild Council
17/6/25	Executive Meeting	
19/6/25	Representation Board	

Other Meetings/Activities

Date	Meeting	Comments
12/6/25	Launch of Curtin Centre for Applied Ethics	
12/6/25	VC All Staff Forum	

Matters of Representation

Curtin cuts ties with Ben Gurion University

I am pleased to report that Curtin University has cut ties with Ben Gurion University in line with the Memorandum of Understanding between Curtin University and the Student Guild, which was signed following the Curtin Gaza Solidarity Encampment.

Until recently, Curtin University had an exchange partnership with Ben Gurion University, a public Israeli institution.

Israeli universities operate under an illegal system widely recognised as apartheid and are currently under investigation by the International Court of Justice and United Nations for genocide and ethnic cleansing. These universities are deeply linked to the Israeli military and often contribute to human rights violations, with some even located on illegal settlements.

We believe continuing such partnerships risks Curtin's complicity in these violations and places exchange students in unsafe and unethical situations. The Curtin Student Guild believes strongly in upholding human rights and international law— especially where our students and education are involved. It is unjust for students to benefit from ties with institutions that play an active role in what has been described as scholasticide —the systematic destruction of education.

We commend Curtin University for ending this partnership and reaffirm our commitment to advocating for justice and accountability.

Academic Reforms

Guild reps on Academic Board have secured several amendments to the now new Assessment and Student Progression Manual. These amendments are:

- Securing that students will receive feedback for centrally scheduled examinations no later than the result release date and to ensure that students doing any assessment (other than an exam) during exam period will get their feedback no later than 20 working days after the due date or individual submission date (whichever is the later).
- Ensuring that decisions on assessment extensions are consistent when someone asks for an extension across multiple units.
- Protecting the Guild's role in the Student Progress Appeals Committee. Student Assist, as part of the Guild, provides an independent perspective that helps ensure decisions are made in accordance with relevant academic policies and procedural fairness. Our presence supports transparency and helps build trust in the integrity of the process.

In addition to this, reps on Academic Board are working to secure an earlier tuition free week in Semester 1 after a rough semester this year. The tuition free weeks do vary more in Sem 1 thanks to Easter. This year the first TFW was in Week 8. In 2026 it'll be in Week 8, 2027 in Week 7 and 2028 in Week 5.

Thank you to Mitch and Ben for working hard to secure these significant wins.

Student Housing Concerns

I have met with several students over the past month regarding concerns with the safety of student accommodation on campus, particularly the older, pre-Exchange UniLodge properties. There is a report of an incident where a bike was stolen from accommodation from an assailant with an axe.

I've met with the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and the Director of Accommodation and Community Services to discuss this with the position to increase security (fencing, gates, cameras and lighting) to prevent anyone being able to access the doors of accommodation. There is no commitment from the university to do this at this stage, which is unfortunate.

I have written to the DVCA with the aim to get a formal response regarding this and the issue regarding air conditioning in accommodation, but a response has not been received as of yet.

Food Security on Campus

The VPSW and I have met with Foodbank WA, the Murdoch Student Guild, the Vice Chancellor, DVCA and Curtin Volunteers throughout the design process of a model to improve food security on campus.

We are finalising a model which will involve Foodbank WA supplying a small emergency pantry on campus to be coupled with holistic support and referral to Foodbank through Student Assist. I'm looking forward to sharing more with Council once we work through the logistics.

Guild Operations**Strategic Plan Development**

The Executive, Managing Director, Chair and Deputy Chair of Guild Council and Consultant David Price held a strategic planning session on May 22. A draft plan has been circulated to all elected student reps on Guild Council and the Representation Board alongside a survey and I would encourage all councillors to complete and provide your thoughts.

If any member of Council wishes to have a longer discussion with me, please reach out and I'd be happy to chat.

Spaces Proposal

I have been working with the Managing Director on a plan to see the spaces proposal endorsed at the last meeting come to fruition. We intend on meeting with a designer to discuss options once I return from NUS Edcon.



Vice President – Education

Representation Board Report

(08/05/2024 – 19/07/2025)

Benjamin Burgess (He/Him)

University / External Meetings:

Date	Meeting	Comments
8 th May	Student Charter Rollout Meeting	Mixed
13 th May	Assessment 2030 Meeting w/ DVCA	F2F
8 th		
26 th May	Student Conduct Rules Meeting	F2F
26 th May	ASPM Follow Up – Academic Registrar	F2F
30 th May	Academic Board	F2F
3 rd June	Courses Committee	F2F
9 th June	Learning & Student Experience Committee	F2F

Guild Meetings/Events (Or Guild-Related Meetings):

Date	Meeting	Comments
9 th May	SciEng REP x VPE Meeting	F2F
14 th May	Commercial Advisory Committee	F2F
15 th May	FBL REP x VPE Meeting	F2F
15 th May	Humanities REP x VPE Meeting	F2F
15 th May	Representation Board	F2F
20 th May	Guild Executive Meeting	F2F
21 st May	Assessment Feedback Fac Reps Meeting	F2F
22 nd May	Strategic Planning Session	F2F
23 rd May	VPE x Sci Eng Rep Meeting	F2F
29 th May	VPE x FBL Rep Meeting	F2F
29 th May	VPE x Humanities Rep Meeting	F2F

3 rd June	Guild Executive Meeting	F2F
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Further Notes:

I was on Annual Leave from the 5th of June onwards

Academic Board:

While reviewing the Academic Board agenda in preparation of the meeting as well as curiosity if our feedback had been considered, it became apparent that feedback provided by Student Assist, all Faculty Representatives, the Postgraduate President, and myself had not been considered or reflected in the documentation or recommendations presented. After confirming this omission, Dylan reached out directly to Dale Pinto, the Chair of the Academic Board, to request that we be allowed to bring up the issue during the meeting, speak to the feedback we had submitted, and ideally push for the necessary changes.

