A low-angle photograph of a hand reaching upwards towards a bright sun in a clear blue sky. The sun is positioned in the upper right quadrant, creating a lens flare effect. The hand is silhouetted against the sky, with the fingers spread. The overall mood is one of aspiration and growth.

**NUS**  
**STRATEGIC**  
**PLAN**  
**2009**



# INTRODUCTION

The National Union of Students Inc. (NUS) is the peak representative body for undergraduate students in Australia and represents over 600,000 students to universities, government and the wider community.

In 2009, NUS will continue to promote and defend the interests and rights of university students and ensure that their voice is heard at all levels of decision and policy making.

In particular, NUS will play a vital role in the decisions made regarding the recent Bradley Review into Higher Education in Australia, the Rudd Government's proposed Student Services and Amenities Fee Legislation and the reform of Student Income Support.

This document seeks to outline the activities of NUS National Office in 2009 in a clear, easy-to-read and understandable format. This also represents a commitment to ensuring there is greater communication between NUS and member organisations. NUS hopes this is a valuable tool for member organisations and enables a greater understanding of what NUS National Office is up to in 2009.

Our website ([www.unistudent.com.au](http://www.unistudent.com.au)) is also another way to get information and details about what's happening throughout 2009. Or, you can also join the facebook group, 'Demand a Better Future: Less Talk, More Action'

Please feel free to get in contact with any of the National Officers for more details about their particular campaign or activities throughout the year. The contact details of all National Officers are on page 3.

Yours in Unity,

**David Wilkins**

National General Secretary

National Deputy President

## NUS WINS!

NUS has had many wins over the years as a representative body for students but there is certainly more work to be done! Some of the wins that NUS has had over the years include:

- > **the prevention of VSU in 2003**
- > **increasing the years of allowable HECS study from 5 to 7**
- > **Reducing the proposed HECS increase by 5%**
- > **Surviving as an independent voice for students**

We have also gained financial wins, such as:

- > **Saving students \$100million per year in lower HECS fees**
- > **Saving student organisations \$180million by delaying the introduction of VSU (2005) by 12 months**
- > **Saving students \$500million per year in the abolishment of full-fee degrees**
- > **ANCILLARY FEES WIN: Universities can no longer port the system and charge students illegal course fees**

We have also seen progress on the DEMAND A BETTER FUTURE campaign, which began in December of 2006. We have seen progress on the 'SCRAP VSU' element, with the proposed student services and amenities fee legislation, we have seen progress on the 'Decrease HECS' element, with reductions in Maths and Sciences and also the stance of the Bradley Review, we have seen progress on the 'Fair Youth Allowance' element with acknowledgement in the Bradley Review of the need to reform and broad support from Federal Parliamentarians for reform and we have seen success with the 'Abolish DUFF's' with the previous announcement from the Rudd Government.

## DEMAND A BETTER FUTURE CAMPAIGN

Education is a right, not a privilege. In the 2007 election the Rudd government promised students an Education Revolution. Now its time for them to deliver. In 2009 the National Union of Students will be demanding less talk and more action.

## FAIR INCOME SUPPORT

1 in 8 students miss a meal regularly because of lack of money and 1 in 2 students report that their studies are adversely affected by financial stress. The time for the government to act on improving student income support is now.

NUS will be campaigning for the Government to lower the age of independence, make means testing fair and increase payments. This would mean more money and more support for more students.

## SCRAP VSU

Since the introduction of voluntary student unionism (VSU) in 2005, student organisations have had their budgets slashed. This means less services, support and representation for students on campus. The government promised students they would address this and proposed a new student services fee. NUS will be campaigning to ensure that this fee is directed to student organizations, not university administrations- because students know what is best for students.

# NUS OFFICE BEARERS 09



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## Queer Officer

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## Ethno-Cultural Officer

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# NATIONAL PRESIDENT OBJECTIVES



- 1** Increase awareness and visibility of the NUS and its activities on campus and within the community
- 2** Increase students' participation in the NUS campaigns, activities and collective organising  
Increase our effectiveness in influencing public policy
- 3** Increase the engagement of affiliate campuses with NUS and NUS' accessibility to affiliate campuses
- 4** Increase the number of affiliates and active affiliates
- 5** Promote a positive culture within the Union





