

# RUSU

RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

# 2021



# Annual Elections 2021

The RMIT University Student Union (RUSU) provides all RMIT students with events, representation and support. RUSU is the only 100% independent body at RMIT and is governed by 25 elected student representatives that comprise the Student Union Council – RUSU is run FOR students BY students. We are here to ensure every student’s university experience extends beyond lectures and assignments. Every week RUSU’s purple colours are out and about with free food and fun. RUSU has over 80 clubs and societies that students can join – clubs may be political, spiritual, academic, cultural and social. While RUSU is the heart of student life, RUSU is also here for students when they need help - we have an extensive student advocacy service, information counters, offer a welfare drop-in centre and keep safe spaces on campuses.

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## About the Elections

Voting at these elections will be via an online method by the optional preferential and optional proportional representation methods. Optional proportional representation will be the method of counting for those positions where more than one candidate is to be elected.

**Voting will open at 9am Monday 20 September 2021 and close at 2pm Friday 24 September 2021. The returning Officer is Jarrod Allen.**

# How to Vote

Eligible voters will receive an email from the RUSU Returning Officer with the subject line '**RMIT University Student Union (RUSU) 2021 Annual Election - Voting Link**' on Monday 20 September. An individual voting link will be provided in this email. Open this link to access a page with all of the positions being contested.

**Voting for individual candidates:** If you wish to vote for candidates from different tickets for different positions, leave the 'Vote for a team' section blank and click the box next to your preferred candidate for each position listed on the page. If you make a mistake you undo the number by clicking the box again.

The screenshot shows the RUSU logo at the top, followed by the title '2021 RMIT University Student Union Annual Elections'. Below this, there are four main sections, each with a list of links:

- Student Union Council**
  - [Voting Instructions](#)
  - [Election for General Secretary](#)
  - [Election for Education Officer](#)
  - [Election for Welfare Officer](#)
  - [Election for Activities Officer](#)
  - [Election for Sustainability Officer](#)
  - [Election for Clubs and Societies Officer](#)
  - [Election for Queer Officer](#)
- Student Union Council - Election for General Representatives**
  - [Election for General Representatives](#)
- Campus Representatives**
  - [Voting Instructions](#)
  - [Election for City Coordinator](#)
  - [Election for City Representative](#)
- National Union of Students delegates**
  - [National Union of Students delegates](#)

The screenshot shows the 'Postgraduate Officer' section of the ballot. It includes the RUSU logo and the following elements:

- A text input field for 'Postgraduate Officer'.
- A section titled 'Election for Postgraduate Officer'.
- A sub-section 'Number up to 2 checkboxes' with two options:
  - Tanay Sanjay Shah (Together)
  - Hugh Sullivan (Student Voice)
- A message: 'You have not yet voted in this ballot.'
- A green button: 'Proceed to vote confirm page'.

Once you have completed your votes go to the bottom of the page and click the 'Proceed to vote confirm page' button and then select 'Submit Vote'. You will then be taken to the General Representative Ballot.

'Start by clicking 'Voting Instructions' at the top of the page which will give you information on how to vote. Once you have read this click 'Proceed'.'

You may cast your vote on the **Student Union Council** page in two ways.

**Voting for a team:** If you wish to vote for all candidates from a team you can do so by selecting the team of your preference at the top of the page. Simply click the box next to the team of your preference.

The screenshot shows the 'City Campus' section of the ballot. It includes the RUSU logo and the following elements:

- A text input field for 'City Campus'.
- A section titled 'Above the line' with two options:
  - Student Voice
  - Together
- A green button: 'Proceed to vote confirm page'.

# How to Vote

For **General Representative** you may either vote for a team or for candidates individually.

**Voting for a team:** To vote for a team click the box next to the team of your preference.

**Voting for individual candidates:** If you wish to vote for candidates individually firstly click the box next to the candidate, you wish to vote for with your first preference. You may then continue numbering as many of the remaining candidates as you wish in ascending order by clicking the box next to each candidate's name.

**RUSU**  
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

**Student Union Council - General Representatives**

**Election for General Representatives**

Five (5) Positions to be elected

Above the line

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Voice    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ella Marchionda (Student Voice)       |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Benjamin Milne (Student Voice)        |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cormac Mills Ritchard (Student Voice) |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Deitra Kannellos (Student Voice)      |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yicheng Li (Student Voice)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Together         | <input type="checkbox"/> Adam Steiner (Together)               |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Felicia Nguyen (Together)             |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Smit Bhatti (Together)                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ben Koder (Together)                  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Xiliang Yao (Together)                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Aditya Saxena (Together)              |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yingcong Zhang (Together)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not in any party | <input type="checkbox"/> Jordan Smith                          |

You have not yet voted in this ballot.

[Proceed to vote confirm page](#)

Once you have completed your votes go to the bottom of the page and click the 'Proceed to vote confirm page' button and then select 'Submit Vote'.

If you are enrolled in a course at the City campus you will then be taken to the election for **Campus Representatives**. Brunswick and Bundoora students will not see this ballot. To vote for these positions follow the instructions given for Voting for individual candidates on the first ballot.

The final ballot you will be shown is for **NUS Delegates**. To vote for these positions follow the instructions given for voting in the General Representative ballot.

The Returning Officer is Jarrod Allen can be contacted at [rusureturningofficer@gmail.com](mailto:rusureturningofficer@gmail.com) should you have any questions about the voting process.

# Policies

## Student Voice



Vote [1] Student Voice for an activist RUSU!

Student Voice is a group of left-wing activists who are running in the RUSU elections because we want our student union to be an activist body that stands up for students and for social justice. We're also fighting to make our union more democratic and open to ordinary student participation, and want to bring a Social Justice department to RUSU.

Students have faced massive attacks from the government and university management over the past year. RUSU should commit to fighting for Free Education for all students, for no fail grades during COVID and for all unemployed students to be supported with \$1500 a fortnight – last year's JobKeeper rate. Full welfare should also be extended to international students, who shouldn't be treated like cash cows by the university.

We are all dedicated activists who have been key to building and mobilising RMIT students for protests around social justice: to Free the Refugees, for Black Lives Matter, for a Free Palestine and for LGBT and women's rights.

We are also dedicated climate activists. As the climate crisis continues to destroy the environment, RUSU should be mobilising students for the fight for climate justice.