Due to the timing of my Student Conduct Rules Meeting, I was able to easily catch up with Jon Yorke (Academic Registrar) face to face, to flag our concerns and ensure that he was aware of the value we had placed on the feedback provided through several meetings spanning multiple weeks. Through a series of emails, Jon requested that Dylan, Mitch, and I outline the urgent changes we wanted prioritised, so that these issues could be addressed as a matter of priority.

At the Academic Board meeting itself, we were able to secure several key outcomes for students. Firstly, we successfully advocated for the protection of Final Assessment Feedback, ensuring that students will continue to have access to feedback on their performance in final assessments. We also ensured consistency in the granting of assessment extensions, seeking to ensure that all students are treated fairly and that extension processes are applied uniformly across faculties and units. Additionally, we were able to confirm that Student Assist will continue to play a role in Student Progress Appeals Panels, maintaining an important avenue for a different bipartisan independent view at these panels.

Mitch also raised the important issue of the approval timeline for future academic calendars, particularly in relation to the placement and timing of tuition-free weeks. He argued for the approval process to be pushed back by at least a month to allow for more thorough consultation and to address concerns around student and staff burnout caused by the current structure. This suggestion was well received by the Board, with one academic member explicitly acknowledging not only the impact on their own workload but also on the wellbeing of students, I look forward to updating everyone on that next meeting.

Learning and Student Experience Committee:

This LSEC had me presenting the Guild Update to Academics in a presentation that could be described as a watered down version of the Annual report, there was only a question raised on the new Student Kitchen, it's purpose, location and how many microwaves.

Faculty Rep Meetings:

I am often kept up to date more than just fortnightly from most representatives, where I am debriefed after meetings they have with the University and that keeps me across the board before any agenda items arrive in LSEC or Courses Committee. I want to just highlight the reps and how much I appreciate their constant open communication.

University / External Meetings:

Date	Meeting	Comments
18/06	Meeting with Australian Human Rights Commission	

Guild Meetings (Or Guild-Related Meetings):

Date	Meeting	Comments
12/06	Meeting with Murdoch Guild RE Food Bank/Pantry	With Dylan Storer
16/06	Operations Committee	
17/06	Executive Meeting	
17/06	Meeting with Curtin RE Community Pantry	
17/06	Sustainability Brainstorming with Fac Staff	
17/06	Meeting with Womens Officer	
19/06	Representation Meeting	
23/06	We all need to pee campaign meeting	
26/06	Guild Council Board Meeting #6	

Leave Taken:

30th June – 11th July

Further Notes:

- Ethnocultural Collective has been established
- Lolly wall is being stocked – vegan + halal
- Currently working with Unions and other societies on AHRC racism@uni report with Commission
- Food pantry proposal complete
- Student Charter has been emailed to students



Business and Law Officer

May Representation Board (08/05/2025 - 12/06/2025)

Anniesey Nicole Alconaba (she/her)

University/External Meetings and Events

Date	Meeting	Comments
19/06/25	Monthly Meeting with FBL Engagements	Discussed Sem 2 Orientations and the relevant information, also discussed my plans and upcoming KPIs.
19/06/25	Representation Board Meeting	Discussed motions and presented my report for the month of June.
26/06/25	Pre-Council Commercial Outlet Tour	Discussed the conclusion and closing of some units, introduction of new units, and issues within FBL regarding unit outlines and incorrect dates for units.
08/07/25	Jully FBL FCC Meeting	Discussed outgoing unit outlines and incoming unit outlines. Also discussed the potential addition of a second-year core unit but issues with double degrees.

Guild Meetings -> all guild meetings planned during second half of March after Report

Submission Deadline

Date	Meeting	Comments
08/07/25	Menstrual Mondays Music Video	Helped in the making of a music video for Women's and Queer Representatives.

Science and Engineering Faculty Report

Cooper Henrickson (He/Him)

Representation Board – 17th July 2025

Date	Meeting/Event	Comments
16/06/25	Faculty Executive Team Meeting	
26/06/25	DIB Committee	New chair, Dona Morrison. Discussion around best practices for HDR peer support and mentoring. Presentation by School of EECMS DIB Committee, and their focuses on: Neurodiversity, Gender Equity, Ethnicity and Culture
26/06/25	2024 SAE PVC Staff Excellence Awards	
26/06/25	Pre Guild Council Commercial Outlet Tour	Organised by Dylan, Vernon walked us through all the outlets, and we discussed the situations of each outlet and the plans to ensure their longevity.
27/06/25	PSC President	Discussion with PCS President regarding research at the university as well as Academic Misconduct
02/07/25	Graduate Studies Committee	I presented an update on the Guild in the postgraduate Space; showed Student Assist data and PSC priorities. There was discussion on the Student Assist data in regards to the number of sessions per case, with the distinctly higher number by HDR students, which I followed up with and was told was not outlier but the norm for HDR student cases. Presentation by School of CME.
09/07/25	Faculty Courses Committee	
10/07/25	SDP	Collusion, Contract Cheating

This month was light on the meetings but between creating a presentation and preparation for O-Day I still had a decent amount of work to do. The next fortnight is going to be very busy.