# ACTIONS

## GOAL

## ACTION

## TIMELINE

Update website to generate interaction and engagement while providing easily accessible information about NUS and its campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Incorporate campaign organising, generate funds, direct online petitions to campaign targets, direct feedback / enquiries to relevant national, state or campus office bearers</li> <li>&gt; Detail a summary of recent NUS wins and achievements</li> <li>&gt; Upload a blog of photos, media stories, and report backs from activists working on the campaign from across Australia</li> </ul>	January / February
Organise 2009 NUS National Presidents Summit	Held at University of Sydney COMPLETED	January
National Day of Action	> Organise the three tiers of the NDA; satellite campuses, individual campuses and cross-campus	February
Encourage non-affiliated campuses to affiliate to NUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Develop affiliation strategy</li> <li>&gt; Establish links, campaign presence, increase conference participation, engage with student and University administrations at various non-affiliated campuses</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Provide relevant and effective voice to Federal Government on higher education issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Establish links and lobby The Nationals Party, The Greens and independents</li> <li>&gt; Lobby Government</li> <li>&gt; Ensure nation-wide lobbying had been enacted with students lobbying in their electorates</li> <li>&gt; Establish a national schedule of participating campuses in Dial-an-MP</li> <li>&gt; Build links with sector unions</li> <li>&gt; Build links with Universities Australia and Vice Chancellors</li> <li>&gt; Build links with trade unions</li> <li>&gt; Encourage regional campuses to meet with National party MPs</li> <li>&gt; Encourage South Australian campuses to meet with Senator Nick Xenophon</li> </ul>	All year
'Re-establishing Representation'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Establish 'Re-establishing Representation (RERUS) campaign should VSU reform succeed in passing through the Senate in 2009</li> <li>&gt; Draft RERUS system with state and campus consultation</li> <li>&gt; RERUS Online</li> <li>&gt; Draft preliminary calendar</li> </ul>	If VSU reform passes

# NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY STRATEGIC PLAN



In 2009, it is imperative that the administration of NUS is conducted in a professional and responsible manner. Whilst it is often seen as the 'background' work of National Office, it is vital to the activities of NUS that the scarce finances and resources it holds is managed in a fiscally conservative environment, balancing the demands of resources required for activist campaigns and the need to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of National Office.

In addition, NUS needs to ensure its member affiliates are continuously updated about our activities, with a view to promoting the 'value' associated with affiliation to NUS. This will be a particular focus in 2009 to ensure that continued affiliation to NUS is maintained.

NUS rely primarily on the financial support provided through its member affiliates to generate the funds necessary to operate successfully. Without the continued support of our affiliate members, NUS would fail to exist and would fail to provide a national voice for tertiary students in Australia to universities, government and the wider community. As such, in 2009 there has been a renewed focus on the affiliations process, in particular the generation of affiliation fees from member organisations, to ensure that NUS remains in a financially sustainable environment.





## GOAL

## ACTION

## TIMELINE

Increase revenue generated from affiliation fees and encourage new organisations to affiliate to NUS.

- > Undertake affiliation consultation with regards to the affiliations model, which provides the framework for the granting of fee waivers or reductions
- > Develop a clear affiliations model to ensure all member affiliates are granted the appropriate fee waiver or reduction, in comparison to other member affiliates
- > Issue invoices at the earliest time to enable member affiliates sufficient time for budgeting and to assist with cash flow issues

January/February  
 March/April  
 May/June

Deliver a fiscally responsible and financially sustainable budget in 2009

- > Provide adequate resources to activists departments while ensuring the cost centres of NUS are kept in line with previous budgets
- > Encourage activist departments to look at alternative funding for their activities or working in conjunction with member affiliates to cover particular costs centres
- > Ensure that NUS delivers a surplus budget, to enable further contributions to reserves, to increase long term financial stability

March  
 Where appropriate  
 Ongoing

Promote the value of affiliating to NUS and encourage a positive view towards NUS from member organisations

- > Undertake National Office Strategic Planning
- > Develop National Office Strategic Plan to be distributed to member affiliates
- > Continue promoting NUS and its activities and ensure member affiliates are kept up-to-date with NUS and its activities

January  
 February/March  
 All year

Investigate alternative revenue sources for NUS's activities

- > Direct the Policy and Project Officer to investigate potential revenue sources for NUS's activities
- > Assist activist departments to apply for such revenue sources

March  
 Where appropriate

Increase accountability and transparency of NUS where appropriate and provide up-to-date information about NUS and its activities

- > Provide access to National Executive reports and minutes to member affiliates through the website
- > Provide up-to-date information with regards to the National Campaign through the website

All year  
 All year

# EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

## ACTIONS

GOAL	ACTION	TIMELINE
Develop more strategic and frequent actions to ensure that the campaign gains momentum and builds on success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Maintain constant communication with campus activists through phone link ups and e-lists to share resources and information</li> <li>&gt; Develop clear goals and an action planning guide for campus education officers and state branches</li> </ul>	All year
Develop targeted and creative actions to encourage flexibility and inclusiveness in the campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Campus NDA: prior to the centralized NDA, there will be a campus NDA.</li> <li>&gt; NDA: The central NDA, this will be used to gather media attention and mobilize students, thus creating pressure on the government. Goals for the NDA are a turn out of at least 10 000 students across the country.</li> <li>&gt; Actions through semester: At least one action to be held on each campus after the NDA. As well as small, creative actions (such as mass dial an MPs etc) on campus in the lead up to the campus and central NDAs.</li> <li>&gt; Second Semester NDA: For the second semester campaign to be as strong and active as the first semester.</li> </ul>	<p>Campus NDA: 18th March</p> <p>NDA: 25th March</p> <p>Actions throughout semester: March 30th - June.</p> <p>July 10th- November</p>