RUSU has a budget of \$3.7 million and the capacity to be a space for left-wing activism as student unions have historically been. Vote for us if you want RUSU to fight for students.

## Momentum



No statement submitted.

## Together



This year, Together has put together a strong and diverse team from all over RMIT with a melting pot of degrees, clubs, international and domestic students represented, to deliver the best for RMIT. Many of our team have been SSCC representatives, volunteers, or leaders in your clubs. These students are now ready to take it to the next level and be your voice at RUSU.

The Together team has been the only team fighting for your academic rights and better welfare. This includes the continued fight for no fails on your academic transcripts and a reduction of counselling waiting times from 30 to 8 days.

In 2021 the Together fight for your education has won many improvements fighting for students, such as:

- 7-day rollover extension in lockdown
- Offshore student fee relief
- 23,000 Meals for students
- \$100,000 worth of grocery vouchers distributed
- 2200+ students supported with Compass mental health
- 900+ student rights cases resolved
- Creation of Disabilities and Carers officer
- Incorporation of RUSU

In 2022, Together will continue to fight for your education! Pushing back against recycled courses used by RMIT, opposing the continual course cuts post-covid, and saying no! to RMIT installing surveillance software on your computer at home.

After two tough years of Covid-19 lockdowns in Melbourne and being forced to study from home, Together will bring campus life and atmosphere back to all of the RMIT campuses. Together has a long history of bringing the fun to University life on campus and in 2022, this will return. All of our big parties, boat cruises, pub crawls and Chill n Grills, will be postponed no longer and we will be back bigger, better and more ambitious with our events. Celebrate the return to normalcy with us and let's have some fun!!

In 2022, Together is ready to continue delivering for students. With a fantastic team lined up, ready to go, full of ideas and passionate about improving your education and university life, you can't go wrong with a vote for Together!

Only TOGETHER will deliver an accountable, transparent and well run union that RMIT deserves! Only TOGETHER will continue to fight for your academic rights. Only Together will reactivate campus life in 2022

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

## General Secretary

### Siobhan McGlynn (Student Voice)



I am running for General Secretary because I believe that RUSU should be an activist body that uses its budget and power to make RMIT a better place for students. We

need activists in the student union who can turn it into a fighting body to defend students' rights. It's the rich executives and the government, not students, who should pay for the health crisis. RUSU should spend its budget supporting activism against the cuts and restructures pushed by management.

I believe RUSU should address social justice questions because students don't live in a bubble. Racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, inequality and every other political issue have an impact on students and we need left-wing people in student unions who can be a voice to build activism on campus.

At RMIT, I've been involved in campaigns like Uni Students for Climate Justice and RMIT Students Against Uni Cuts. I have also been involved in campaigns outside of campus including Rainbow Rebellion that fought against religious exemption bills in 2019, and most recently the refugee campaign. I'm an experienced activist who takes issues seriously and will fight for the rights of students at every turn.

### Sheldon Gait (Together)



I have been in student advocacy and RUSU for the last 4 years. I started as a volunteer and club president before moving onto council and this year as your VE Officer.

As your VE officer I have fought to deliver big changes for VE students including:

- 50% Accommodation discounts for regional VE students
- Representing Students on Academic board and RMIT Financial Inclusion Action Plan
- Following up on cases of student wage theft

- Fortnightly BBQs to engage students and talk about issues such as mental health

A requirement for a well-managed union is effectively managing the finances and I firmly believe that student money should be handled responsibly, and reported transparently. I will deliver an accountable and honest RUSU in 2022.

If elected, I will work hard to ensure your student union is operating as effectively as possible, so that you can continue to enjoy great programs like the student rights advocacy, RUSU parties and well-funded Clubs & Societies. Together we can make sure that the post Covid-19 recovery does not leave students behind!

Only TOGETHER will continue to fight for your academic rights. Only TOGETHER will deliver an accountable, transparent and well run union that RMIT deserves!

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

## Education Officer

### Natalie Acreman (Student Voice)



We need left-wing activists in our student union. The Education Department needs to have a commitment to fighting the federal government and

our university administration when they ruin student's lives. The millionaires that run our universities are more than happy to take our money while cutting services and sacking staff.

Last year I led the national campaign against the university fee increases as part of the national team in the National Union of Students. It's only ever been left-wing student activists, like the Student Voice team, that are prepared to organise genuine grassroots campaigns that are hostile to the Vice Chancellors. I've spent over six years at RMIT organising students, and we need that fight in every part of the union.

Vote Student Voice.

### Ranitha Dudhani (Together)



I am currently studying Information Technology and have been involved in RMIT Indian Club this year, organising and helped out in many events with RUSU.

Having studied at RMIT for 3 years, I know the struggles we as students face in day to day life. Education is integral to your time here at RMIT, and therefore it is crucial to have a strong representative that advocate and speak on your behalf.

Together candidates have been involved in important works with ELS, ARG and the Education Portfolio to make a suite of progressive achievements including - no fails on transcript, fee extensions for international students, extension of census date and so many more. I am proud to stand together with them and deliver for students in the coming year.

Students deserve a union that will represent them in the issues that matter, that will stand with them, together. In 2022 I will be your voice that advocates for a higher quality of education: No recycled material, more learning support fee payment plans and many more. I believe that together, we can make 2022 count towards our future.

Only TOGETHER will continue to fight for your academic rights

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

## Welfare Officer

### Zhichen Tang (Together)



With Covid ravaging the community, the services that RUSU provides are more important than ever. Students in normal times can find themselves to be highly

vulnerable during their education, and I'm here to give a voice to both local and international students.

Together, candidates were catalysts in expanding Compass mental health services. This year we have given out 23,000 meals to students, over \$100,000 in grocery vouchers and engaged with over 3500 students through our Welfare department.

# Statements

We have also campaigned to reduce the counselling waiting times at RMIT from 30 to 8 days, allowing students to get support when they need it. Because after two years of isolation, students need to know that they are not alone at RMIT, and with Together, they always have someone by their side.

As Welfare Officer, I will work to continue to make RMIT the gold standard for mental health in Australian universities. I look forward to taking care of your welfare in 2022, and to leaving no student behind!

Only TOGETHER can provide strong Welfare service for RMIT Students!