The following meetings and events will occur between the submission of this report and representation board. I will cover them in next month's report, or verbally if anything time sensitive is brought up:

- Science and Engineering Faculty Executive Team Meeting – 14/07/25
- Faculty DoLT and Director of Student Engagement Meeting – 14/07/25
- Postgraduate Orientation – 15/07/25
- Undergraduate Science Orientation – 16/07/25
- Guild Finance and Risk Committee Meeting – 16/07/25
- Undergraduate Engineering Orientation – 17/07/25
- Science and Engineering Expo – 17/07/25

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES REPORT - JULY REPRESENTATION BOARD 2025

Meeting/Task	Date	Comments
Faculty Courses Committee	10/06	FCC meeting where key discussions focused on international enrolment trends, curriculum updates, and improving Inherent Requirements for courses. The Committee also addressed Indigenous engagement initiatives, upcoming student events, and welcomed the new Director of Medical Education.
Reps Board Meeting – June	19/06	Attended last month's Reps Board Meeting
DIB Working Party	01/07	Attended the DIB Working Party meeting where we discussed the upcoming student survey, planning a seminar on results, and bystander training. Updates were shared on improving support for staff returning from parental leave, with new initiatives in progress. A new HDR student member, Pem Chuki, was welcomed.
Faculty Courses Committee	08/07	FCC meeting where updates were provided on the Inherent Requirements review, opportunities for inbound students, and course development schedules. Key items included compliance recommendations for academic integrity, approval of a new Undergraduate Certificate in University Studies, and changes to Nutrition course entry requirements.
Preparation for Sem 2 Orientation Slides and O Day	10/07	Updated and sent the Orientation slides to HSSE. Currently preparing for O-Day by coordinating via email and organising other event details.

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES REPORT

REPRESENTATION BOARD ON 17/07/25

GUILD MEETINGS:

Date	Meeting	Notes

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS:

Date	Meeting	Notes
26/06/25	LSEC Meeting	
01/07/25	Student Discipline Panel	
10/07/25	SoE/Guild Catchup	
17/07/25	Courses Committee	

It has been another quiet month, students on breaks & many colleagues on leave.

PROJECTS:

SoE/Paid Placements:

Over the past month I have been in contact with the SoE & students regarding placements and their rollout. It seems that paid placements are being managed above the faculty, and that they had the same questions/concerns I did. Students expressed that they had been made aware of the program itself but were confused by complicated information & a lack of examples. I expect I'll hear further student concerns & complaints in the coming weeks and will make a point of discussing paid placements at my Oday stall. ~600 students across Education & Health Sciences have already applied for payments, the bulk of these applications are being processed.

Assessment feedback remains a slow campaign.

OTHER:

Oday/Orientation:

The focus of this month has been organising for Oday. At time of writing, I've already purchased and organised most of my giveaways and sorted out volunteers. I've tried to avoid mistakes made last orientation, organising my stall early & reaching out pro-actively to the engagement department.

Tom Harrowing (He/Him)

Faculty of Humanities Representative

July 2025 Representation Board Report – Student Assist

June Overview

Academic support sessions primarily addressed responses to Academic Misconduct allegations and guidance on Assessment/ Exam appeals.

Non-academic support sessions were largely centred on students seeking financial assistance. Student Assist provided emergency relief to one student through our Hardship grants.

	April	May	June
Academic sessions	192	297	259
Non – academic sessions	32	25	35
Total	220	320	293

Total may not tally as case management system calculates sessions with both case areas as a single session.

A total of two laptops were issued through the Loan Laptop Program during the reporting period.

There were 141 participants in our First Aid/CPR program.

We had a successful run of Mental Health First Aid for tertiary students on 5th of July with 7 participants attending.

Postgraduate Students Committee (PSC) Report

Guild Meetings/Events

Date	Meeting/ Event	Comments
19/06/2025	Reps Board	See Minutes

University Meetings

Date	Meeting/ Event	Comments
27/06/2025	Academic Board	Passed the new academic calendar for 2027 and 2028. The new calendar is a significant improvement and will make things better for students.

Projects/General

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

IP Factsheet

The PSC has been developing a factsheet in collaboration with GRS and ROC so that students may better understand their rights and ownership when it comes to any IP created from their research. It is now finalised and ready to be disseminated. This is a direct outcome from the Encampment MoU.

Orientation

The PSC President attended the HDR Orientation and has been planning for o-day next week.

HDR Viva/Oral Defense

The PSC has provided feedback for the proposed guidelines for the introduction of an Oral Defence for PhD candidates from 2029.

Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA)

The PSC has been working with CAPA on a number of campaigns. After a period of turmoil CAPA has returned strong and is actively campaigning on issues affecting postgrads on a national level.

Laptops for all HDR Students

The PSC is proud to announce that at a minimum every HDR Student will be provided a Curtin Laptop for the duration of their studies. Previously the provision of a laptop or PC varied by school or research group/centre. This will be rolled out this year.

Assessment and Student Progression Manual

The Guild has worked hard to ensure that assessment and progression procedures in the ASPM are fairer to students. Securing some great wins.