# BRADLEY REVIEW

## GOAL

## ACTION

## TIMELINE

Lobby the Federal Government to reject recommendations regarding voucher style funding when it responds to Bradley review

> Each state will hold an anti-vouchers action in January and February, which will be primarily stunt, media focused actions  
> Additionally, each state will be holding dial an MP session

January – Government response to Bradley review

Lobby the Federal Parliament to reject recommendations regarding voucher style funding if Federal Government accepts them

> Focus of the NDA will shift to include this as part of the campaign  
> Other actions will take place alongside NDA with other campaign techniques being deployed

Government Response (late Feb/Early March) until when legislation goes to house.

Lobby the Federal Government to accept the Student Income Support recommendations when it responds to Bradley review

> Each state will hold an pro-SIS action in January and February, which will be primarily stunt, media focused actions  
> Additionally, each state will be holding dial an MP session

January – Government response to Bradley review

Lobby the Federal Government to accept recommendations regarding funding for teaching and learning

In conjunction with Universities Australia, compile a student survey of class sizes, facilities and student to staff ratios

January to March



# VSU

## GOAL

Ensure that the Student Services Amenities Fee legislation passes Federal Parliament

## ACTION

- > Incorporate 'Scrap VSU' into NDA
- > Letter signed by new students to demonstrate the students want fully funded student organisations during O'Week – this will then be sent to Minister Gillard's office
- > Extensive lobbying of Federal MPs and Senators

## TIMELINE

January to June/July

# EDUCATION CONFERENCE

## GOAL

Engage non-affiliate campuses

## ACTION

- > Organising dates as early as possible
- > Campus visits and communication with non-affiliates

## TIMELINE

February

January to July

Motivate activists

- > Delivering an inspiring and motivating Education Conference to encourage activists to maintain involvement in the campaign

July





# NATIONAL WELFARE OFFICE

**As Welfare Officer, I want to seek a balance between awareness campaigns, which can prove effective if handled properly, and actual consultation with our governmental, educational and community leaders and policy-makers.**

**Public awareness campaigns calling for greater income support, in the form of distributed material, targeted media and social networking. Tying a tertiary student's welfare with that of a national economy can also be effective in garnering public support. This will be largely done through the DemandABetterFuture campaign run by NUS in which 'Student Income Support' will be included as a key demand (in addition to repealing VSU). There will also be more extensive material distributed throughout the year focused on student income support.**

**- James Mentor**

## STUDENT SUPPORT PARENTAL INCOME TEST GOAL

The parental income test should feature an increased threshold based upon more realistic family earnings, and caveats for children in unique family circumstances.

### ACTION

I aim to compile a booklet detailing the exact flaws with the current income support system, and offer solutions. Ideally, this would be distributed to all affiliate campuses, prior to the Government's major announcements on the Bradley Review concerning welfare.

Such a document will outline clearly the barriers to income support access, indicate that NUS is taking action and offering answers, and

encourage these affiliate campuses and relevant office-bearers to make the Government and the community aware of the flaws in the income support system.

## AGE OF INDEPENDENCE GOAL

To acknowledge the self-sufficiency of young Australian students, I believe the age of independence should be lowered.

### ACTION

Lowering the age of independence to 18 was recommended by the Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee in 2006, as financial stress and increased work hours impact negatively on productivity at university. In dialogue with Government and community groups, I intend to make this a central issue, pressing the theme of productivity.

The issue will also form part of my income support booklet which will be distributed to affiliates.

## INCOME FREE AREA GOAL

The Centrelink-defined income-free area, both for students and live in partners, should be raised to an appropriate figure. (note a 1991 House of Representatives enquiry into the income-free area).

### ACTION

The issue will also form part of my income booklet which will be distributed to affiliates.

I will also commission the NUS Research Department to examine an appropriate income-free area.

## RENT ASSISTANCE GOAL

Rent Assistance needs to be increased. Alternative approaches toward a more equitable rent assistance figure have been sounded before, and include the lowering of the threshold, while retaining the cap and the rebate, which will ensure students prioritise lower-cost accommodation. Other ideas include the removal of the sole occupancy and share-house policy distinction.

### ACTION

I will be engaging the NUS Research Department, as well as the Federal Government and various housing support organisations such as the Tenants Union of Victoria, to find a more equitable method of determining rent assistance. Such a figure must be considerable enough to supplement a significant void in student welfare, but conservative enough not to distort purchasing parity in the market.