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

## Alyce McVicar (Student Voice)



My name is Alyce and I'm studying a Master of Social Work. Welfare is more important today than ever for students. On top of the impact of COVID-19, students

face a barrage of threats that undermine the quality of their education - from fee hikes to course cuts and slashes to university funding, not to mention, the competitive job market and job insecurity after graduating.

During the biggest crisis of our lives, we need more government support. Jobseeker and student welfare payments need to be dramatically increased for all, including international students. Students need more than care packages, we need financial security, to get the most of our studies and the learning experience as a whole. Particularly in the face of catastrophic cuts to fields like humanities, students not only need financial stability, but the reassurance that they will be heard.

I believe the Welfare Officer should be student-directed. We need more activists in our union to fight the government and university bosses. Students should be empowered to take action. I will make the commitment to fight in solidarity with students against threats to our education and for our rights on and off campus.

## Postgraduate Officer

### Tanay Sanjay Shah (Together)



Postgraduate students are too often ignored when we talk about higher education and services at university. They need a strong representative that works to put them at the core of RMIT. I recognise the need for a continued focus on networking opportunities, personal development sessions and engagement with the broader RMIT community.

The Postgraduate Department have facilitated Sit and Write Study Sessions, advocated for more HDR desk spaces, worked with RMIT on study and language support for International Postgraduate students and consulted on the new staff-student relationships charter. We hope to bring this work back to a COVID normal world and do even more in 2022!

I will create an industry networking evening for postgraduate students, where there are internship opportunities from companies that actively recruit international students.

I will continue to fight for our HDR students to have their own desks, advocate for Postgraduate relaxation initiatives to support mental health, and make sure postgraduate students are included at all levels of the university experience.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights! Only TOGETHER will reactivate campus life in 2022!

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

### Hugh Sullivan (Student Voice)



Hey I'm Hugh, I'm running for the postgrad officer with Student Voice. I want RUSU to be a left wing student union that takes up progressive issues.

RUSU is sorely missing activists who will fight for progressive issues that students care about. For instance, climate change is a constant concern for students. Yet RMIT continues to establish ties with arms manufacturers who are some of the worst polluters. These ties should be cut. But not only because of the climate

devastation they cause but also the wars they feed. Student Voice is stridently anti-war and we stand with the victims of war. That means we want to build campaigns to free refugees, many of whom are escaping the violence of war.

Student Voice is also unapologetically pro-Palestine. We stand with all Palestinians as they resist the brutal and criminal occupation of their land. We want to build many anti-racist campaigns such as BLM and bringing RMIT contingents to invasion day. Student Voice also opposes the new religious discrimination bills that attack LGBTI+ rights.

So if you want to see a left wing, fighting student union, vote for me as your postgrad officer!

## Disabilities and Carers Officer

### Chris Giddings (Student Voice)



Students with disabilities need an activist student union.

RMIT students have faced massive attacks on our education:

increased fees, cuts to staff, and cuts to courses. These attacks disproportionately impact students with disabilities.

RUSU should be involved in activist campaigns to increase the rate of the Disability Support Pension, Youth Allowance and JobSeeker and make healthcare more accessible for both domestic and international students. I'm campaigning for a more democratic and open student union that is accessible for students to participate.

As a RUSU general representative for 2021, I have consistently built activism at RMIT. I've promoted campaigns for climate justice and refugee rights, in solidarity with Palestine and against sexism, and against Indigenous deaths in custody. I've attended protests to call for increasing Centrelink rates and to make public transport more accessible. I also organised the counter-protest against education minister Alan Tudge, who was invited to RMIT to promote boosting university profits at the expense of our education.

I'm running with Student Voice to continue the fight to make RUSU a megaphone for promoting and building activism at RMIT.

### Mark Morante (Together)



The new Disabilities and Carers department and representative has been one of Together's top priorities in establishing for the past few years.

As someone who both lives with a disability and someone who works within the disability sector, I bring a unique experience which will greatly benefit the establishment of this role and department within RUSU and at RMIT. I am a social work and psychology student who has been actively engaged with RUSU for the past few years, from a volunteer to a student representative.

Students with disabilities studying at RMIT have a unique experience which needs to be acknowledged and addressed. I will work and advocate to make RMIT more accessible, equitable, and safe for all students with disabilities during their time at university.

I will work alongside RMIT and the other RUSU departments to ensure that all aspects of student life at RMIT is relevant and accessible to students with a disability. I am committed to assisting students in finding the appropriate support they require, and that those supports are accessible.

I look forward to the establishment of this department, but I need you to...

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights!

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

## Women's Officer

### Bethany Shegog (Together)



Diversity has always been at the centre of Together's values, joining hands with the Women's Department, to strive towards inclusive and safe environments. The

Women's Department has empowered women and non-binary communities and mobilised all people irrespective of gender to provide support and allyship. Next year this commitment is essential for the return of students from isolation onto campuses and for the postponed National Survey on Sexual Harassment. Where the Women's Department is needed to support communities who need it most.

I will ensure vital policies will be in place around empowering and securing women's safety and be acted upon by everyone in RMIT irrespective of their gender to improve the culture around equality and sexual assault on campus.

Additionally, I will strive to inspire female and non-binary students by hosting Women's Events that will nurture our community and empower each other. Aspiring to create spaces that we can share our struggles and overcome the challenges of the patriarchy.

I intend to bring TOGETHER next year to ensure that the work being done by the Women's Department can inspire others and can achieve a massive social impact.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights!

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

### Amelia Christie (Student Voice)



To me, being the Women's Officer means fighting against sexism, on and off campus. It means standing up against politicians like the Education Minister Alan

Tudge (the BFF of Christian Porter and renowned sexist) when they want to come onto our campus, to make them know that RMIT students don't accept sexists. Which is exactly what me and other students from Student Voice did, at our protest against Tudge in March.

Over my time at RMIT I have helped organise and build a wide range of campaigns and rallies including refugee rights, climate justice and against sexist politicians like Christian Porter and Alan Tudge. Because of this I am able to bring a whole wealth of experience and knowledge to the student union and help to rebuild an active resistance against sexist policies and institutions.

## Activities Officer

### Lucas Rosinsky (Student Voice)



Things don't seem to be working. We, the younger generation, have an obligation to make change.