2027 and 2028 Academic Calendar

The Guild has successfully lobbied for an earlier than week 8/9 tuition free week in both 2027 and 2028. This involved splitting the mid semester break into 2 single tuition free weeks instead of a 2 week long break. One of the weeks in each semester in each of those years also aligns with school holidays which is beneficial for students with children and families.

4. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

Teaching Opportunity for HDR Students

Teaching experience is very important for HDR students because many HDR students want to work as academics or lecturers in the future. Therefore, teaching opportunities at the university during their study will be very valuable and important to give them experiences and knowledge on how to deal with students in the classroom and to deliver materials to the class. The PSC wants the faculty or school leaders to allow their HDR students to get one or two classes during their studies to get teaching experiences. This will give our students space to bring and deliver their research experience and information to the students in the class.

Supporting Clubs for Postgraduate/ HDR Students

Student clubs play significant roles at Curtin University where our students can explore and develop their potential, networks, and skills through club activities. Most student clubs are dominated by undergraduate students and there are very few postgraduate or HDR clubs at our campus. The PSC wants to promote and campaign more on postgraduate/ HDR student clubs at Curtin University. The expectation is to increase the number of postgraduate/ HDR clubs as well as to develop more HDR student interaction through club activities. This priority will be useful to develop and support our Postgraduate/ HDR students at Curtin and also to promote Curtin University student activities.

Career Counselling for HDRs

PSC believes some level of career advice/planning should be embedded within higher degrees to provide clarity and guidance for HDRs and their futures beyond the end of their degrees. The PSC will explore ways to make this workable.

Space for HDRs / Research Hub Space

The number of HDR students from overseas is increasing and this makes the number of HDR students that need the space for their study also increases. The PSC has identified that the provision of appropriate space for HDRs to work on their research is an issue that is important to many candidates and will continue to engage on this. Some schools can provide permanent space or desks for their HDR students, however, most schools use graduate research hub spaces for their HDR students to study their research, and whoever first comes gets the first desk and those who come late sometimes cannot get a desk in the research hub. This condition is not happening every day, but it happens when many students are coming to the campus at the same time. It will be very useful and significant if the university can provide additional spaces for some schools that have a higher number of HDR students.

Supervisor Feedback

The opportunity to give feedback on the quality of supervision HDRs receive is important and since the discontinuation of the APR process this has stopped occurring. The PSC supports a feedback mechanism returning.

Supervisor Training

HDR Supervisors will now receive increased training and refreshers on how to supervise. We hope that this will increase the quality and consistency of supervision across Curtin.

Stipend Rates

The PSC supports CAPA's campaign to increase HDR stipend rates and extend the tax free status of stipends to part time students. Curtin continues to provide a stipend that is higher than the federal minimum.

Paid Placements

The Guild and CAPA both have ongoing campaigns around expanding student placement payments to more fields and increasing the value of the payments. The currently proposed payments are also taxable which reduces their value to students and whilst some money is better than none we believe it can and should be better.

A National Body for International Students

The Guild has endorsed a CAPA campaign to restart a national body for International students. Roundtables will be occurring at the state level in the next two months. International students have been blamed for the housing crisis and are faced with increasing visa restrictions with no unified voice to speak up for them on a national level.

tl;dr

It has been pretty quiet over the break. Looking forward to o-week and semester starting again.

Queer Officer

June/July Representation Board (20/06/2025 – 17/07/2025)

Morgan Mills (they/them)

University/External Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
23/06/2025	Deadnaming updates	With Linda Adnyana
	We All Need to Pee Townhall	Discussed past, current, and future directives of the campaign and how stakeholders can assist the Guild in the future.
	HIV self-test machines	Met with CONNECT, went over requirements and steps involved in the instillation of the machines.
	We All Need to Pee follow-up meeting	Met with Ariel to discuss our next steps with Xavier's report.
26/06/2025	GEIAG meeting	Discussed the future of GEIAG and the directions and form it should take.
30/06/2025	WANTP catch up	Went through the outcomes of the townhall and put together a list of next steps to distribute to stakeholders.
01/07/2025	Kickoff meeting	Met with Athina from Curtin events to discuss a Queer seminar and ally training workshop
08/07/2025	Meeting with Sheldon	Met to discuss topics to cover with DVCA prior to the meeting.
	WANTP/Deadnaming	Met with Sam and Liz to continue discussing the next steps of the WANTP campaign, as well as plan out a survey to deliver to

		students regarding deadnaming.
	DVCA monthly	

Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
08/07/2025	Menstrual Mondays music video	

Extended notes

- Deadnaming updates

I met with Linda to discuss the results of the working group report submitted in October of last year. This meeting was in light of the upcoming mid-year report that is due to be submitted and based on the lack of work that has been achieved from the report, another meeting is being held at the beginning of August.

- WANTP town hall

Approximately 30 potential stakeholders attended the online meeting to discuss the WANTP campaign. I delivered a presentation outlining the history of the campaign, as well as where I plan to take it in the future. The floor was then open for discussion and there was an opportunity to contribute to a word map. All these recommendations were collated and redistributed to attendees of the meeting, highlighting the recommendations that were deemed of the highest importances in the follow-up meeting.

- HIV self-test machines

Zara filled Sheldon Smith and me in on the details of the HIV self-test machines, including their location requirements, stocking of the machines, and the rollout dates.

- DVCA monthly meeting

During my meeting with Paul, we discussed several campaigns and their development. These included the WANTP campaign, the HIV self-test machines, and the possibility of the Guild taking over Ally training sessions to be delivered to students.