The issue will also form part of my income support booklet which will be distributed to affiliates.

## SCHOLARSHIP INCOME EXEMPTION GOAL

A culture where students, for financial reasons, avoid merit-worthy academic performance, fail to apply for equity grants, or reject scholarships altogether must be avoided. I will campaign to have the income test, as it applies to all scholarships, prizes and fee waivers, to be removed.

### ACTION

The issue will form part of my income support booklet which will be distributed to affiliates.

## STUDENT PAYMENT INADEQUACY GOAL

Student payments need to be recalibrated to reduce the frequency of student poverty.

At the moment, the maximum amount a student can receive from Youth Allowance and Rent Assistance is \$460 a fortnight. The poverty line (as at June 2008) for an out-of-home single, full-time student not in the workforce is \$716. This should increase.

### ACTION

A student's financial stress can threaten productivity in work and study.

The issue will also be included in the income support booklet which will be distributed to affiliates.

This will also be part of the DemandABetterFuture (Student Income Support) campaign, which includes the National Days of Action and material being distributed to campuses during Semester 1.

## SEPARATE STUDENT INCOME PAYMENT GOAL

Considering the unique situation

of students, there should exist an auxiliary or alternative welfare source, targeted specifically towards the support of students, especially those under financial stress.

### ACTION

At this stage this is just an idea. I still intend to campaign within NUS's traditional boundaries – using resources to spread awareness of faults within the existing system. However, I aim to explore this idea further, through dialogue and research.

## LOANS FOR THE HIDDEN COSTS OF STUDY

### GOAL

Textbooks, computer software/hardware and transport to and from study are hidden costs on a student's university experience. I want to encourage the Government to introduce an educational expenses loan, which can be deferred as part of HECS, to help students meet these costs. I aim for this to be a short-term alternative to NUS's broader campaign, of which I am committed, to have Youth Allowance and Austudy payments increased.

Central in my criteria for an acceptable capital loan scheme is an interest rate set to the consumer price index. Loan approvals must also be monitored to ensure disproportionate numbers of students of low socio-economic status are not heavily debt-laden.

### ACTION

This idea is also still in its developing stages. At this point, I intend to start an awareness campaign,

with material distributed to affiliate campuses, to be displayed at the commencement of Semester 2, when educational expenses are at their most burdensome.

I will commission the NUS Research Department to examine these hidden costs, and table an indexed figure that the average student is expected to cover in these costs each semester. This process will determine the base figure for any loan scheme I will explore as Welfare Officer.

## CONCESSION CARDS FOR INTERSTATE TRAVEL

The Federal Government have recently changed regulations to allow seniors and other pensioners to enjoy concession card validity interstate.

### GOAL

Student's concession cards, while applicable in their state of study, are currently not valid interstate. This needs to be amended.

### ACTION

This is a small but evident inequity that, given the Government's willingness to afford seniors and pensioners the necessary benefit, is a straightforward argument for the Welfare Department to prosecute through governmental lobbying. This will be taking place during Semester 1 with the aim to achieve change in government policy in time for the 2009 budget

## STUDENT WELFARE STORIES AND SURVEYS

### GOAL

These anecdotes will come in use when mounting specific welfare campaigns and dealing with the media and decision-makers.

### ACTION

Details of student financial stress should be quantitative, as well as qualitative. The process of collecting short anecdotes is a process underway at the time of writing. I plan to introduce surveys after the Semester 1 NDAs, with the results potentially be used for Semester 2 Welfare Office priorities and in our lobbying/media efforts.

## STUDENT ENCOURAGEMENT

A second-tier stream covering areas of student welfare where students themselves must be encouraged to take responsibility.

## FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

### GOAL

Young people in Australia are too often debt-ridden and lacking fiscal know-how. This affects the ability to earn and save and manage their money

### GOAL

NUS needs to help promote a cultural shift towards responsible spending and borrowing. This campaign would seek to develop the important life-skill of financial management in university students.

### ACTION

I aim to publish and widely distribute information packs to affiliates, containing material such as pamphlets and posters, engaging these issues of financial responsibility. This will take place towards the end of Semester 1, prior to the end of the financial year.

The material should focus on the prevention of cyclical debt.

## SEXUAL HEALTH

The physical welfare of students is often overlooked by the welfare departments of student organisations. For undergraduate students in Australia, issues of sexual health and welfare are of utmost concern.

### GOAL

NUS must participate in the ongoing campaign to ensure the practice of safe sex.

### ACTION

In 2007, the Federal Government launched a public awareness campaign of Chylimedia, centred on Australian universities. The campaign proved very successful.

Similar efforts should mirror this approach, distributing highly-visible material provoking public awareness of safe sex and relevant diseases in on-campus bars and colleges. This would most likely be done in conjunction with the relevant government bodies. This campaign is likely to take place during Semester 2.

