

# Vice President – Education

## September Representation Board

Reporting Period 9/08/2024 – 5/09/2024

Veronika Gobba (she/her)

### University / External Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
9/8/24	Guild X Library catch-up re: textbook survey	
	ISC X VPE X Curtin language exchange staff	
12/8/24	Student Success Principles w/ Linda Adnyana	
14/8/24	AI Taskforce group	Exploring Curtin graduates start-up 'Camplus' collaboration
19/8/24	Academic Calendar Review Group	Review Group is satisfied with placement of tuition-free weeks being put back in extending the start week and end week of the academic year by 1 week. A further consultation will be pushed out regarding this placement and the reintroduction to start sem 2 2026. The Guild is advocating for this to be brought back sooner. It is to be noted that it was very disappointing to hear university members on this group suggest the ideas of reducing the teaching weeks by 1 or exam period by 1 week to accommodate the reintroduction of the tuition-free week. It seems the university is quick to forget the headache which students and staff were loudly displaying at the removal of the second tuition-free week.
21/8/24	Public Sector Unionists Rally	
23/8/24	FBL 'Phyigital' Co-design session	
28/8/24	Dean L&T FBL catch-up w/ VPE X President x FBL Rep	
3/9/24	Courses Committee	
4/9/24	Phyigital Student focus group #1	
5/9/24	Phyigital Student focus group #2	

### Guild Meetings

Date	Meeting	Comments
12/8/24	Digital catch-up w/ student engagement	

	Operations Committee	
14/8/24	Catch-up w/ student assist regarding teach-out courses in HS	
15/8/24	VPE x HUM Rep catch-up	
	Reps Board	
22/8/24	VPE x HUM Rep catch-up	
27/8/24	Love, Sex & Consent stall	
28/8/24	Executive Committee	
29/8/24	VPE x HUM Rep catch-up	
4/9/24	Guild Graduations Palestine Solidarity stall	
5/9/24	VPE x HUM Rep catch-up	

### **FBL 'Phygital' Project**

The Faculty of Business and Law plans to trial a flipped learning model (noting, that there are some units in FBL that already follow this model (with, from feedback from students, varying levels of success). The Guild expressed that we do not support flipped learning at Curtin. FBL said they would do student focus groups on this change, and the design of it. Upon attending one of these sessions, it was 4 students and 20+ staff in that group, the session was poorly done. It seems the faculty already has a plan for how they want to run flipped learning, which means reducing total contact time of students learning, and replacing lectures with pre-recorded online content. In these sessions, all students and lots of staff were against this. Myself, Jasmyne and Hannah then met with the Dean of L&T to express further concern and request that proper focus groups just for students be conducted, with the Guild responsible for collecting RSVPs. We were able to get at least 15 FBL students to each of two sessions ran by the FBL team, the comments said by all students reflected our stance. Students agree that the quality of lectures need to improve to increase attendance and shifting them online will not do that. We are awaiting further communication from FBL regarding their next steps after this feedback.

# Vice President – Sustainability & Welfare

August Representation Board Report (15/08/2024 – 09/09/2024)

Jacque Bicanic (she/they)

## University / External Meetings:

Date	Meeting	Comments
12/08/24	Student Success Principles	
22/08/24	CAP Discussions	Humanities rep and Debbie discussed to prospect of having CAPs released earlier for those students with physical accessibility requirements to give staff enough time to relocate classes.
27/08/24	Jessie Parish catch up	Discussed ongoing sustainability projects
03/09/24	Online meeting with Tinder	Discussed how students received the <i>Dating Dictionary</i> and how we could work together on consent education in future
05/09/24	<del>Universal Design Sub-Committee Meeting</del>	Unable to attend last minute
10/09/24	Respect at Curtin Specialist Advisory Committee	
11/09/24	Sustainable Development Working Group	

## Guild Meetings (Or Guild-Related Meetings):

Date	Meeting	Comments
14/08/24	VPA & Events Team meeting	
15/08/24	Queer Officer Check In	
15/08/24	Reps Board	
19/08/24	MD David Luketina Meeting	Discussed Plastics Free Program
21/08/24	Events/VPA Catch up	
22/08/24	Queer Formal Meeting	
22/08/24	Guild Council	
26/08/24	Love, Sex & Consent Week	
27/08/24	Love, Sex & Consent Week stall day	Stalls by VPSW and Women's Officer provided students with information and flyers about sexual health and consent. WAAC had a stall and were also conducting free STI checks.
28/08/24	Exec Meeting	
28/08/24	VPA & Events Team meeting	
11/09/24	VPA & Events Team meeting	

## Leave Taken:

02/09/2024 – 06/09/2024 – Carers Leave

## Further Notes:

Topic	Details
SA/SH Flyer	<p>The flyer was successfully made in time for <i>Love, Sex &amp; Consent Week</i>. It's a two-sided flyer with one side focusing on reporting within Curtin (Curtin Counselling, Wellbeing &amp; Safer Communities) with the other side outlining reporting options outside of Curtin University (SARC, Student Assist and the Police). I will present these to the RACSAC and GBVWG committees for their reference as well.</p>
Containers For Change	<p>The current roadblock is with the State Government (WARRYL). I need to update my proposal and send it to them for consideration. I will continue to provide updates through my reports on the progress of this project.</p>
Recycling Hub	<p>We are waiting to hear back from the <i>Mens Shed (Fremantle)</i> to see if they can commission this project.</p>
Love, Sex & Consent Week	<p>This event was well received by students. Chloë (Women's Officer) and I were able to engage in meaningful conversations with students about sexual health and consent. We were able to inform students where they can pick up free condoms on campus (Guild Reception and Curtin Health Services reception), hand out large volumes of informational flyers about sexual health and consent and almost my entire stock of SA/SH Flyers (see above). The mystery wall was popular with students able to collect prizes for answering questions about sexual health and consent. I also walked around campus in an inflatable costume handing out condoms, lube, dental dams and flyers.</p> <p>Max (VPA) also organised daily lollipop &amp; condom drops where we were able to distribute a large quantity of flyers and information directly to students.</p> <p>The Free STI Testing through WAAC was especially well received. WAAC volunteers stayed past the event end time to clear through students in line. We are in discussions with WAAC about delivering a second free STI testing in semester 1 as well as bringing this back for next years event in semester 2.</p>

Name: Hannah Northey

Meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Updates:

Date	Meeting/Event	Comments
14/8/2024	Faculty Representatives Engagement Stall	Had a stall with the other faculty representatives to kick off the semester, remind students we are here to support them, and of course, give out free stuff.
14/8/2024	Commerce Ball Committee meeting	The second last meeting before the ball. Discussions around lighting, photography, music and the menu.
15/8/2024	August Representation Board	
16/8/2024	Monthly meeting with PVC Vanessa Chang	Discussions around the textbook campaign, the assignment feedback campaign, Academic misconduct backlog and FBL Flipped classrooms initiative
19/8/2024	FBL Grill the Guild	Final Grill the Guild as FBL Rep. It was a success.
19/8/2024	Legal Committee	Reviewing by-laws/ constitution
21/8/2024	Fortnightly meeting with FBL SE	Discussions of Flipped initiative
23/8/2024	Meeting with Head of School Accounting, Economics and Finance Professor Felix Chan	Discussions around my campaigns and the proposed FBL Flipped initiative
23/8/2024	Final Commerce Ball Committee meeting	Finalising the run sheet

24/8/2024	Assignment Feedback campaign meeting	Discussions around running focus groups and preparing for meeting with Deans.
26/8/2024	Love Week Lolly Pop Drop	I was a love week cupid on this day
26/8/2024	Meeting with Deans of Learning and Teaching	Presenting our survey findings to the Deans of Learning and Teaching across all four faculties. The findings were well received and the Deans appear willing to work with the Guild in implementing change
28/8/2024	Deans Lunch	Meeting with FBL students and FBL Dean of Learning and Teaching Professor Subra Ananthram. Students were able to discuss issues they had with units in an open setting and Subra takes all feedback, both positive and negative on board to look at possible actions to improve the student experience.
28/8/2024	Phygital Meeting	Meeting with Subra, Jasmyne and Veronika to clear up multiple misunderstandings around the initiative for FBL flipped classrooms. An agreement was reached to host purely student only focus groups to gather data around student opinions on this issue.
30/8/2024	Essential Textbook survey winner prize collection	The winner came to Guild reception to collect their prizes.
30/8/2024	FBL Clubs Inaugural Commerce Ball	A great event. The clubs- WIB, Enactus, CMA and CBCA hosted a lovely event with the help of FBL Student Engagement.
2/9/2024	Legal Committee	Reviewing by- laws and constitutions again

4/9/2024	FBL student feedback session on flipped/ phygital initiative	Overwhelming opposition from the students against flipped learning. There was a variety of issues raised, the biggest of which related to choice and students being given the opportunity to have either in person or online lectures.
4/9/2024	Fortnightly meeting with FBL SE	Discussions around flipped lectures and the results of the student feedback session. There was also updates on the academic misconduct case backlog and the fact that there is not much progress. Also discussions of me hosting a stall on the law school city campus soon.

### Additional Information:

- The essential textbook survey for students is now closed. Library and LITEC staff are currently running their own essential textbook survey for staff to fill out from their perspectives.
- Once this is done there will be another meeting to discuss survey findings in depth as well as next steps in relation to displaying these findings to the university
- The assignment feedback campaign is going well. The Deans of Learning and Teaching across the faculties have endorsed the results of the survey and are happy to help promote the rest of the project.
- FBL staff have been highly engaged with the next step of the process, with staff focus groups being in the process of being run this week
- The flipped/ phygital initiative appears to present very mixed opinions in students. It is great that student only workshop groups are being run to gather student feedback- which the Guild recommended. Of what I have seen and heard, students do not particularly want a flipped experience.
- I am making plans to host a Guild stall on the law school city campus, likely later this month, which is currently in the process of the plans being finalised.

# Science and Engineering faculty Report

Thane Roberts (They/Them).

Representation Board 12/09/2024

Date	Event type	Name	Comments
19/08/2024	Meeting	Faculty Executive Team Meeting.	<p>Health and safety moments, currently there are no mental health first aid refreshers. Close to 50 percent of Faculty has done mental health first aid.</p> <p>Flipped classroom initiative. Physical and Digital experience. All units in FBL will be able to be online, loss of lectures and other activities. Digital first in units that work. Not wholesale. Lack of consistency for Science and Engineering. Intrinsic and existential question of what is an undergraduate degree.</p> <p>How to get back to the top in terms of student visas. Curtin has suffered enormously. It effects the visa system completely. The Australian Government classifies students into group. Most 15 or 18 universitys have level 1. Ensure reputation and levels, number of applicants and rejected visas. Have to stay under a certain threshold. Reputation issues, why do some unis take less time to get a Visa. Internal targets without oversight. We are now a second-tier university. Almost impossible to get visas. Takes weeks.</p> <p>Field work working group convened, staff and students doing placements Vs research. Task force going to be developing that.</p> <p>Equity and Diversity program, meeting to develop equity program for the university. Pulling together priorities for the faculty.</p> <p>Curtin pay review. Seasonal pay rates</p>



			<p>review. When issues arise when rules are not followed. Firm understanding of rules. Engagement of seasonal staff that didn't align with EBA. Which units have large number of sessionals. We have 2hour a week sessionals with no connection to university. With growing numbers huge numbers of student staff members. Lifecycle career development.</p> <p>Opportunities to grow diversity equity and inclusion conversations. More consistency across career conversations. Unit coordinators should have more experience as line manager of sessionals.</p> <p>PhDs that doesn't align with undergraduate was discussed. The issue is people doing their PhD in wildly different things. All mechatronics get Mechanical PhD.</p>
20/08/2024	Meeting	Faculty Research Committee.	Recent discussions focused on PhD alignment, highlighting the disconnect between undergraduate and PhD programs, especially in Engineering fields. Additionally, the fieldwork working group is developing strategies for better support of staff and student placements. Further emphasis was placed on equity, diversity, and growing opportunities for student employment.
22/08/2024	BBQ	Grill the Guild	Guild Representatives and volunteers cooked hundreds of snags for the hungry masses down south of campus. Many humanities, science and engineering students enjoyed a free snag outside 215. Students gave us feedback and were fed. Memories and friendships were made.
22/08/2024	Meeting	Science Board	The communication strategy with Curtin connect for science degrees and answering future students' questions. The meeting was a brainstorming session for how to make Science grow again. Many potential students don't see careers in science as viable. There are also challenges creating internship

			opportunities that are attractive for PhD students and align with their research.
26/08/2024	Meeting	Assignment Survey Meeting.	The faculty representatives had a productive conversation with the Dean's. The university was currently working on reforming assignment feedback so was willing to listen to the suggestions provided by the Guild.
02/09/2024	Meeting	Faculty Executive Team Meeting.	<p>The international student cap was discussed. The term used was "business as usual" for Curtin however the message send by the government will likely impact the universities numbers regardless.</p> <p>The decrease in ATAR numbers was described as "snowballing", amid concerns over STEM pre-requisites, increasing pressure on unis to teach high school level content.</p> <p>Increasing diversity in student backgrounds was disscused, more equity and pathways students are increasing as a share of the student body.</p> <p>NCP grants were discussed, 40 STEM students are going to Japan in a study tour this summer.</p>
04/09/2024	Focus Group	Staff Assignment Feedback.	A productive and open conversation was held between the staff and representatives of the Student Guild, the perspective of sessional staff where heard.
06/09/2024	Focus Group	Staff Assignment Feedback.	<p>A productive and open conversation was held between the staff and representatives of the Student Guild. Magdy Elnashar was excited to tell us about his FastFeedback Question Model and its successes in his unit, with higher results then others.</p> <p>The other staff in the session also put forward suggestions as to when is the best time for students to receive feedback and the frequency and content of that feedback.</p>