Campaign updates

- Period Product Dispensers

To promote the presence of the dispensers, this campaign has now adopted a digital approach. This includes the production of a music video and an upcoming podcast-like Instagram series. This series will release “episodes” biweekly and discuss important topics such as the different stages of the menstrual cycle, and stigmas and stereotypes about menstruation.

- HIV vending machines

The project is progressing and is now in the final stages. Following a meeting with Properties, the finalisation of any installation details, as well as the signing of the MOU will be submitted to CONNECT by the beginning of August. Once all documentation has been completed, it is suspected that the vending machine will be installed and available students to use by September. This will be one of two vending machines, with a second being installed in the next financial year.

- We All Need to Pee

Following the Townhall with the GEIAG and potential stakeholders in the project, an action plan is currently being made as to how the University can assist in the delivery of this Guild campaign. A survey will be circulated to students, as well as consultations with other university members to determine key contributing factors to potential changes. These changes will include updated signage from unisex to all gender and the replacement of the all-gender image to a WC.

Along with this, there has been confirmation from the Maze Maps team that all collected bathroom data can be changed in the system to accurately reflect the type of bathroom present. This will also include creating subcategories to help identify if bathrooms are staff or restricted access.

- Deadnaming campaign

The deadnaming working group is currently revisiting the finalized report from September of 2024 to ensure that all outcomes and next steps have been met. Once this information has been finalized, changes to the direct of the working group will occur to ensure that there is a more streamlined approach to improving deadnaming for students.

The 5 year wait for updating systems to ensure accurate cross-over is too long, and so I will be advocating for a more immediate fix that will ensure that all areas of the university are held accountable for ensuring that the preferred names of students are honoured. A survey is currently being made and will be distributed to students to find out about their experiences with their preferred names on campus. This will identify the key areas of improvement across campus from staff and student training to system failures.

- Ally Training

This is a new campaign that has begun in the last month and is progressing smoothly. Currently, the Curtin University Ally team is unable to accommodate for student ally training. However, there is high demand, with increasing numbers of students wanting to build on and consolidate their knowledge. With the assistance of resources from the Curtin ally team, the Guild aims to deliver one training session per month to up to 40 students.

While this is still a new project, the structure of the plan is set in place and the next steps to carry out this campaign are underway.

Events

To support the Period Product dispenser campaign, members of the Guild including Dylan Storer, Bridget Clifton, Ben Burgess, and Nicole Alconaba; as well as Toby Collier, a member of the Queer Collective, assisted in the filming of a “Menstrual Mondays” music video.

This music video will be used to advertise the period product dispensers and promote an upcoming Instagram series by myself and Bridget that will discuss the menstrual cycle and its stigmas.

Meetings

Date	Meeting	Notes
20/06 – 01/07	EdCon	
08/07	Menstrual Monday	W Morgan, Nicole

Extended Notes

I'm very happy to say that I'm bringing back the Women's Department publication, Athina. For my first publication, I'm doing a 'uni 101' magazine, talking about various things on campus, ranging from joining clubs to study tips. I intend to have Athina as a platform for women on campus in future publications, talking about feminist thought, lived experiences, art and

EdCon

This year the NUS Education Conference (EdCon) was hosted by ANU in Canberra. I had the privilege to go and speak at the Women's Plenary hosted by the NUS Women's Officer, Ellie Venning, talking about diversity in education and how government and universities can do more to have more gender diversity in courses. I also listened to various presentations from the different factions and got to meet Purple Pingers who

talked about how to fix the housing crisis from a socialist perspective.



University and Committee Meetings		
Date	Meeting	Comments
25/6/2025 and 2/7/2025	Transport Campaign SEM	Provided advice on accessibility regarding a campaign encouraging students to take alternatives to cars
8/7/2025	Disability Pride Month	Discussed the Disability Pride Month flag raising

Guild Meetings		
Date	Meeting	Comments
26/6/2025 and 3/7/2025	CAP video	Created a video about CAP plans for social media

Events		
Date	Event	Comments
23/7/2025	Guild O Day	Planning and working on my stall Working on the event accessibility matrix launch

Projects		
Date	Project	Comments
NA	Survey	Working on collating the data

Other	
Topic	Comments
Disability Pride month social media	Created 4 posts about disability pride month, including a post showcasing disabled students

Higher Education Report
July 2025 Representation Board Meeting

WA universities reject claims they are turning out under-qualified teachers to work in other States. The West Australian

WA universities have hit back at criticism they are producing under-qualified teachers who are taking advantage of a loophole to work at schools in other States without meeting the same registration standards.

The universities have come under fire for reinstating a one-year graduate diploma for aspiring teachers — who already have a three-year degree in another field — to get them into classrooms faster, instead of insisting they do a two-year postgraduate master's degree.

Teacher registration bodies in NSW and Victoria have raised concerns about teachers using the one-year WA course as a back door — under national mutual recognition arrangements — to achieve registration in those States.

Governments in those States have said they will look at how to block their employment.

NSW Education Standards Authority said it had received some applications from WA graduates since the one-year qualification was introduced last year, and it expected numbers to rise.

“In 2024, the teacher authority in WA took the unusual step of accrediting qualifications that don't meet nationally-agreed standards,” NESA chief executive Paul Martin said. “There are no simple solutions to the teacher workforce challenge. But the answer cannot be to lower expectations of teacher preparation.”