# WOMENS OFFICER STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL	ACTION	OUTCOME
Involve new and previously disengaged women students in NUS women's department activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Campaigns and projects should predominately focus on issues affecting a majority of women students</li> <li>&gt; All women students to be invited to NOWSA training camp</li> <li>&gt; Grant applications to encourage participation in NOWSA training and mid-year conference</li> <li>&gt; Materials provided for O-Weeks re: NUS women's department role + NOWSA training info</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Women students will contact NUS women's department for assistance or in seeking to get involved in national campaign</li> <li>&gt; Other goals (as outlined) for 2009 will be more easily achieved with participation of more women students</li> <li>&gt; Higher participation at NOWSA training and mid-year</li> </ul>
Ensure open and effective communication between campuses and national office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Campus visits will include NUS women's officer forums for all women students to attend</li> <li>&gt; Campus office bearer contact list and e-group created</li> <li>&gt; National phone link ups to be held twice per semester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Centrally coordinated campaigns more easily implemented on campus-level</li> <li>&gt; Campus office bearers first point of call for assistance/project support will be NUS women's department</li> </ul>
Increased safety for women on campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Violence Against Women on Campus campaign</li> <li>&gt; Letter/email to all VC's re: existing prevention and reporting mechanisms</li> <li>&gt; National set of prevention and reporting benchmarks to be created</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Universities to commit to reaching benchmarks by end of 2009</li> <li>&gt; Reports of violence on campus to be handled in professional, appropriate manner which ensures health of women affected, and seeks to prevent future attacks</li> </ul>
Protection of women's spaces + departments on campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Gather info re: current situation at each campus</li> <li>&gt; Information campaign re: importance of autonomous spaces and department</li> <li>&gt; Secure student services fee funding for spaces by lobbying universities (+government)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; No university to close/remove women's spaces and/or departments on campus</li> <li>&gt; Universities without existing facilities to use student services funding to establish spaces/ departments</li> </ul>



**GOAL****ACTION****OUTCOME**

Women's department included in main NUS campaigns

- > Work with education and welfare officers to set campaign direction
- > Run parallel campaigns re: how issues particularly affect women students

> NUS women's department to be entrenched in wider NUS campaigns, consulted in development of main campaigns and priorities

Engage with wider women's movement

- > Contacted women's community-based organizations, to offer partnership and/or support for relevant projects throughout the year
- > Invite guest speakers from said organizations to share experiences and advice at NOWSA training and mid-year

> Women students will benefit from the experience and knowledge of women in different sectors/industries

> NUS women's department will establish presence in women's movement, and will be consulted/involved in relevant projects and/or campaigns

Protect women's and gender studies

- > Lobby universities re: importance of maintaining and fully funding such courses
- > Coordinate campus-based actions in response to attempts to remove or reduce funding

No subject/course cuts in 2009

Ensure representative national voice for women students

- > NUS women's department media releases sent re: major campaign issues (eg. VSU) + issues directly affecting women students
- > Create networks and relationships with MP s through face-to-face meetings and letter writing campaigns

> NUS women's department establishes constant presence in local and mainstream media

> MP s and government consider and consult NUS women's department in development of higher ed policy

Student Services fee

In conjunction with main NUS campaigns, run target campaigns and actions re: need for funding for women student's political and representative activity on campus

> Women's activities and campaigns on campus to be fully funded

> Goals of campus and national women's departments will be more easily achieved with resources and capacity to involve as many women students as possible

Childcare on campus

Lobby government and universities to ensure student services fee funding contribution towards maintaining, upgrading, subsidising or establishing childcare services on campus

> Review of childcare services at end of year will note areas of improvement, and those which require further action

> Student services fee legislation to directly fund childcare services on campus



## GOAL

## ACTION

## OUTCOME

Involve previously disengaged campuses in NUS women's campaigns and projects

- > Establish contact with all women's officers
- > Visit campuses, hold forums, engage with campus collectives, support campus-based actions and campaigns

- > More women students involved on campus and in national campaigns
- > Attendance at NOWSA training and mid-year expected to increase

Involve small and regional campuses in NUS women's campaigns and projects

- > Will require somewhat different approach, as many don't have existing women's departments/collectives.
- > Visit campuses to assist with establishment of collectives, or to assist in working with universities to get funding for women's departments/spaces

- > More women students involved on campus and in national campaigns
- > Attendance at NOWSA training and mid-year expected to increase

International Women's Day – Demand campaign

- > Each campus collective/department will be invited to participate in banner painting, with each to select one demand (eg. We Demand Equal Pay, We Demand Childcare on Campus)
- > Banners will be sent to National Office, to be sewn together and used at actions/media events throughout the year

- > National project to link up women students from across the country
- > Banner will be used as reminder of those rights for which women students are still fighting

NOWSA training camp

- > Set campaign priorities for Semester 1 2009
- > Skill up women to participate more actively in the movement
- > Improve national network

Clear direction for national office for rest of semester 1 2009





# QUEER DEPARTMENT TIMELINE

## BRADLEY REVIEW AWARENESS

### GOAL

### ACTION

### TIMELINE

NDA Participation

Organising queer contingents, and queer departments participation.