**HEALTH SCIENCES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**  
**REPRESENTATION BOARD Meeting – SEPTEMBER 2024**



<b>Meeting/task</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
SDP	14/8	Mostly AI.
Faculty representatives' collaborative engagement stall	14/8	Collaboration with FBL, Sci-Eng and Humanities rep to interact with students, receive feedback on issues, allocate resources and connect them to our services and social media. We spoke to a considerable amount of students over 2 hours.
Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging working party	20/8	Mainly consulted with the working party to adjust the survey being sent to students to ensure that it is appropriate and student centred.
Assessment Feedback Campaign project implementation meeting with Deans of LT across the four faculties	26/8	After around 6 months of project planning, data collection and analysis and stakeholder engagement, I attended a meeting with the Deans of LT across the four faculties along with FBL, Sci-Eng and Humanities rep, explaining our findings, proposal of focus groups and solutions, including short-term and long-term goals. Successful meeting with next steps to come.
Assessment feedback campaign strategy meeting with faculty reps	20/8	Strategising our plan of action and discussion points for the meeting with the Deans of LT regarding our project.
Preparing for the next steps of the Assessment Feedback campaign	27/8 – 3/9	Contacting Dean of LT, preparing for the focus groups including logistics and documents.
DIBC	3/9	Regular committee meeting discussing DIB concerns.
SDP	29/8	Trends in falsified documents.
Consultation with DVCA	29/8	Discussions on how technology can be used to better the educational outcomes across online and face to face learning, such as utilising AI, and ensuring interactive processes in labs, tutorials and seminars. Many students shared their experience

		of issues with lectures and engagement among students, and how it can be improved.
Community chats on Facebook messenger	1/9 – 15/9	Working on a social media campaign to create a social environment that promotes a sense of belonging on campus through introducing a community chat on messenger with members of the Guild health sciences group – over two weeks, I plan on sparking conversations and promoting opportunities and events that promote a sense of belonging, help with financial stress and stress regarding graduation and future plans. After two weeks of using the chat everyday, I hope that the chat is sustainable long term for members, and I will continue to message at regular intervals. On top of this, I will continue to post regularly on Instagram and Facebook as necessary, also connecting students to services and opportunities that will help them. The community chat instantly had engagement, with students discussing career paths, job seeking, and clubs' promotions and queries.
Staff focus groups	6/9	Staff focus group for the assessment feedback campaign, open discussion style.
Staff focus groups	4/9	Staff focus group for the assessment feedback campaign, open discussion style.
Meeting with Dean of LT	3/9	Discussing recruiting staff and directors of LT for the staff focus group, ensuring collaboration for the assessment feedback campaign.

## Faculty of Humanities Report Representation Board Meeting – 12.09.24

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### Guild Meetings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Weekly	VP-E Check-in	
09.08	Women's Officer x Humanities Rep	Discussion around what Women's Officer's projects can be brought to Humanities
12.08	Student Assist – Questions regarding complaints processes	Discussion with Jo-Ann around what the current complaints processes are in order to take to Humanities Inclusion and Belonging Committee
24.08	Assessment Feedback Planning/Strategy Meeting	Preparing for the meeting with the University as well as pre-planning for the focus groups with the other Faculty Reps and the VP-E
04.09	Student Assist – Student concerns	

### University Meetings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Notes</b>
09.08	SDP	
12.08	Humanities Inclusion and Belonging Committee	Next meeting of the committee, discussed the Content Warnings project, concerns around the current complaints processes and how the faculty addresses them, as well as further discussion on a faculty based Reconciliation Action plan and questions/issues raised by staff regarding CAP's
15.08	Humanities x Guild check in	Met with Nicole Slatter (Dean Learning and Teaching – Humanities) to discuss issues within MCASI, the next steps for the Content Warnings Project as well as the Assessment Feedback Project.
15.08	School of Education meeting	Met with the Directors Learning and Teaching for School of Education as well as a few others from the school. Discussed current concerns/issues they have as well as cleared up confusion around the inherent requirements.
19.08	SDP	
22.08	HIB Raised CAP Issues meeting with AccessAbility	Met with Debbie Teh (Manager AccessAbility) and Jacquie (VP-S&W) to discuss the issues around CAP's raised in the Humanities Inclusion and Belonging Committee.
26.08	SDP	
26.08	Assessment Feedback Survey – Deans and Academic Registrar Meeting	Met with the Academic Registrar and the Deans of Learning and Teaching for each of the faculties with the other Fac Reps and presented our report on Assessment Feedback and Marking Processes
28.08	HIB Follow-Up Discussion with Humira and Maddie	Met with Humira (Director Student Engagement – Humanities) and Maddie (Chair of Humanities Inclusion and Belonging

		Committee) to follow up on some discussions from the most recent HIB meeting
29.08	Humanities LSEC Meeting	Briefly summarised the Assessment Feedback Report and the recent meeting with the Deans and Academic Registrar. Presented the Content Warnings Project Proposal, asking the Committee for feedback and to endorse it to go to Humanities Leadership Committee. Heard an update from the Curtin Connect Equity team on what they have been working on.
29.08	Meet and Eat with the DVC-A	Students as Partners Q&A with the DVC-A. It was insightful to hear other students thoughts on issues related to learning and teaching including class sizes, racism in teaching materials and flipped classrooms.
30.08	HIB Follow-Up Discussion Part 2	Continuation of conversations from 28.08
04.09	Guild Assessment Feedback Staff Focus Group – 1	Small turn out but very productive focus group.
05.09	Meeting with Health Sciences Dean Learning and Teaching	Met with Marina Ciccarelli to discuss the Content Warnings project and having it shared within the Faculty of Health Sciences

## Projects

**Content Warnings:** I have now presented this at the Humanities Inclusion and Belonging Committee, Humanities LSEC and to the Health Sciences Dean Learning and Teaching. It's been great to see how many people across the university are in support of it and how many staff have been reaching out to get my input on what type of content warning would be best suited for their own work. I'm currently in the process of meeting with the Deans L&T for FBL and Sci-Eng as well to present content warnings to them, this is just to try and increase the awareness of the Guide and content warnings throughout the university and hopefully help with the sustainability of the project after the end of this semester. The next steps are to take it to university LSEC in October, as well as taking it to the DVC-A, Director of LITEC and Director, Student Life & Community in order to establish which portfolio this will sit in for its ongoing sustainability.