RUSU has a budget of over \$3 million and the capacity to mobilise students for crucial campaigns. It needs to campaign for climate justice, freedom for refugees and an end to discrimination. RUSU should be a place where we organise and act collectively on the problems which we can only wish away when we attempt to tackle them alone.

RUSU needs to be reformed to work for all students. Imagine a union where meeting minutes are published online along with details about where and when the meetings are taking place. A union that incentivises involvement instead of one which requires notice before a student can attend its meetings. Imagine the potential for motivating our peers which is currently being ignored.

Throughout the years I've been involved in activist campaigns, attending demonstrations and rallies and working with others to incite change. As activities officer I will work to involve students with their union and make RUSU an enjoyable, and accessible union for everyone.

### Jingyi Yin (Together)



It has been an exhausting last two years being in and out of lockdown. However, we have a light at the end of this long tunnel, vaccinations are going up and

freedom is getting closer. Our time to return to campus is nearing.

# Statements

To kick start student life in 2022, I will bring back all of RUSU's events that we all so fondly remember; the massive parties, the booze cruises, the pub crawls and Chill n Grills. With these events, I will see that a strong sense of community and vibrant atmosphere on campus returns - because uni is about more than just memorising the insides of a textbook.

Next year, I want to help RMIT students make up for the lost time and youth that COVID-19 stole from us. I am incredibly passionate about activities and know how important these opportunities are for young people; to spark moments of bonding and create friendships that will last a lifetime.

If you want an exciting year, full of incredible parties and a ridiculous amount of fun, then Together is the team for you!

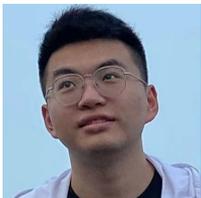
Only Together will reactivate campus life in 2022

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

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## Sustainability Officer

### Peiji Zhou (Together)



Climate change is the number one issue to young Australians and as such, this year RUSU declared a climate emergency and led the campaign for RMIT

to divest from fossil fuels. Mid-year reporting from the University confirmed that the entire RMIT portfolio has no exposure to fossil fuels from 2021. A Together win!

We will continue this campaign and as a leading institution, RMIT should be at the forefront of sustainable management and waste minimisation. A natural next step would be for RMIT to become carbon neutral as soon as possible.

In 2017, RUSU re-opened Realfoods, our vegan, organic and fair-trade cafe. Together, candidates have also introduced RUSU Swap Shop clothing bins, edible gardens and have run multiple sustainability campaigns educating students about the importance of leading a sustainable lifestyle.

Collectively, I want to see RMIT students making a real change in society. If elected as sustainability officer, I aim to inspire

my peers about what they could do in their own everyday lives to be more sustainable.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights! Only TOGETHER will reactivate campus life in 2022!

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

### Cormac Mills Ritchard (Student Voice)



Our governments don't care about the climate crisis. They're continuing to add fuel to the fire and nothing's going to change unless we force it to.

I'm running with Student Voice because I think RUSU should be an activist union that organises students to fight for climate justice. It should put pressure on RMIT to cut its ties to environmentally destructive arms manufacturers. RUSU should ensure that whenever there's a climate strike we can use our power as students to shut our university down.

The climate crisis is what made me an activist. Since March 2019, I've helped set up climate activism groups including RMIT Students for Climate Justice. Alongside other Student Voice activists we've called dozens of protests. I helped organise the Sack Scom rallies in the midst of the Black Summer Bushfires, which brought 30,000 people onto the streets of Melbourne and inspired solidarity protests from Chile to Germany.

We've done all that with very little or no support from RUSU. A Facebook post here or there. Occasionally an email. But our student union could be doing so much more.

Vote Student Voice for a union devoted to the fight for climate justice!

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## Clubs & Societies Officer

### Maddie Hah (Student Voice)

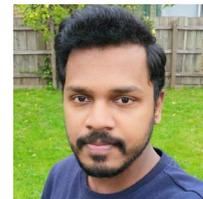


RMIT's Clubs and Societies are an important platform for students to express themselves and bring life into our university. I want to make sure students get to

know what RUSU has to offer with our Clubs and Societies. I've been really involved in clubs to do left wing activism.

Vote Student Fightback, we want RUSU to be a more democratic union that promotes activism on campus on issues that students care about like climate, anti-racism, and LGBTI rights.

### Akhil Ravindran (Together)



I think that University life is all about an experience where we make friends, develop skills, and create memories that will stay with us long after graduation.

I have been an active RUSU volunteer from chill and grill to healthy breakfast. As a current club executive, I understand how important it is for clubs to be able to engage with each other, needing to properly understand their funding, and how huge events are possible for all clubs.

I believe clubs and societies play a large part in making university such a great experience as they provide opportunities to have fun, get together and gain valuable leadership experience to complement your studies. Clubs have provided a vital service maintaining community throughout the lockdowns and next year we will bring them back to campus to reactivate campus life.

I will ensure that clubs are easier to engage with and that they have the funding they need to run events that benefit not just club members, but all RMIT students.

Only TOGETHER will reactivate campus life in 2022!

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

## Queer Officer

### Bella Tunstall and Casey Cook (Student Voice)



Bela: A student union should be something that is accountable to students and that is willing to take a leading role in fostering activism and fighting for the students it represents, this is especially the case for the RUSU queer department.



Over the years queer people have been at the forefront of struggles fighting against oppression. Historical moments like the StoneWall riots of 1969 as well as more modern examples like the fight for marriage equality have been the defining moments in securing the rights of LGBTI people, showing that our power is a collective one that we can find on the streets, not through bureaucratic means or class collaboration.

But the fight is not over, homophobia and transphobia still exists, an example of this being the federal government's proposed 'religious discrimination bill' which could look like doctors refusing to treat queer patients based on the guise of 'religious freedom'. We can't be passive when threatened with legislation like this! Its time the RUSU queer department actually dedicates itself to fighting for queer liberation.

Vote for an activist for queer officer.

Casey: If elected to Queer Officer, I would be responsible to organise activist student campaigns to oppose homophobia and transphobia and fight for our rights at RMIT university and in Australia. History shows us that fighting back against our oppression is the most effective way to win, such as in the Stonewall riot which turned into the Gay Liberation Front and the Mardi Gras riot of 1978 in Australia. In more recent memory, the equal marriage campaign in Australia, one of the largest civil rights movements in Australia's history.