18 March, Queer Dep participation. 25 March, X-campus queer bloc.

Raising awareness of Bradley's impact on queer students if implemented.

Queer department 'broadsheet', to be distributed on campuses.

Prepared and distributed by beginning of O-Weeks.

Pressure on Government re: queer welfare.

10,000 signatures on Queer Welfare petition

By time of the Palmer review.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Pride March Melbourne	NUS presence at Pride	1 February
Mardi Gras Sydney Fare Day	NUS participation.	15 February
Mardi Gras Sydney	Some form of student union engagement	7 March
FEAST in Adelaide	Student Union float/contingent	November
Pride in WA	NUS and local collectives activities	October
Pride in Brisbane	Some form of NUS participation in March	June
Equal Relationship Rights engagement	Co-sponsoring NDA's with local community and lobby groups	August

# REGIONAL / CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Campus contact	Contacting as many campuses as possible	Invasion Day, 26 January
Cross campus collaboration	prepared preliminary contact list for collectives and clubs and activists to be forwarded on all lists	February 3.
Equal rights anti homophobia Regional tour plan	Plan which campuses will be visited	By start of Queer Collaborations
Regional tour	Forums, public meetings etc	By end of classes, Semester 2



# INDIGENOUS OFFICER STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL	ACTION	TIMELINE
National Indigenous Students Conference (NISC)	> Work to support the implementation of the recommendations out of the official NUS report titled Special Submission to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Review of Australian Higher Education	Jan - ongoing
	> Finalise date	Feb
	> Actively seek sponsorship/partnering opportunities for the ongoing sustainable future of the conference	March
	> Book Venues	March
	> Source and book speakers	March
	> Contact universities re: NISC <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Communication with Vice Chancellors, ISU Directors</li><li>- Communication with State Indigenous Officers</li></ul>	April
	> Contact existing National Indigenous Students Network re: NISC	April
	> Distribute Registration Forms	May
	> Finalise program and agenda	May
	> Finalise registration	June
	> Produce and print necessary conference documents	June
	> Post conference – Action recommendations made at NISC	August
	> Send out letters of thanks to speakers and sponsors	September
	> Produce a report from the conference for distribution to the network and other relevant or interested parties	Oct

## GOAL

## ACTION

## TIMELINE

AIME Six new sites Australia wide in 2010, in line with AIME's 5 year strategic plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Work with AIME and NUS to identify universities interested in taking on the AIME program in 2010.</li><li>&gt; Provide interested universities with information regarding the application process.</li><li>&gt; Schedule meetings with Vice Chancellor's and other relevant university staff as a means of approaching universities not yet familiar with the AIME program, and provide them with information regarding AIME, the program and our goals.</li></ul>	
National Indigenous Students Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Maintain regular email contact with the network regarding NUS</li><li>&gt; Distribute relevant information to the network via the e-list</li><li>&gt; Monthly conference call link ups with State Indigenous Officers</li><li>&gt; Monthly phone calls to campus Indigenous Officers</li><li>&gt; Contact and meet with students from the Network when visiting their city/state/campus</li><li>&gt; Development of the State Indigenous Officer Role</li><li>&gt; Post NISC<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Make necessary additions to the Network e-list</li><li>- Maintain regular contact with the revised network</li></ul></li><li>&gt; Collect information from campuses regarding their progress in 2009 for inclusion in an end of year report</li><li>&gt; Collate and end of year report and distribute to the network</li></ul>	<p>Jan – Ongoing</p> <p>Jan – Ongoing</p> <p>Feb – Ongoing</p> <p>Feb - Ongoing</p> <p>Feb - Ongoing</p> <p>March</p> <p>July – Ongoing</p> <p>Oct</p> <p>Dec</p>
Affiliation to NUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Meet with relevant students, university representatives, university staff, media and government representatives in Darwin regarding the affiliation of Charles Darwin University to NUS</li><li>&gt; Make contact with relevant students, university representatives, university staff, media and government representatives in other states   travel to regarding the affiliation of as yet unaffiliated campuses</li><li>&gt; Ensure that any campuses affiliating are in contact with their Indigenous students and that the relevant Indigenous student representatives are involved in affiliation negotiations</li></ul>	<p>Feb</p> <p>Feb – Ongoing</p> <p>Feb – Ongoing</p>
Indigenous Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Build on existing relationships with Indigenous media through maintaining communication and providing comment from the Indigenous Department and the network regarding Indigenous issues</li><li>&gt; Foster new relationships with Indigenous media by making initial contact via e-mail and phone, then providing comment from the Indigenous Department and the network regarding Indigenous issues</li></ul>	<p>Feb – Ongoing</p> <p>Feb - Ongoing</p>





# SMALL AND REGIONAL REPORT THE YEAR AHEAD



The major goal of the Small and/  
or Regional Campuses Department  
is increased representation within  
Australian Small and/or Regional  
Universities.