**Assessment Feedback:** We presented our report with the results of the survey and our initial recommendations to the Academic Registrar and all of the Deans L&T and have since been able to plan the Staff focus groups for wider consultation and feedback. We have done a lot of work since that initial meeting, and will hopefully be able to get some initial results before the end of this semester, with the more long term solutions hopefully being ready by semester 1 2025 – as long as the university doesn't drag it's feet. Once all of the staff consultation and focus groups are done, we will be able to take the key points from those discussions into our student focus groups in order to ensure that any potential solutions raised are ones that benefit students as well as staff.

## Other

**Fac Rep Engagement Stall:** While it was a cold and wet day it was still great to interact with more students, have some really interesting and productive conversations. It was also really good to be able to give out more freebies to students.

**Humanities Grill the Guild:** The weather unfortunately meant that there was not as many students as the last time we did this. Was still great to see everyone and chat to students.

**Humanities Graduation:** Was great to see all of the DBE and MCASI students graduating.

Imari Morris (they/she/he)

Faculty of Humanities Rep



## September 2024 Representation Board Report – Student Assist

### August overview:

Academic sessions were mainly in relation to responding to Academic Misconducts responses and complaints. We are still seeing significant delays in student receiving Academic Misconduct allegations and determinations.

Non-academic sessions were focused on students seeking financial support.

	June	July	August
Academic sessions	224	335	283
Non – academic sessions	50	56	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>343</b>

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

	June	July	August
Lifhack participants	129	72	112
Loan laptop	3	3	5

### **Welfare**

Student Assist provided emergency relief to 7 students.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS COMMITTEE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (SEPTEMBER 2024)

Representation Board Meeting

Sarina Pun (she/her)

Meetings/Events Log

Date	Meeting/Events	Notes
08/08/2024	International Student Migration Awareness Program (ISMAP) with P MEC	Over 80 students attended and more registered for the event. Discussed with Barry on ways to improve future ISMAPs (promotion video, condensing slides, light snacks for students).
09/08/2024	ALLY Level 1 Training	
09/08/2024	Meeting with VPE and Curtin English Teachers	Discussed promotion strategies for their upcoming Curtin Language & Culture Exchange Project.
13/08/2024	Café Connect Session with Curtin Connect Team	Shared about the Guild, representatives they should know, Guild events and support services available with quiz and raffle. Very vibrant vibes from everyone.
27/08/2024	Faculty SAE Global Positioning Committee meeting	
29/08/2024	Short meeting with DVCG	Discussed reaching out to Global Curtin campuses, CU position if international student cap is imposed.

Upcoming events/plans:

Next ISMAP session planned during Week 10.

To commence discussion for Pasar Malam next month with VPA.

Brainstorming on working with Curtin Careers to bring career development services.

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### Postgraduate Students Committee (PSC) Reports

Date	Meeting/ Event	Comments
20/8/2024	Meeting with the Humanities Faculty	Discussing about postgraduate updates and issues at the Faculty of Humanities
23/8/2024	Consultation with HDR student	Supporting and handling an academic issue faced by an HDR student from Faculty of Humanities
26/8/2024	Meeting with postgraduate student	Assisting postgraduate students facing issue for their study
27/8/2024	Meeting with Graduate Research Office (GRS)	Discussing about the MoU next steps for HDR students
29/8/2024	Curtin 3MT Three Minute Thesis	Attending the event for HDR students' competition in presenting their three minutes of research presentation
2/9/2024	Meeting with postgraduate student	Assisting general postgraduate student matters

### Activities, Events, and Students' Academic & General Issues

- PSC President has attended to represent the Postgraduate Students Committee at Curtin annual event for HDR students called 3MT (Three Minute Thesis Competition) in the library.
- The PSC President and the Guild Secretary have come to a meeting to meet Richard Norman from the Graduate Research Office to discuss the next steps of the MoU for the HDR students.

- PSC has communicated and coordinated with the Faculty of Humanities for recent updates and issues related to postgraduate students at the faculty. Some information was gathered to form some new alternatives for supporting postgraduate students.
- PSC receives several emails from postgraduate students reporting some issues related to their studies. PSC has been forwarding those issues and emails to the Student Assist.



# QUEER OFFICER'S REPORT

## Representation Board Meeting

### July 2024

Zavier Wileman (they/them)



### MEETINGS

Date	Meeting
20th August	GEIAG Meeting
22nd August'	Events - Queer Formal planning
23rd August	Deadnaming discussion - Imari (Humanities Rep)
27th August	DVCA Meeting
30th August	GEI & Guild catch-up
30th August	Pride Festival discussion - Chloe (Women's Officer)
3rd September	Deadnaming discussion - Linda (Deadnaming working group chair)
4th September	Student Focused LGBTQIA+ Discussion - Imari, Jacqui + Leanne

### EVENTS

Date	Meeting
14th August	Queer Peer Support Group
21st August	Queer Peer Support Group

27th August	ALLY L3 Certificate Afternoon
28th August	Queer Peer Support Group
30th August	Wear it Purple - Panel Discussion
4th September	Queer Peer Support Group

## PROJECT UPDATES

**WANTP:** No huge updates this month, as I've been pre-occupied with the deadnaming campaign. I raised my progress on the bathrooms auditing at the last GEIAG meeting, where we had a good discussion about how to best support this work going forward. I will be put in touch with Ariel, who is currently leading work on Parents rooms so is a good person to work alongside. GEI is getting me in touch with Madison Godfrey, who did their own bathroom audit with some Humanities students, which I am hoping to cross-reference findings with. The bathroom audit is still not 100% done as my attempts to get help from my Collective to finish this work have failed (alas) - I will try and get this piece done myself in the next few weeks. More updates to come as this progresses.

**Deadnaming:** Following my concerns with the closure of the working group, as well as the pessimistic attitude towards the business case, I chased up a few key people to get some more clarification regarding where the business case stands, and the plans going forward. Firstly, I spoke to Paul (DVCA) who shared the concern that given the huge projected cost of the systems changes, as well as the fact that Curtin's systems will be overturned in a few years anyways, it is unlikely the Finance Committee will see this project as a 'good use of money'. From a corporate perspective, I can certainly understand why this is the case. Obviously, from a student perspective, this is deeply upsetting and essentially means that the system's fixes will not happen for at least a good few years. Disappointing, but we will have to wait to see the actual outcome of this.