But Curtin University school of education head Jeff Brooks said the criticism was unfair, and he found it “frustrating” that solutions to Australia's “huge teacher shortage” were being dismissed — especially when the alternative was no teacher at all.

“It's absolutely not a loophole — it's a teacher registration pathway, that's it,” he said.

“School systems across Australia are already full of people who qualified as a teacher through the grad dip, because it was in play for many years previously.

“Many of those people are systems leaders. Many of those people are principals. Many of them are highly-decorated, award-winning, amazing teachers.”

Professor Brooks said Curtin introduced the intensive program last year after extensive consultation with the Department of Education.

“We don't want to bring teachers into the field who are going to fail,” he said. “The pathway itself is not necessarily a predictor of the quality or success of the teachers.”

A spokesperson for Edith Cowan University said claims that WA was lowering standards were unfounded.

“The legislation has simply enabled universities to support teaching workforce needs in WA with the same quality and rigour that we always have,” they said. “Less than 1 per cent of ECU's graduate diploma of teaching cohort are students from other States.”

A State Government spokesperson said the re-introduction of graduate diplomas offered a more efficient pathway into the teaching profession for holders of non-teaching degrees.

“This has helped to attract future teachers from a variety of learning backgrounds and has bolstered the supply of quality teachers into WA classrooms,” they said.

“It is important to note that the Teacher Registration Board WA’s registration standards have not changed, and all teachers must meet specific requirements to demonstrate that they are fit to teach.

“Teachers must always meet the proficient level of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers within three years in order to achieve full registration, no matter their qualification.”

Education changes recommended to reduce antisemitism. ABC

The Federal Government will consider which recommendations it will adopt from a wide-ranging report into combating anti-Semitism. The recommendations include education in schools and universities to improve understanding of Jewish culture. But the most contentious proposals recommend stripping funding from universities and arts organisations that don't properly combat hatred.

The Special Envoy to Combat Anti-Semitism, Jillian Segal, yesterday released her report on the issue. One of the recommendations is for a nationally consistent adoption of the anti-Semitism definition from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

In a statement, Universities Australia welcomed the plan. CEO Luke Sheehy said it'll consider the recommendations and quote, academic freedom and freedom of expression are core to the university mission, but they must be exercised with responsibility and never as a cover for hate or harassment.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- * Launch a university report card, assessing each institution's implementation of effective practices and standards to combat anti-Semitism
- * Work with the government to strip funding from universities, programs or individuals that facilitate, enable or fail to act against anti-Semitism
- * Recommend a commission of inquiry into campus anti-Semitism if systemic problems remain by the start of the 2026 academic year

AI chatbots are ‘poisoning data’, regulator warns universities. The Australian, Natasha

Artificial intelligence is “poisoning data”, the university regulator has told Australian researchers, as the federal government’s review of research grants is delayed by three months.

The risks of using generative AI in research have been outlined by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, which has also revealed a jumble of contradictory AI policies among universities scrambling to slap rules on use of the runaway technology.

“All research staff and students need to understand the risks gen AI tools may pose to data security, accuracy and privacy, and to assess the efficacy and safety of using them,” TEQSA says in [new guidance for the use of generative AI in research](#). “Some of the risks ... are data poisoning resulting from models being trained on untrusted or unvalidated data.”

Another threat is that AI has been trained using proprietary or customer-owned data, risking breaches of privacy and copyright laws. Researchers also risk “supply chain attacks” from third parties who modify the data.

Research using AI tools is also vulnerable to hackers who can “feed malicious prompts and control user input”.

“(PhD) candidates, supervisors, support staff and external research partners need to understand that some gen AI outputs may undermine research integrity and quality due to inaccuracies, biases or the exclusion of extraneous variables,” TEQSA states.

TEQSA’s latest guidance stops short of mandating oral exams for PhD students but it has told universities they must ensure “gen AI use is acknowledged and declared” by students and researchers. “To maintain assurances that HDR (postgraduate research degrees including PhDs) have attained the relevant skills and knowledge of their degree, institutions should consider including additional assessments as part of the thesis examination process,” TEQSA states.

TEQSA calls for closer monitoring of students’ work, stating “supervisors should get to know their students and monitor their progress to assure learning has taken place”.

Conflicting policies are evident in TEQSA’s case studies of how universities are managing the use of AI. Monash University has banned the use of gen AI technologies, such as Chat GPT, during thesis examinations.

To “preserve the confidentiality of thesis examination”, Monash also bans examiners from using AI to “support, prepare or write” an examiner’s report.

The University of Adelaide requires students to maintain their own records of gen AI use.

The University of Southern Queensland requires all PhD students to give an oral defence of their thesis, and at the University of Sydney, rules from this month will ban phones, computers, smart glasses, rings and ear pieces from “secure exams”.

ARC extension. The Australian

The Australian Research Council received a three-month extension to advise federal Education Minister Jason Clare on changes to the \$1bn National Competitive Grants Program.

Flooded with more than 340 submissions to its discussion paper, the ARC has been granted an extra three months to report to Mr Clare on changes to the taxpayer-funded grant schemes.

Interim Australian Tertiary Education Commission commenced 1 July. Jason Clare media release

The next stage of tertiary education reforms begins today with the establishment of the interim Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC).

A recommendation of the Australian Universities Accord, the ATEC will drive long-term reform across Australia's tertiary education system, helping us to build the skills Australia needs now and into the future.

The ATEC begins today in an interim capacity and subject to the passage of legislation, be fully operational in 2026.