THE IMPORTANCE  
AND RELEVANCE  
FACTOR: 5 GOALS  
TO BE ACHIEVED

## GOAL

Increased levels of student representation and adequate funding agreements. The national union of students is premised on the idea and goal of student representation. The post VSU environment has seen Small and Regional campuses disproportionately disadvantaged in regards to the issue of student representation. Their ability to provide advocacy and support for students has been severely weakened and in many cases wholly repealed. Many campuses have secured post-VSU funding agreements with their individual universities and effectively neutralized some of the more negative aspects and outcomes of VSU. However, these campuses are disproportionately metropolitan and in the current climate it remains small and regional universities which are inadequately funded and under-represented. The result is that many small and regional universities operate in a context of insufficient to zero funding and lack adequate (and in some cases any) student representative and support bodies.

## GOAL

To create an NUS partnership with the private sector, creating rural student scholarships. The Small and/or Regional Campuses Department will look to explore the option of setting up national and/or state based partnerships in which private sector companies provide scholarships to disadvantaged rural students who would otherwise lack the opportunity. Groups such as Rio Tinto, BHP or QANTAS could be groups that might be approached. The Small and/or Regional Campuses Department would look to work closely with NUSQ and any other state branches who express an interest in the project.

## GOAL

Issue awareness campaigns. In the case of those small and regional campuses which can already boast functioning and inclusive student associations the Small and/or Regional Campuses Department will look at facilitating and co-coordinating national campaigns around the issues facing students at these Small and/or Regional Campuses who often face different educational and welfare issues to students at larger metropolitan campuses. The Small and/or Regional Campuses Department will look to more specifically identify these issues in the coming weeks and report back to the national executive, however, the issue of student welfare will at this stage be the primary national campaign that my office will be pushing. The Small and/or Regional Campuses department will be looking to highlight the Bradley Reports recommendations of an overhauled student welfare structure – and emphasis the relevance of such a campaign to rural students who

## GOAL

Small and Regional campus involvement within the National Union of Students. Increased representation at a national level. This involves working closely with all the state branch presidents and National Officer Bearers – and presenting the case for, and the inherent advantages of Small and/or Regional Universities affiliating to and contributing to the NUS student body.

## GOAL

Create a functioning network of small and regional campuses. This year, another key focus of mine as National Small and/or Regional Campuses Officer will be to build a network of Small and/or Regional Campuses, and place them in contact with one another. I will also be facilitating an awareness campaign regarding Small and/or Regional Campuses and Union involvement, focusing on both student involvement in campus student associations, and campus involvement within the National Union of Students. I also hope to see a greater involvement of students from Small and/or Regional Campuses in NUS related conferences (i.e Small and Regional and Education Conference)

# NUS ETHNO-CULTURAL OFFICE STRATEGIC PLAN

## CONFERENCES

### GOAL ACTION TIMELINE

Promote joint action and cooperation between student ethnic communities on issues of common concern  
Encourage the development of ethnic student groups concerned with the social and cultural life of their communities

Hold Culture Jam Conference

Date: October  
(In conjunction with the Harmony Film Festival)  
Location: TBA

Promote peace and cooperation amongst students and work against all forms of discrimination, defamation and vilification on the grounds of ethnic or national origin, race, religion or colour

Hold NUS Peace Summit

Date: w/b Sep 28  
Location: Victoria University

Work with NUS Indigenous Office

Assist in running Indigenous Conference

TBA

## CAMPAIGNS

### GOAL ACTION TIMELINE

Respond to institutionalised racism at Universities and within the workplace facing students from culturally, ethnically & linguistically diverse backgrounds

Say No To Racism campaign:  
Provide templates for responding to on campus racism – utilise ETO website and email lists

February - November

Work for International students towards gaining concessional benefits and the teaching of languages at University

Equal Rights for All campaign:  
Lobbying for International Students' Rights on and off campuses – especially with those in Government

February - November

Encourage cultural diversity at Universities that are currently facing difficulty with tolerance & discrimination

Cultural Diversity campaign

February - November



2009 presents many challenges for the Ethno-Cultural office – one I’ve planned to approach by using a 4Cs program – Conferences, Campaigns, Communication and Calm. Ethno-Cultural Office is henceforth ETO.