I also met with Linda (chair of the working group) to discuss my concerns about the lack of consideration for mental health & wellbeing of students being deadnamed. My concern is that the working group has focused on how to support 'logistical fixes' (such as training up Curtin Connect to support students in

changing their preferred name). However, there has been very little substantial discussion about how we intend to support students experiencing deadnaming – given that at the core of all this work is the fact that deadnaming and misgendering is a deeply distressing experience. We spoke about how the wellbeing team can support students, and the possibility of directly referring students from Curtin Connect to Wellbeing when they are addressing deadnaming/change of name issues. I hope to see this piece of work progress. More to come.

**Peer support groups:** The peer support groups are going very well, and I am really loving to see the same individuals coming every week, which tells me there is a need being met through these groups. I got to speak with one particular student, who shared that this group has helped them better understand their queer identity, which made me very happy to hear. Although I am struggling on these big, Curtin-wide changes to supporting queer students, I am glad that in my little bubble, I am able to create some real change for students through the peer support groups.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Wear it Purple:** I was lucky to be asked to speak as part of a panel discussion, addressing the topic of 'How to create safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ students and staff'. The event was a lovely, laid-back discussion with an engaged audience of staff, and we were able to facilitate good discussions regarding the work currently being done (ALLY training, affirmation guide, deadnaming, bathrooms, etc.) whilst also recognising how far we still have to go. This was a great opportunity for me to inform supportive staff about my QD projects.



## WOMEN’S OFFICER’S REPORT

### Representation Board Meeting

Chloe/Clo Maslen (She/They)

#### **GUILD MEETINGS**

Date	Meetings	Notes
18/8/2024	Event organisation	W/ Max
18/9/2024	Catch up	W/ Jacquie
20/8/2024	Catch up	W/ Samantha Owens
20/8/2024	Event organisation	W/ Zavier

#### **Extended notes:**

##### 18/08/2024:

- Discussion about booking the TAV for the Besties and Beads event + the love week stall organisation.
- A simple catch-up with Jacquie to enquire about future projects and my KPI.

##### 20/08/2024

-Samantha had enquired about two topics with me. The first one was about the period poverty project. This project is going to be moved very soon and will have access to period products around campus very soon. The second topic at hand was International Women's day. We have yet to have a theme for it but we are already starting to brainstorm some ideas and activities.

-Zavier and I met to discuss pride and what I could do to help them and bring traction to their event. We both went to the conclusion that a stall dedicated to queer women and resources would be good.

#### **Further comment:**

GEIAG: My first GIEAG meeting went well I was introduced to everyone, sharing my

project and what I could pass on for next year. There was a lot of information I had to retain but I managed with the help of Imari to understand what position I was standing.

**Besties and Beads:** With the help of Carla and Kyla, we hosted this event which a good success rate. There were about 15 people who showed up and seemed to be genuinely happy to make some arts and crafts. This event, with more publicity will do great next year.

# ACCESSIBILITY DEPARTMENT

## Representation Board Report

September 2024

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS		
Date	Meeting	Notes
13.08.24	Debbie The (AccessAbility Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CAP Working Group</b> – Initiated by the AccessAbility Services and is more of a systemic working group including student systems to ensure the successful progress of online delivery</li> <li>- <b>Staff/Student Mentor Pilot Program</b> - initiated by the Health Sciences and Students as Partners program. Collaborated with the AccessAbility services to send a collective email to students with a CAP Plan if they are interested to be linked with staff members who are interested in being partnering with a student. The program is facilitated by the Students as Partners team.</li> <li>- <b>Sensory Room Update:</b> Debbie has had a meeting with the properties team and they have expressed their support for the initiative. The next step is Debbie is scheduled to have a meeting with Linda Adnyana in the upcoming weeks to get the official approval of her team (although Linda has already expressed her support for the initiative at the Accessibility Challenge.)</li> <li>- Mentioned the Guild’s affiliation with the Sunflower Scheme and Debbie seemed very supportive of this initiative. In fact she expressed that in the past students have asked her whether the AccessAbility services were affiliated with the Sunflower Scheme. Debbie also seemed interested in if the training will be worthwhile if so, she would like to get Curtin staff on board with it too. Overall, she seemed intrigued by the initiative and is likely to push for the university to also affiliate.</li> </ul>

GUILD MEETINGS		
Date	Meeting	Notes

15.08.2024	Reps Board Meeting	
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EVENTS		
Date	Event	Notes
16.08.2024	Creative Connections	The Accessibility Department started a weekly catch-up on Friday afternoons called 'Creative Connections'. Our first session was on the 16 <sup>th</sup> of August.
23.08.2024	Creative Connections	Weekly Craft Catch-Ups
30.08.2024	Creative Connections	Weekly Craft Catch-Ups

OTHER		
Date	Topic	Notes
19.08.2024	Survey Winners Announced	Campus Accessibility Survey ended today and the giveaway winners were announced.
19.08.2024 – 05.09.2024	Sunflower Scheme	Over the past two weeks I have been working with Ben Adams to ensure that the launch materials for the Sunflower Scheme are ready. I believe at this point we are waiting to hear back about the staff training and then the materials will be sent off to the Hidden Disabilities team for approval.
30.08.2024	Social Media Post	Wear it Purple Day
30.08.2024	Wear it Purple Day	Printed out Wear it Purple Day colouring pages and put some in the Accessibility room.
03.09.2024	Social Media Post	Posted the Australian Human Rights Commissions campaign 'Speaking from Experience' and updated the linktree with the relevant links.
04.09.2024	R u Ok?	Printed out R u OK? Posters for the Accessibility Room, Queer Department, Guild Equity Kitchen and the First Nations room and the office.

## Higher Education Report August Representation Board

### Universities Accord (Student Support and Other Measures) Bill 2024 Second Reading

#### Minister Speech

#### Doorstop

#### **Government reveals its cap on international student numbers. The Australian**

The Albanese government has cut international student numbers and will permit 270,000 new students next year.

Federal Education Minister Jason Clare, Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke and Skills and Training Minister Murray Watt [announced the controversial cap on foreign student enrolments on Tuesday](#).

Publicly funded universities will be allowed to enrol 145,000 new international students next year – about 15 per cent more than last year.

Vocational training colleges will only be given a quota of 95,000 new students.

Non-university [higher education providers can recruit 30,000 students](#).

Providers will be sent their individual caps today.

Mr Clare said universities would be allowed [15 per cent more international students](#) than they enrolled in 2019, before the pandemic – but numbers would be slashed by 20 per cent for vocational education and training (VET) providers.

The total number of newly-enrolled international students will be 7000 less than in 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr Clare said some migrants had been using education as a “back door” to enter Australia.

“Universities will have roughly the same number of students starting next year as they did last year,” he said.

“For the entire sector it means roughly the same number of international students starting next year as before the pandemic in 2019.”

The government will also revoke the unpopular Ministerial Direction 107, imposed by former Home Affairs Minister Clare O’Neil in February to slow down international student visa approvals after numbers soared to a record 700,000.