The ATEC will play a key role in driving important structural reforms across the tertiary education system to help meet Australia's skills needs.

These reforms will better align the supply of skilled workers and new knowledge with Australia's future workforce needs by:

- promoting a joined-up tertiary system between VET and higher education
- allocating funding under the new Managed Growth Funding system
- implementing Needs-based Funding within the core funding model
- negotiating mission-based compacts to support a diverse, responsive, and high-performing sector.

The interim ATEC will be led by two expert, non-statutory Commissioners, Professor Mary O'Kane AC as interim Chief Commissioner and Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt AO as interim First Nations Commissioner.

They will work alongside Professor Barney Glover AO, the Jobs and Skills Australia Commissioner, to form the interim Commission.

In the long-term, ATEC will steward the tertiary education system to deliver quality education to more people across Australia.

The Terms of Reference for ATEC have also been released.

The new ATEC will independently provide advice to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Skills and Training.

ATEC will work closely with Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers and draw on advice from Jobs and Skills Australia, including recommendations from the recent Tertiary Harmonisation Report.

Unis wanted a muzzled watchdog they could control: it didn't happen. The Australian. Opinion Stephen Matchett

When the Liberals were in power, universities lobbied for an independent body to protect them from bolshie backbenchers and to lobby ministers for ever-more money and they looked to Labor to deliver.

But Education Minister Jason Clare has not given universities the friend at court they wanted.

Instead, they are getting something that might, maybe, accomplish what reforming education ministers since World War II have had previous goes at creating. And that is an operation of

experts that manages what many still say is a mission-impossible, respecting universities' academic autonomy while co-ordinating members of a national system to expand the economy for all Australians, especially people disadvantaged for want of post-school education and training.

If ATEC can deliver, it will also go a ways to reduce community suspicion that old and rich universities are deep-state organisations that want what they want when they want it.

Education spokeswoman Sarah Henderson was upfront about ATEC – calling it “another layer of educational bureaucracy at a significant cost”.

“There is no proper understanding of ATEC’s role,” she said, announcing it would not happen if she became minister. She was right on ATEC’s purpose. There are different ideas on what ATEC exists to do, and how it will do it.

At a policy level, Clare is clear; it exists to implement his University Accord inquiry to “build a better and fairer education system where no one is held back, and no one is left behind”. ATEC is to help create a system where 80 per cent of the workforce has a university and/or training qualification.

This is way more complicated and expensive than it sounds, involving billions of dollars for teaching and research at all public universities over 25 years, changing the way they work, including co-operating with the training system.

Rather than tear everything down to start again, as Labor minister John Dawkins did when he merged the separate university and college systems in the 1980s, Clare is creating ATEC to change the way the existing system works.

It is why professor Mary O’Kane chaired the accord inquiry and why she continues as ATEC interim Chief Commissioner . The scientist and engineer was vice-chancellor of the University of Adelaide for five years around the turn of the century and since then has been chief scientist of NSW and advised governments and chaired boards on everything from research funding to urban planning. Her present appointments include chairing the Australian Energy Market Operator, which manages the nation’s gas and electricity markets.

O’Kane is a deeply skilled adept of the politics of policy process who understands education but stands above the ruck of university self-interest. If it is not her, the permanent head needs to be somebody with her experience and independence.

Last year, the Department of Education was pushing for the commission to sit inside it and there are still ideas around about line-agency officials engaging with the commission’s operations.

And universities still assume ATEC should exist to advocate for them in their endless argument for ever-more money. The first thing it must do, a vice-chancellor tells *The Australian*, is announce when there will be “a sustainably funded system”. It is not going to happen, if it ever does, until the new agency works out what that means and if it can convince whoever is minister the cost is affordable and in the national interest.

That will take work, and lots of it. A close observer of the arguments to date says there will be way more policy than politics in ATEC’s advice to government. On the cost of teaching students, for example, the model used to fund universities (tinkering to deliver a predetermined conclusion aside) is around 30 years old.

What ATEC will likely do is commission a bunch of independent research on the actual cost of delivering courses and report whatever they find. If the conclusion calls for cash, “they will not be performing if they do not say to government ‘You can’t grow the skills and grow the higher education base on this amount of money’. It is going to be a very hard to walk a line between the sector and the executive.”

Then there is the really, really big issue that most university leaders would prefer ATEC ignore – creating a post-school system including higher and vocational education. Optimists in the training community think it can be done. Realists suggest “harmonisation” of courses and qualifications across sectors will be as good as it gets, and that will take enormous amounts of expertise.

Which is the whole point of creating a “steward” for the system. Previous advisory agencies suffered from an absence of expertise, of people who researched rather than administered universities. There are not many independent experts now (the same names keep coming up) but there are enough to analyse universities’ productivity to a depth never attempted. There is a precedent for this in the national health system, where there are multiple advisory agencies outside line managements.

People who watched the way the accord was created predict the first thing ATEC will do is set up working groups of advisers from within and maybe beyond the sector, to build bombproof cases on specific reforms that will survive direct hits from the mass of vested interests in education.

Over time, ATEC will interpret what government wants to universities and explain to them what they are going to get from the feds. Such skills will be essential in making work a crucial but largely ignored part of its process. The accord report recommended every university have an annual “compact” with government, setting performance targets, especially on enrolments.

While university managements may not like ATEC sticking its bib in, this could be the best thing it can do for them.