## COMMUNICATION

Provide portal for students to access ETO & grievance processes at their Uni. Create website for ETO. Website completed by June 30. Cost of domain name (HYPERLINK “mailto:.com.au/”.com.au/)

GOAL	ACTION	TIMELINE
Stay engaged with ethno-cultural issues affecting students around Australia	Weekly phone/Skype linkups with relevant National & Local OBs	February - November
Update cultural student leaders, relevant National & Local OBs as to progress of ETO campaigns	Maintain e-mail lists with regular bulletins	E-mail bulletins beginning February 23

## CALM

GOAL	ACTION	TIMELINE
Respond to inflammatory cultural incidents on campuses with calls for calm and non-violent solutions	Go to Universities experiencing cultural tension and meet with cultural student leaders to call for calm. Put out press releases & communiqués in conjunction with NUS President to call for calm	Year Round





# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT OFFICER STRATEGIC PLAN

**The national environment officer will work closely with the Student Environmental Activist Network (SEAN, NSW network) Convenor, Gemma Romuld to help engage, build and activate both individual collectives and the state network through the following actions:**

> help co-ordinate three different state gatherings that will provide an opportunity for state collaboration in campaigns, planning and training in essential skills which may include consensus decision making, how to build collectives and non-violent direct action.

> have regular communication and support with campuses that do not have active or functioning environment collectives. this support will also be directed by the level of engagement sort by those various campuses. campuses which the national environment officer anticipates providing support for (within his capacity) are ANU, Ourimbah, Lismore, Wollongong, Albury, Bathurst, Newcastle and Armidale. This support will entail visits to at least four of these campuses within in the year.

> The National Environment officer will also inform campuses unaffiliated to NUS of the benefits of doing so and will direct the interested individuals to the appropriate contacts within NUS.

**The Cross Campuses Environment Network (CCEN, Vic. network) is in need of particular support this year which the National Environment Officer will provide. He will work closely with those within the network by:**

> Support three different state gatherings that will provide an opportunity for state collaboration in campaigns, planning and training in essential skills which may include consensus decision making, how to build collectives and non-violent direct action.

> have regular communication and support with campuses that

do not have active or functioning environment collectives. this support will also be directed by the level of engagement sort by those various campuses. Campuses which the national environment officer anticipates providing support for (within his capacity) are Bundoora , Bendigo, Gippsland, Clayton, Hawthorn and Burwood. This support will entail visits to at least four of these campuses within the year.

> The National Environment officer will also inform campuses unaffiliated to NUS of the benefits of doing so and will direct the interested individuals to the appropriate contacts within NUS.

> Use my experience in organising previous Students of Sustainability Conferences to assist this years organisers in Melbourne. The form of this support will be directed by the conference organisers and will entail at least one week long visit pre-conference to provide direct support.

## **The Australian Student Environment Network is a grassroots movement which provides such an inspiring example of how effective and powerful student organising can be.**

The National Environment Officer will work closely with ASEN's national conveners in the networks three major initiatives, in doing so the National Environment Officer will also play a communication role between ASEN and NUS hopefully to build on their relationships.

These include a climate campaign focused around coal exports, a uranium campaign focused around building alliances with indigenous elders and stopping the proposed waste dump in the NT and a high schools outreach initiative aimed at building on the good work that has

been done over the past years (For more detailed information on the major initiatives or for information on other initiatives, please contact Dany). This role will entail:

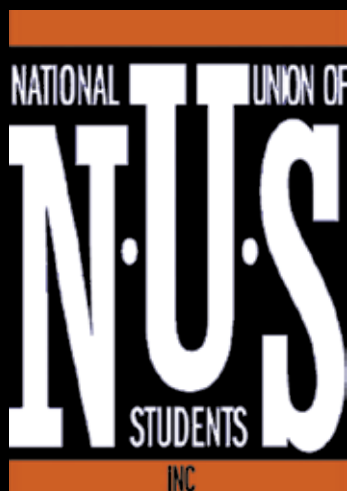
- > Helping co-ordinate campaign materials for o'weeks as well as through out the year.
- > Help co-ordinate communication between the people involved in the various streams.
- > co-ordinate program speakers for a nuclear stream at Students of Sustainability conference.
- > Help co-ordinate transport of Indigenous elders to and from the Students of Sustainability conference.
- > Provide direct support and training where possible to all campuses who are involved in the campaigns or wishing to engage in direct action
- > Co-ordinate a space of review and collaboration of ASEN's campaigns at the Students of Sustainability Conference.

> The National Environment Officer will also take on the responsibility of coordinating the annual training camp for the network of university based environment collectives held in January 2010.

> The National Environment Officer will also be reporting to the National Union of Students on a bimonthly basis and will act as a point of communication between NUS and ASEN.

This role will also entail attempting to (pending other work commitments) attend the national Education Conference and NUS Conference, writing environmental policy for the National Union of Students to be considered for approval for the NUS Conference in 2010 and supporting the next National Environment Officer by providing a thorough handover.





## CONTACT DETAILS

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