The visa slowdown has already cut numbers by 60,000 this year, impacting regional universities that rely on students from India, Nepal and Pakistan.

Mr Clare said universities and training providers would be sent individual caps today for international student numbers in 2025 and said the numbers would be made public “in due course”.

“Universities will have roughly the same number of students starting next year as they did last year.

“I don’t think anyone was saying last year this was having a massive negative impact on the economy or universities.

“For the entire sector it means roughly the same number of international students starting next year as before the pandemic in 2019.”

Mr Clare said that universities that fail to fill their quota of international students could have the vacancies transferred to other universities.

He said some universities would be able to take in more international students this year, while others will have their quotas cut.

The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) has demanded guarantees that universities will not sack staff as a result of the caps.

#### Minister’s media release

## Curtin University 2019

International Students studying in Australia	6,984
from : China (%)	24%
Malaysia (%)	12%
India (%)	11%
Singapore (%)	6%
Indonesia (%)	4%

**31 July extract indicates Curtin has 8354 internal international students (5300 have WA addresses in extract)**



Website Factsheet -  
NPL and PRISMS 23C

### The Conversation

### The Conversation

### ABC

### The Guardian

### More detail on international student caps Andrew Norton

### **Unis face \$1bn hit as foreign intake slashed. The Australian**

[Natasha Bitu](#)

Australia's richest universities will be stripped of 22,000 international students next year as the federal government funnels foreign fee-paying students into regional universities.

Universities Australia said the restrictions on international student recruitment would "apply a handbrake to Australia's second-biggest export industry".

The National Tertiary Education Union called on universities to rule out job cuts as the institutions faced the loss of up to \$1bn in revenue.

"Job cuts are a red line," NTEU National President Dr Alison Barnes said.

"The federal government must ensure university bosses don't use these changes as an excuse to cut jobs from an already stretched workforce."

The Group of Eight (Go8) research-intensive universities, which collectively enrol about 163,623 foreign students, have been hardest hit by the revenue caps announced by federal Education Minister Jason Clare on Wednesday.

They will be able to share in 61,000 new international students next year.

The intake represents a 26 per cent cut to the 83,020 international students who commenced study in 2023 at the University of Sydney, the University of Melbourne, the University of NSW, University of

Western Sydney, Adelaide University, Monash University, the University of Queensland and the Australian National University.

The eight top universities have been allocated 42 per cent of the total intake of new international students next year.

Go8 chief executive Vicki Thomson blasted the caps as “reckless” and called on the federal opposition to block the legislation in the Senate.

“The federal government ... intends recklessly to proceed with ... cuts to Go8 members who do the heavy lifting in research,” she said.

But the government’s announcement has delighted regional universities, which have been allocated 15,900 commencing students in 2025 – up 78 per cent from their 2023 intake.

University of Western Sydney vice-chancellor Professor George Williams said his university stood to lose \$26.5m through a reduction of 1000 international students next year – a 23 per cent cut to the expected intake.

The University of Tasmania will be allowed to recruit 2200 new international students next year – up from the 2023 intake of 1746.

“This is a sensible and coherent approach to managing some of the post-pandemic immigration challenges we are facing as a nation while supporting the higher education sector, particularly in regional areas,” vice-chancellor Professor Rufus Black said.

The University of Wollongong said the caps would be “fairer and more sustainable than the current visa processing regime”.

The government will also revoke the unpopular Ministerial Direction 107 imposed by former Home Affairs Minister Clare O’Neil in February to slow down international student visa approvals after more than 700,000 students poured into Australia.

The visa go-slow has already cut numbers by 60,000 this year, affecting regional universities that rely on students from India, Nepal and Pakistan.

Charles Darwin University has been granted 2200 new international enrolments next year – 100 more than in 2023.

All 37 public universities will be allowed to enrol 145,000 new international students next year – about 15 per cent more than the pre-pandemic intake in 2019, and on par with 2023 levels.

The deepest cuts have been made to vocational education and training providers, which must share 95,000 new students next year – 30 per cent less than in 2023 and down 20 per cent from 2019.

Public VET providers such as TAFE institutes will have their 2025 caps set at 2023 commencement numbers.

If international students make up more than 80 per cent of all enrolments at a VET college, its quota will be fixed to 2023 levels.

But colleges will be able to recruit at the higher 2024 level if fewer than 80 per cent of all students come from overseas.

Non-university higher education providers can recruit 30,500 students – a 28 per cent cut to 2023 levels.

Schools and postgraduate research students, as well as standalone English-language courses, have been exempted from the caps.

Mr Clare said some migrants had been using education as a “back door” to enter Australia.

“There’s about 10 per cent more international students in our universities today than before the pandemic, and about 50 per cent more in our private vocational and training providers,” he said.

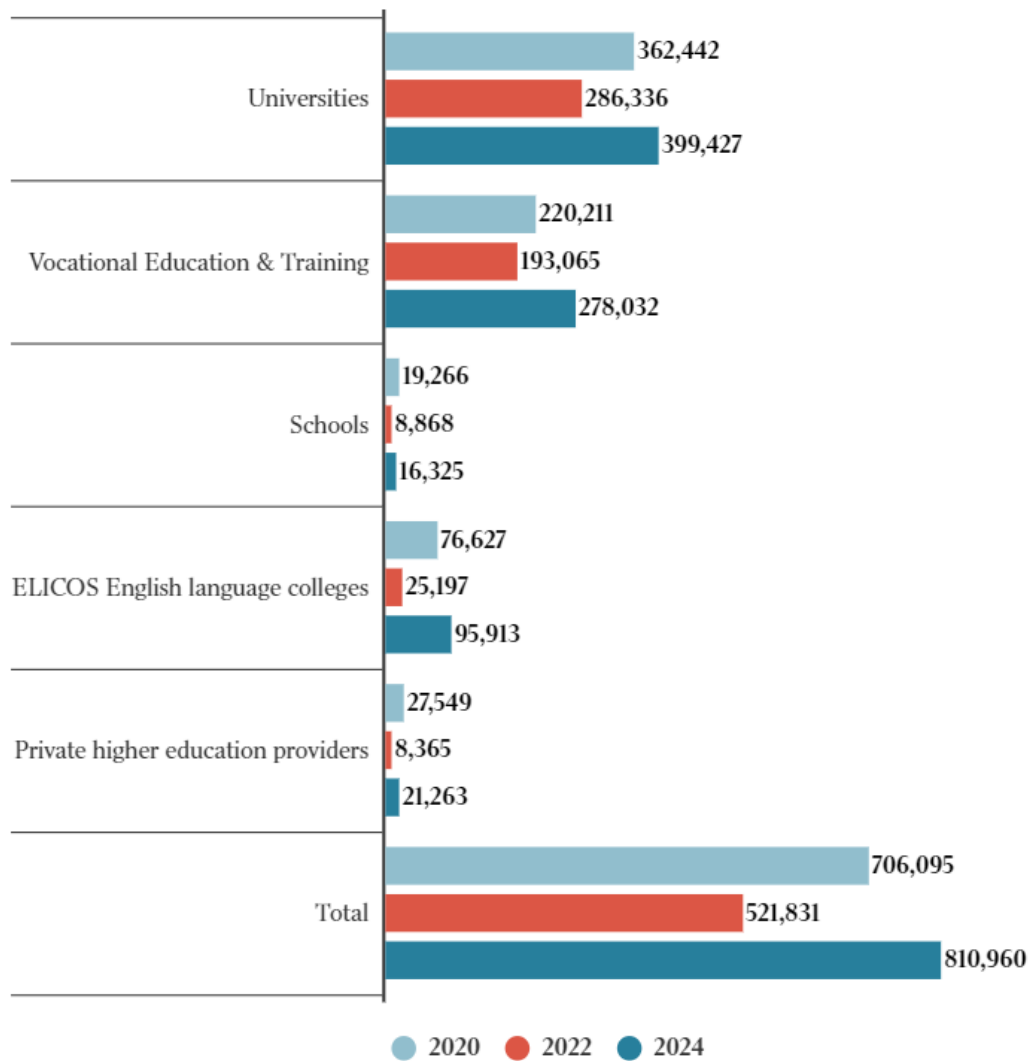
“Students are back but so are the shonks – people that are seeking to exploit this industry to make a quick buck.