With the new "religious freedom" bills that have been proposed by the Scott Morrison government, which are a massive attack on the LGBT+ rights, and the attacks on trans rights in NSW, these won't be the last attacks by our government. We need a radical LGBT+

movement in Australia more than ever, not just to fight for our rights but rights for everyone who is oppressed. I think the Student Union should be doing more activism, so as Queer Officer, I would promote these campaigns, get as many students involved as possible, hold demonstrations to fight for LGBT+ liberation.

### Patrick Pieciun and Reggie Chang (Together)



The Queer Department is one of the most active RUSU departments, representing, advocating, and celebrating queer-identifying students. Our names are Patrick Pieciun (He/They pronouns) and Reggie Chang (They/Them pronouns), and we are running for the Queer Officer position for 2021-2022. We



aim to represent the queer community at RMIT to deliver events such as Queer Pizza Mixers, Wine and Whine, movies nights, etc. One of our main priorities will be to ensure that the queer lounges at the city, Brunswick and Bundoora are a safe place to relax, study, or hang out for queer students.

Our goal for the next term is to ensure that the voice and concerns of the queer collective are heard and addressed in the long run. We are also looking at improving the access and size-ability of our existing lounges so that we can maintain COVID safe requirements. Together, we will ensure that the department continues to be active, providing inclusivity for the queer students at RMIT and to expand and nurture the amazing queer community that we already have.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights! Only TOGETHER will reactivate campus life in 2022!

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

## General Representatives (Five Positions Available)

### Ella Marchionda (Student Voice)



I am running as General Representative for RUSU because I think that our student union should be an activist body that fights for students and social justice.

I will use my position to promote and mobilise students around left-wing activism on campus. The past year has seen unprecedented attacks on students by the government, and whilst our Vice Chancellor has maintained a salary of over \$1 million, students continue to pay exorbitant fees and have experienced cuts to social welfare. We need a student union that fights against all of these attacks. Student unions should be spaces for activism around social justice issues that students care about, and I will commit to this as a General Representative. I have been key to organising regular protests outside the Park Hotel where over 50 refugees are detained a few blocks up the road from RMIT, to demand all refugees are freed. I have also been involved in building campaigns for Black Lives Matter, Climate Justice and Free Palestine.

Student unions have historically been spaces of leftwing activism, and voting for an activist like me will be key to rebuilding a fighting culture in our union.

### Adam Steiner (Together)



I'm excited to announce that I am running for the position of General Representative/ President for RUSU.

At RMIT I have plunged myself into university life; being a club exec., RUSU volunteer, representing students on the Academic Board, and most recently as RUSU's City Representative.

These past two years have been tough, with so much lost time for all RMIT students. Next year, as the Together team, we will be ensuring that no student gets

# Statements

lost in the weeds at RMIT. I am extremely passionate about the community and its benefits for students' mental health. The isolation of 2020/21 was not a picnic, studying from home was not easy, but coming out of this Together is here to help.

In 2022, Together will reactivate campus life, bring more students back and host more events. Parties, BBQs and catch-ups will bring students together, to reconnect and build a community.

As the President, I will serve to ensure that no student is left behind, and they have the time of their lives at uni.

I stand together, I stand with you.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights! Only TOGETHER will reactivate campus life in 2022!

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

## Benjamin Milne (Student Voice)



I'm running to be a General Representative because RUSU should be an activist body that fights for students.

This year I helped organise the rally that opposed the sexist Alan Tudge speaking at RMIT. The fact that he was invited to speak by the outgoing Vice-Chancellor Martin Bean shows the disregard that the university high-ups have for the students. RUSU should organise defiantly for the interests of students. This is more important than ever because the new Vice-Chancellor has a long history of course cutting and 'restructures' that attack students' education. We need to have a student union that will fight against the attempts to turn universities into neoliberal degree factories.

I am also involved in the campaign that is fighting to free the refugees who are locked up on Swanston St just a stone's throw from the RMIT city campus. Issues like refugee rights, climate change and supporting Palestine are important to students at RMIT and we need RUSU to be actively involved in these campaigns.

If we want to build the student union to be a body that will fight for students' rights and fight for social justice, it is important to have more left-wing activists in RUSU.

## Cormac Mills Ritchard (Student Voice)



I'm running with Student Voice because I think that RUSU should be leading fights for social justice.

Our student union has a budget of \$4 million and the ability to reach thousands of students. The past couple years have demonstrated the gross injustices of the world, from the murder of George Floyd to the Black Summer Bushfires. We need an activist student union that takes a stand against these injustices in the spirit of Black Lives Matter and Greta Thunberg.

I've been one of RUSU's general representatives since the end of 2019, and an activist for longer. I co-founded RMIT Students for Climate Justice and helped organise the Sack Scomo rallies during the Black Summer Bushfires. I also initiated a campaign against the attacks on our education in 2020, when 1200 staff were sacked at RMIT, and got RUSU to hold a town-hall meeting against the cuts. But what I've been able to do as a general representative has been limited by the fact that activists are a small minority of RUSU's elected representatives. Student Voice is running to change that.

Vote Student Voice for a student union that fights for social justice!

## Deitra Kannellos (Student Voice)



The student union should be a left wing body that encourages and organises student activism. With students facing the climate emergency, covid crisis and

attacks on universities by management and the government, students should be supported in fighting for their rights. Students deserve a union that encourages and helps to mobilise around issues they care about. As a general representative I will be committed to fighting for student activism in our union.

## Yicheng Liu (Student Voice)



My name is Yicheng Liu, and I am running to be a General Representative for Student Voice.

As a student currently undertaking an undergraduate degree in the Legal and Dispute Studies and a member of my current course's Student-Staff Consultative Committee, I understand the importance of responsibly representing the opinions of my peers and the student body at large as well as the importance of making sure our educational environment is the best it can possibly be at accommodating students.

We all have a stake in making sure we have the highest possible quality of education and for the student union to be an institution that fosters a culture of mutual accountability and consistent advocacy for social justice within our wider community. Which is why, if elected, I will fight for transparency in the meeting process of Student Union Council and regular communication of all student union decisions that concern us, and I will vote for motions that empower students to participate in RUSU's decision-making process, foster debate on the allocation of the budget, and the possibility of coordinating our presence at activist events. Together, there are more things we can achieve.