“The commission needs to be a critical champion for the sector and help (it) actually change,” a supporter of the new model says.

Whoever it is, they will have to deal with two vested interests who want ATEC to obey them.

Paid prac start. Jason Clare media statement

Commonwealth Prac Payments started 1 July 2025 for nursing, midwifery, teaching and social work students.

Eligible students will receive \$331.65 per week while doing the mandatory prac placements as part of their degree, which has been benchmarked to the single Austudy per week rate.

This new payment will provide cost-of-living relief for around 68,000 eligible higher education students and more than 5,000 VET students each year.

Newly published grant guidelines will make sure the Commonwealth Prac Payment is fair and accessible to eligible students.

This includes students who may face additional challenges due to disability, health, or acute family circumstances and life events.

Acting on the Universities Accord recommendation, this payment will help students with cost of living and encourage more people to study nursing, midwifery, teaching and social work.

University students will be able to apply for the Prac Payment through their higher education providers.

TAFE students enrolled in a Diploma of Nursing will have their payment administered directly by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Aussie uni commencements bounce back big time. Jason Clare media statement

After years of decline, the number of Australians getting a crack at university are bouncing back.

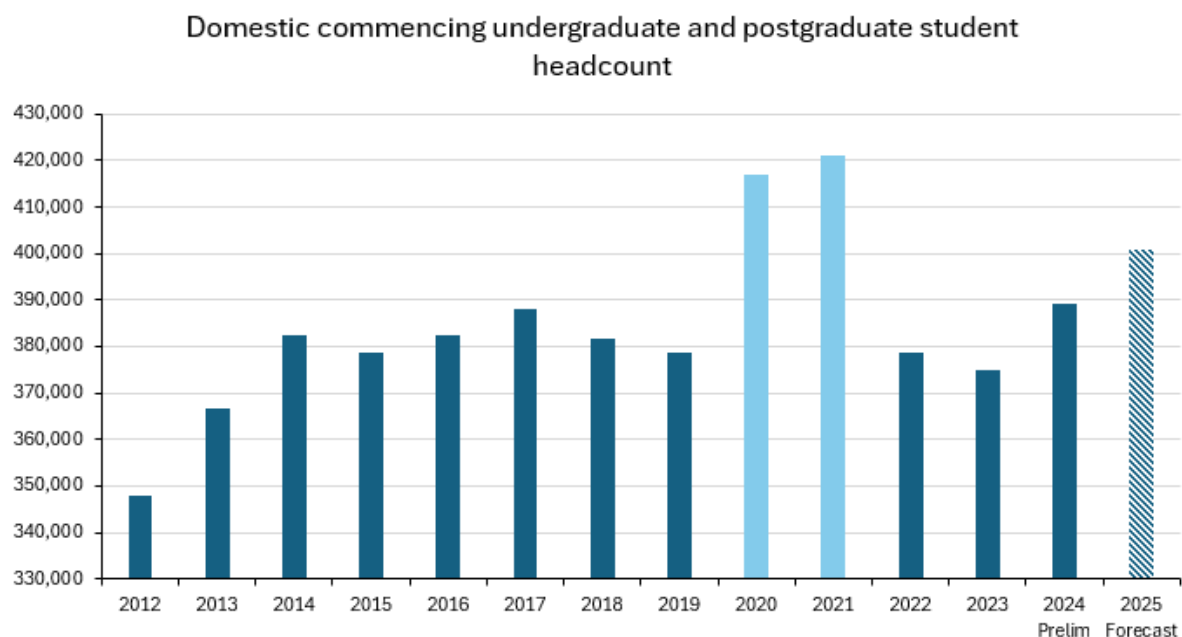
When you take out the two COVID years, this year looks set to be the biggest year for Australians commencing an undergraduate or postgraduate university degree on record.

Preliminary data for 2024 shows around 390,000 domestic students began a degree – a 3.7 per cent increase on 2023.

This includes more than 20,000 new starters in nursing degrees (a 3 per cent increase) and more than 25,000 new starters in teaching degrees (a 9 per cent increase).

Early, year to date figures for 2025 suggest that growth is continuing with commencements up another 3 per cent compared to the same time in 2024.

This reverses the trend seen since 2017, excluding the COVID years, where the number of domestic students commencing an undergraduate or postgraduate degree have been steadily falling.



Source: Higher Education Statistics - Student Data

Notes: 2024 data are preliminary. Final, official statistics may vary. 2025 data are a preliminary forecast based on year-to-date (YTD) May 2025 data. Final, full year 2025 data may differ if YTD May growth is not sustained at previous levels throughout the academic year.

In addition, over 14,000 students have taken up Fee-Free Uni Ready courses this year.

Fee-Free Uni Ready courses are short courses that help prepare people for university, acting as a bridge between school or work and higher education.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education Jason Clare:

'We need more people with more skills. That means more people finishing schools and more people going to TAFE or uni, or both.

"The Universities Accord sets a target that by 2050, 80 per cent of workers will have a TAFE or university qualification.

"To hit that target, we need to break down that invisible barrier that stops a lot of Australians from disadvantaged backgrounds, from the regions and the outer suburbs from getting a crack at uni and succeeding when they get there.

"That requires reform across the entire education system. That's what the fully funding of our public schools is about. It's also what the new funding system for our universities, that will roll out next year, is about.

"That will deliver demand-driven funding for equity students and needs based funding ensuring students get the academic and wrap-around supports they need to succeed at university."