“We’ve shut down more than 150 dormant or ghost colleges – places that aren’t really operating to provide an education for international students, but are really a back door just for people to work here.”

“We want a managed system – not a free-for-all system.”

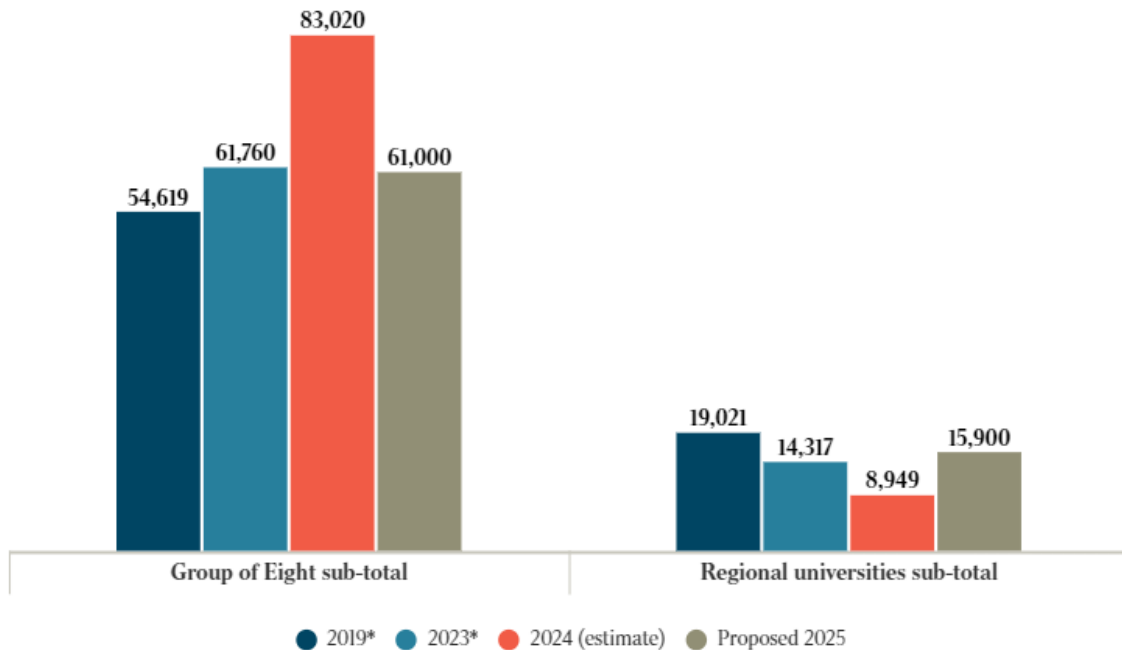
How attractive will the FEE-FREE Uni Ready places be to universities?. Andrew Norton

## Total international students studying in Australia





## International student limits 2025



Source: [Federal Education Department](#)

### **Monash University pours \$1m into research program tasked with investigating anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. The Australian**

[Monash University vice-chancellor Sharon Pickering](#) has promised \$1m for a two-year research program to investigate students' experiences of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia on campus, which also hopes to develop tangible initiatives to build social cohesion.

[Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation](#) director David Slucki and [sociologist Susan Carland](#) said their project, Campus Cohesion, was the first to examine experiences of hate by Jewish and Muslim staff and students concurrently.

Dr Slucki said initiatives that could arise could include changes to university policies, education and training programs, and changes to internal structures within student associations. The researchers plan to form focus groups of Jewish and Muslim students, as well students from the broader university community.

### **Government Funding Microcredentials Teaching, Nursing, Engineering**

Higher education providers can now apply for funding to deliver microcredentials in priority areas such as teaching, nursing, IT and engineering from mid-2024.

The Albanese Government is investing more than \$10 million in 50 new microcredential courses.

This is the second round of the [Microcredentials Pilot for Higher Education](#). The first round of funding has already delivered up to \$7.75 million for 28 new microcredential courses at 18 universities throughout Australia.

### **'Degree-factory unis fail the best, carry the worst', says report. The Australian**

Australian universities are "degree factories" that dilute academic standards through group assignments, woke teaching and cheating, a conservative think-tank has warned.

The Menzies Research Centre says universities should pay interest on student loans so they have "skin in the game" to ensure graduates earn enough money to repay their HECS debts.

It also calls for a crackdown on group assignments that force the smartest students to carry those who are struggling.

The report concludes that "a culture of credentialism" is watering down the value of a university degree, and calls for independent checks on student achievement and academic research.

"Universities are incentivised to accept academically marginal students and then lower the standards to pass them," it states.

"Young people feel forced to obtain a tertiary qualification even though it provides them with no specific skills.

"Students and taxpayers have no guarantee about the quality of teaching they are purchasing with billions worth of student fees and taxpayer dollars."

The report calls for changes to the Higher Education Loans Scheme (HELP), which lets students borrow their tuition fees from the federal government and then repay the debt through higher taxes once they earn more than the minimum wage. The report says HELP loans "blunt the immediate price signal" to students, and encourage universities to "herd academically marginal students" into degrees.