## Felicia Nguyen (Together)



Clear communication is at the heart of engaging students and ensuring everybody's voices are heard. I am incredibly excited to be running for the position of Communications Officer.

As the secretary of a RUSU club, we have had to overcome challenges of keeping our members in touch and engaged throughout lockdown. I have had the wonderful opportunity to interact with a diverse student community which has enriched my two university years spent during a pandemic. This same sentiment can be echoed for our 2022 Together team and I can ensure all students are receiving the best representation they can get.

I believe that the union can do a better job at communicating their wins and new programs with its members. However,

speaking is only one half of a meaningful dialogue. I hope that my fellow students, no matter who they are or where they came from, will come to share my belief that our union is dedicated to hearing their voices and fighting for their rights.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights! Only TOGETHER will reactivate campus life in 2022!

VOTE [1] Together!

### Manish Bhatti Smit (Together)



Myself and the Together team have lobbied the university and succeeded in making academic policy more student-friendly and creating a more mental

health-friendly campus. We actively participated in the 'Be The Change' campaign, shaping the discussion and culture around sexual assault on campus.

We've implemented countless services for students, like portable charging stations, edible community gardens, and the Compass Drop-In Centre. Our RUSU After Dark bar space will be opening in September 2019, alongside an arcade and games room. In 2020, we can continue this work and make RMIT a better place to study. I have the experience necessary to guide next year's Student Union Council in their duties; I will ensure that RUSU continues to be a transparent, efficient, compassionate and accountable organisation.

Ensuring that you have an excellent student experience at RMIT has always been my number one priority, and I will ensure that this continues to be the case in 2020.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights! Only TOGETHER will reactivate campus life in 2022!

VOTE [1] Together!

### Ben Koder (Together)



Hi, I'm Ben Koder. In my three years at RMIT, I have volunteered at many events and workshops, worked on projects with researchers and staff members, and

became president of a RUSU club with over 400 members. I've learnt a lot about

the amazing community at RMIT and am always looking for ways to improve it. That is why I have joined the Together team for 2022.

I have experience in leadership, governance and facilitation, and people who know me know I'm always ready to go out of my way for students who need assistance. I'm happy to listen to all students and ensure my priorities as General Representative reflect what RMIT students need.

I will ensure I'm adaptable and can help out where help is most needed. In saying that, I am very passionate about the environment, mental health, ethics in technology, and education for all ages.

As a General Representative, I will make sure you are heard, and I will help RUSU to operate efficiently, effectively, and ethically.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights! Only TOGETHER will reactivate campus life in 2022!

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

### Xiliang Yao (Together)



As a General Representative, I will be uniquely placed to represent RMIT's international community on the RMIT University Student Union Council and

the broader committees within RMIT University.

International students are a large and significant part of the RMIT community and therefore deserve a strong voice within it. I want to make sure that we are not ignored and issues affecting us are recognised and addressed. If elected, I will work to make sure that the free English workshops continue to run to ensure that international students are welcomed into university life and taught valuable skills with like-minded people. I want to assist other elected student representatives within the student union to build communities on campus that welcome international students and provide opportunities to meet new people and socialise.

A vote for me and Together is a vote for a more welcoming and inclusive RMIT community.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights! Only TOGETHER will reactivate campus life in 2022!

VOTE [1] Together!

### Aditya Saxena (Together)



University should be an enjoyable place for everyone. Students shouldn't have to struggle to get by, financially or socially. For students to achieve their best, they need

to be provided with the best services, resources and support, right from day one.

I want to make sure that we are not ignored and issues affecting us are recognised and addressed. If elected, I will work to make sure that issues such as a lack of recorded lectures are solved.

I want to assist other elected student representatives within the student union to ensure that university is an enjoyable time for students and that they can get the most out of their education. A vote for me and Together is a vote for a more gratifying and enriching university experience.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights! Only TOGETHER will reactivate campus life in 2022!

VOTE [1] Together!

### Yingcong Zhang (Together)



Campus life is one of the most important parts of the university. At university, you make friends you will keep for the rest of your life.

As a General Representative, I will support student life on campus by assisting wherever I am needed and doing the little jobs that are equally as important. I believe in fair and transparent student representation and will work hard to make the biggest possible impact for students.

My focus will be on supporting the Student Union Council in making campus life as exciting and engaging as possible.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights! Only TOGETHER will reactivate campus life in 2022!

VOTE [1] Together!

# Statements

## Jordan Smith (Momentum)



Hi, my name is Jordan, I'm a second-year urban planning student. Starting uni in 2020 means the majority of my uni has been online, I know the challenges that

come with that, not just academically, but also in terms of student life and the support our union is meant to provide. I am running for the positions of General Representative and NUS delegate to have a say in how our union is run and ensure that every student has the best experience at RMIT. RUSU can do so much more for us all, whether that is making clubs more accessible, making it easier to start a new club, making compass resources more transparent, and making our representatives more accountable. Currently, RUSU is controlled by only two groups of students, we need a greater diversity of voices, we need more students engaging with our union and its leadership. RUSU needs to be a stronger voice for all students and I know that if I'm elected, that will begin from day 1. Vote 1 below the line for Jordan Smith as General Representative and NUS delegate.

## City Coordinator

### James McVicar (Student Voice)



My name is James McVicar and I'm studying a Graduate Diploma of Translating & Interpreting.

Melbourne's CBD is not only home to our city campus but has seen huge protests of ordinary Melburnians taking a stand for Palestinian rights, Black Lives Matter and for refugees. Student Voice sent RMIT student contingents to support these movements, including a protest against the presence on campus of Liberal MP Alan Tudge.

In 2020 the Melbourne CBD was turned into a prison for some 60 refugees who have been dragged through Australia's cruel refugee detention regime for the better part of the last 10 years. RUSU must not stand by while these flagrant breaches of international law are perpetrated a mere 200 metres north of our campus—the men, locked up to this day, might have ended up our classmates, tutors or professors if their prospects of starting a new life in Australia had not been cruelly smashed by Labor and Liberal leaders alike.

Now, more than ever, students need a fighting union, accountable to them and willing to take the lead in social movements.

### Runjhun Agarwal (Together)



My name is Runjhun and I study Industrial Design. I'm extremely passionate about the wellbeing of the student community. With the experience of being part of

the RMIT Indian Club and conducting many successful online events during the pandemic, my next step in 2022 will be to bring the student community back to RMIT.

With a never ending cycle of lockdowns for the last 2 years, we have not been able to enjoy our campus life! Fear not. With vaccines, it seems that 2022 will be the year of fun. As the City Coordinator, I will coordinate the students' and clubs' activities, bringing back the city campus

as the place to be: a welcoming and accessible place for RMIT students to gather and socialise.

I would like to inspire and support students in their academic journey in every possible way. I aspire to make the city campus a place of learning as well as fun to ensure that the campus is a safe space for students, allowing them to participate in study or social activities freely and easily.

Only TOGETHER will reactivate campus life in 2022!

VOTE [1] Together!

## City Representative

### Angelin Tom (Together)



It's no secret that I love a good drink and a chat, but unfortunately, all of our social lives have suffered this year. That's why I want to create a vibrant and welcoming

social atmosphere on campus next year to reactivate student life. I want our new and current students to be able to live and experience the uni life! I want to throw more themed chill & grills and even bigger parties.

But this role isn't all about parties, I also want to give students the chance to develop their skills and have them professionally recognised. As a club executive for REASS and Cath@RMIT, I have experience arranging events and training for students and I will ensure RUSU offers more training and volunteering opportunities going into 2022.

As your City Representative, I will work hard to engage students, and will ensure that we have a more welcoming social scene. I am excited to bring fresh skills and enthusiasm to the role in 2022, representing City students!

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights! Only TOGETHER will reactivate campus life in 2022!

VOTE [1] Together!

## Benjamin Milne (Student Voice)



I'm running to be the City Coordinator because RUSU should be an activist body that fights for students.

This year I helped organise the rally

that opposed the sexist Alan Tudge speaking at the RMIT city campus. The fact that he was invited to speak by the outgoing Vice-Chancellor Martin Bean shows the disregard that the university high-ups have for the students. RUSU should organise defiantly for the interests of students. This is more important than ever because the new Vice-Chancellor has a long history of course cutting and 'restructures' that attack students' education. We need to have a student union that will fight against the attempts to turn universities into neoliberal degree factories.

I am also involved in the campaign that is fighting to free the refugees who are locked up on Swanston St just a stone's throw from campus. Issues like refugee rights, climate change and supporting Palestine are important to students at RMIT and we need RUSU to be actively involved in these campaigns.

If we want to build the student union to be a body that will fight for students' rights and fight for social justice, it is important to have more left-wing activists in RUSU.

## NUS Delegate (Seven Positions Available)

### Jake Maraldo (Together)



As a regional student here at RMIT University, I understand how hard it can be living and studying in the big smoke away from home. The Australian and

Victorian governments can do more to help. Living in metropolitan areas is expensive, and rural and regional students do not have many of the support networks that local students have. I want to make sure that the issues facing regional students are heard, not just at RMIT, but also at a national level. That is why I am running for election to the

National Union of Students: to support all rural and regional students. Together we can make sure that regional and rural students aren't left behind in the Covid-19 recovery and that we all have an equal opportunity to succeed.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights!

VOTE [1] Together!

### Jingyi Yin (Together)



Now more than ever is it important for Student Unions to come together and advocate on a National Level. The era of COVID has induced cuts, defunding, and

lowering standards for Tertiary Education. Students must fight back against unfair decisions to ensure that students from all backgrounds can access an education that they deserve - one that'll actually prepare them for real life and work.

Too often we see universities delivering tokenistic programs, often just ticking boxes for 'compliance'. I've passionately worked in the student representation and advocacy space for a while now, having led projects like 'Be a Better Human'. I've built SSCC programs and summits, consulted on various different university structures and most importantly, I didn't just sit in a corner silently through big meetings. In addition, I am also currently in the role of RUSU General Secretary.

If elected, I will provide a strong voice of advocacy to the National Union of Students. Vote for me and Together to give all students the passionate voice we deserve.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights!

VOTE [1] Together!

### Jacob Sartori (Together)



The relationship between the RMIT University Student Union and the National Union of Students is a vital one. The National Union of Students has a national

reach allowing it to represent students' interests when issues affecting students on a national level arise (such as youth and study allowance). This allows RMIT

University Student Union to provide an effective response to issues facing students on a national level, whilst still leaving the majority of its resources to campaign for students on RMIT campus-specific issues. If elected, I will work to strengthen ties between the RMIT University Student Union and the National Union of Students to ensure that RUSU continues to be able to provide effective representation for RMIT students affected by national issues. Your vote is crucial!

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights!

VOTE [1] Together!

### Dennis Southon (Together)



I believe in supporting the underdog and giving people a fair go. It was to defend the principles of a fair go for students that the National Union of Students

was created. It is this link between my own views and the principles of the National Union of Students that has led me to run in the election as one of RMIT University's delegates to the National Union of Students. RMIT University was founded as a Working Man's College. If elected, I will campaign for you to ensure that the principles of equity and a fair go, which RMIT University was founded on, are honoured and maintained at the National Union of Students. Your vote is vital.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights!

VOTE [1] Together!

### Liam Tall (Together)



Students in Australia are getting a raw deal and there's no doubt about it. The National Union of Students plays an important role in advocating for student rights

and if elected, I would take on the responsibility with a great deal of passion and determination. I will represent the proud and diverse RMIT community and bring the fight for better living conditions for students to NUS and beyond.

Education is the driving force of social mobility in this country. It should be

# Statements

the right of every Australian to access the highest standard of education and the right of every student to be given the greatest chance to succeed in their studies. As an institution founded on striving for excellent outcomes from those of all socio-economic backgrounds, RMIT needs strong representation at NUS to ensure our voices are heard and our concerns addressed, not just those of the Group of 8 heavyweights!

Together, we will make our voices heard on a national scale. Together, we will advance the living conditions of students of this country. Together, we will succeed post Covid-19!

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights!

VOTE [1] Together!

## Zhichen Tang (Together)



With Covid ravaging the community, the services that RUSU provides are more important than ever. Students in normal times can find themselves to be highly

vulnerable during their education, and I'm here to give a voice to both local and international students.