It wants universities to be held liable for paying the indexation – which is pegged to the lower of - inflation or wage growth – on student loans outstanding after five years. "Universities receive loan-financed student fees regardless of whether the tertiary training that it pays for is equipping these students with valuable or marketable skills and knowledge," the report states.

"There is no penalty when universities fail to equip students with the skills they paid for.

"While the universities get off scot-free, it is the students themselves – along with the taxpayers ... who are left bearing the burden.

"Future loans should be amended to include an interest charge to universities on any loan balances still outstanding after (five years).

"This reform would immediately force universities to start to care ... whether their courses are actually equipping students with any meaningful understanding and skills."

### **University of Sydney Jewish staff make workplace claim against 'vicious, racist campaign' on campus**

Several Jewish employees at the University of Sydney have filed a workplace claim against university management for "psychosocial harm" following a "vicious, racist campaign" on campus, and sought criminal sanctions against vice-chancellor Mark Scott.

The SafeWork NSW claim says the claimants have had their safety impacted by "a vicious, racist campaign". It was co-signed by some non-Jewish staff.

"We have been reporting psychosocial hazards at the workplace to the university since October 7th, 2023," they said.

"We assert that the university is a psychologically unsafe environment for Jewish staff and students and we contend that the university ought to have taken steps to minimise this entirely foreseeable harm."

The workplace action comes after a turbulent first half of the year at Australia's oldest university as it was rocked by allegations of anti-Semitism amid a [long-running pro-Palestine encampment protest on the Quad lawns](#).

Separately, The Australian has obtained a copy of a prescient letter 31 staff members sent to university management at the start of the year – before the protests began – urging the university to designate a campus area “not in the main student thoroughfare” so “students do not feel intimidated and threatened”.

Once protests started, Jewish students reported there were “no-go areas” on the campus.

Professor Scott in May told 2GB “it’s a very large university and it’s very possible to work your way around ... and not be confronted by the encampment”.

The letter, dated January 17, also urged university management to ban the Socialist Alliance and other groups “advocating the intifada”, and a rule against interruption of classes or other university events. The Socialist Alliance played a central role in the protests and the university [found itself in hot water](#) when pro-Palestine students interrupted a lecture and ignored directions from to leave.

The SafeWork NSW claim listed examples of the alleged psychosocial harm, such as student protests on campus calling for “intifada”, a graffiti tunnel on campus the claimants said called for “Jewish genocide”, posters with “violent, offensive images”, and a recent student representative council motion that “affirmed violence against Jews”.

The claim singled out Professor Scott.

“Mark Scott must face criminal sanctions,” it read. “SafeWork NSW must prosecute Mark Scott for his failure to meet his obligations ... to protect the psychological safety of Jewish students and staff in the workplace. Not only has he failed in his legal obligations to the relevant stakeholders, he has [rewarded a campaign of violence and intimidation](#) with involvement in appointments, investments and curricula.”

The claim also asked for investigations on the part of SafeWork into students and staff over anti-Semitic behaviour. The claim was made in one ex-staff member’s name but was signed by 18 other staff members and two students.

Professor Scott is scheduled to appear before NSW budget estimates on Wednesday afternoon.

When contacted for comment, a university spokeswoman said “ensuring the safety of our staff and students is always our top priority”.

“When the encampment was first established, we quickly put in place additional measures to help students and staff continue to move around the campus safely, including additional security and personal escorts where requested,” she said. “We’re providing comprehensive wellbeing support and continue to assess and control the psychosocial hazards on our campuses.”

## **Bill Shorten quits politics to take \$1m-plus university vice-chancellor job. The Australian**

Bill Shorten has [quit politics for a university vice-chancellor job](#) paying almost \$1.1m, positioning the former Labor leader as a key figure in the fight between the higher education sector and government over international student caps ahead of the election.

Standing alongside his long-time political rival Anthony Albanese in the Prime Minister’s courtyard on Thursday, Mr Shorten announced he would become University of Canberra vice-chancellor from February next year.

Mr Shorten — who led the ALP from 2013 to 2019 — said he was “proud of the fact that we took policies to the people where we were honest and upfront” but conceded his proposed changes to negative gearing, franking credits and capital gains tax were rejected by voters.

In a surprise move, given potential conflict of interest concerns, Mr Albanese confirmed that Mr Shorten would remain in [Cabinet as NDIS and Government Services Minister](#) until his February departure. The Prime Minister indicated that Mr Shorten’s Victorian seat of Maribyrnong would remain vacant until a likely May election next year.

Asked about his views on the government’s contentious cuts to international student numbers, capping the foreign student intake to 270,000 next year, Mr Shorten said as a current member of Cabinet: “I support the government’s propositions”.

As the higher education sector navigates policy clashes with both Labor and the Coalition ahead of the election, Queensland University of Technology vice-chancellor Margaret Sheil said Mr Shorten would help universities navigate the political landscape.

“At a time when the sector continues to have challenges with both sides of politics it will be good to have someone with Bill’s experience in the mix for Universities Australia,” Professor Sheil said.

University of Wollongong interim vice-chancellor John Dewar said “Bill Shorten’s appointment as the next vice-chancellor of UC breaks the mould of VC appointments in Australia in an exciting and innovative way”.

“Bill’s policy expertise, his obvious care for people, and his standing in the wider community, point to a bright future for the University of Canberra. Bill will inject new skills and new thinking into the tertiary sector and its peak bodies and bring new dynamism to public debates about tertiary education in Australia,” Professor Dewar said.

### **Melbourne University under investigation by Victorian Information Commissioner over surveillance of pro-Palestine students**

The University of Melbourne will be subject to an investigation [by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner](#) over its use of surveillance technology, including wi-fi location data, to prosecute pro-Palestine students involved in the 10-day occupation of a campus building.

Last month, 21 students fronted misconduct hearings before senior university representatives over their takeover of the Parkville campus’ Arts West Building.

The university called on the student activists to face disciplinary proceedings in an email that also included evidence in the form of [CCTV footage and Wi-Fi data](#) obtained from the university’s network.

[OVIC](#) commissioner Sean Morrison confirmed in a statement to The Australian that the matter had been escalated and referred to [Privacy and Data Protection deputy commissioner Rachel Dixon](#).

### **ANU changes investment policy to exclude certain arms manufacturers following months of pro-Palestinian protests on campus. ABC**

In short:

The ANU has announced it will no longer invest in certain weapons companies in the long-term, following months of pressure from pro-Palestinian student groups.

The university said its council had decided that its "long term investment pool [would] not invest in controversial weapons manufacturers and civilian small arms manufacturers".

What's next?

Pro-Palestinian students on campus say their protest action will continue until further demands (cutting all ties to Israel) are met by the university.

### **The underexplained and insecure Commonwealth Prac Payment, Andrew Norton**

**Commonwealth Prac Payment**. Department of Education

### **Prac Payments Commence**