Together, candidates were catalysts in expanding Compass mental health services. This year we have given out 23,000 meals to students, over \$100,000 in grocery vouchers and engaged with over 3500 students through our Welfare department.

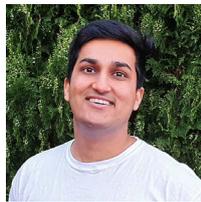
We have also campaigned to reduce the counselling waiting times at RMIT from 30 to 8 days, allowing students to get support when they need it. Because after two years of isolation, students need to know that they are not alone at RMIT, and with Together, they always have someone by their side.

As Welfare Officer, I will work to continue to make RMIT the gold standard for mental health in Australian universities. I look forward to taking care of your welfare in 2022, and to leaving no student behind!

Only TOGETHER can provide strong Welfare service for RMIT Students!

VOTE [1] TOGETHER!

## Akshay Jose (Together)



This year I served as your RUSU President, and now I am running for the position of delegate to the National Union of Students. I'm doing this because I believe

that RMIT students deserve a strong representative voice on the national stage. With the Federal Government intending to reduce university funding and hike up fees, it is more important than ever that both domestic and international students are represented with purpose, passion, and a strong voice at the national level. The National Union of Students is the peak representative body for university students in Australia. If elected to this key representative body, I will work to ensure that the voice of RMIT's many student cohorts is heard loud and clear. As one of Australia's largest education providers, RMIT University should have representation proportionate to our size. Vote for me, and I will work to ensure that we, the students of RMIT, are heard loud and clear on the national stage.

Only TOGETHER will fight for your academic rights!

VOTE [1] Together!

## Jordan Smith (Momentum)



Hi, my name is Jordan, I'm a second-year urban planning student. Starting uni in 2020 means the majority of my uni has been online, I know the challenges that

come with that, not just academically, but also in terms of student life and the support our union is meant to provide. I am running for the positions of General Representative and NUS delegate to have a say in how our union is run and ensure that every student has the best experience at RMIT. RUSU can do so much more for us all, whether that is making clubs more accessible, making it easier to start a new club, making compass resources more transparent, and making our representatives more accountable. Currently, RUSU is controlled by only two groups of students, we need a greater diversity of voices, we need more students engaging with our union and its leadership. RUSU needs to be a stronger voice for all students and I know that if I'm elected, that will begin from day 1. Vote 1 below the line for Jordan Smith as General Representative and NUS delegate.

## Tharun Yadav (Momentum)



Hi, My name is Saittharun (Tharun) Yadav and I'm running for NUS delegate with Momentum. In my time at University, I've seen how important a strong

NUS can be. We are in a time where universities have been cutting courses, staff and funding. This affects all of us and all universities across Australia, which means it's incredibly important we approach this as a powerful NUS. This is why I want to be your delegate so I can be the voice we need at NUS. Vote [1] Momentum!

## Takara Musgrove (Momentum)



Hi, I'm Takara and I'm running for NUS Delegate with Momentum.

The National Union of Students is an incredible organisation that

works tirelessly yearlong for students all over this country - whether that's by running campaigns, giving a voice to students, organising actions, or combating sexual harassment and assault. As a previous member of the National Executive of the NUS, I have a unique and deep understanding of the importance of the NUS and how the union can make change.

I see the NUS as a body that can make real and significant change for students across the country. We have seen the absolutely crucial victories they have had - such as delivering the national students safety survey. This has been undeniably significant in the lives of students. We must continue to build on these successes and create a stronger and more active voice for students.

We need strong, committed, passionate voices representing us at this year's National Conference to ensure that the 2022 NUS team will be ready and able to make progressive and solid change for students around Australia. That is why I am running for a delegate position in this year's conference.

Vote [1] Momentum!

**Natalie Acreman (Student Voice)**



We need left-wing activists at every level of every union. Last year I was part of the National Union of Students national team and led the fightback against

the federal government's attacks on higher education. I want the NUS to be committed to grassroots student activism against the government and university administration. Support Student Voice's activists in the NUS to support left wing student unionism across the country.

**Amelia Christie (Student Voice)**



Students have faced unparalleled attacks in the last few years. Massive staff cuts, fee hikes (my communications degree has doubled in price) all while the quality of education

continues to go down.

I think we need NUS union representatives who will take up the fight against these attacks on education. We need union representatives who will fight against the VC's who are slashing courses and staff jobs, while enjoying upwards of 1,000,000 dollar salaries.

As a Student Voice candidate I want to be a part of creating a much needed left wing force in the NUS to fight for student rights and defend our education.

**Cormac Mills Ritchard (Student Voice)**



Student unions should be activist bodies that fight for a better world.

The planet's on fire. Deaths in custody continue and black people continue

to be murdered by the police. Students are pushed further into poverty while the federal government passes tax cuts for the rich. The rich are getting richer and the poor, poorer. I believe that the National Union of Students should be mobilising students to make us a real force in society that can stand up against these injustices. That's why I'm running with Student Voice.

The NUS should be drawing together the reach and resources of student unions across the country to launch mass campaigns. It should fight to raise Jobseeker well above the poverty line, like it was last year, and extend it to international students so no one is forced to live in poverty. We should be campaigning to tax the rich to make higher education full-funded and free for everyone. NUS should devote its resources to protests in support of Black Lives Matter and the global climate strikes.

Vote Student Voice for an activist National Union of Students.

**Nick de Voil (Student Voice)**



I'm an anti-capitalist activist, a former elected trade union delegate at a call centre and a member of Socialist Alternative.

From France to Colombia to Argentina to Myanmar, student unions have been at the forefront of powerful movements against dictators, against austerity and for the rights of the oppressed and Indigenous groups in the last few years. Cuts, environmental catastrophe and COVID have ravaged the conditions of students in Australia yet the National Union of Students has been largely absent from public discussion, instead releasing sad statements and endorsing the ALP "alternative" rather than seriously challenging the Liberal party.

I am nominating as a delegate because I think that students have the power and responsibility to make the world a genuinely better place.

Being elected a delegate to the NUS doesn't just mean I want to fight for students, I want to fight alongside students - I will do everything in my power to push the NUS to be an activist body capable of fighting and seriously organizing students to protect their own interests and better society as a whole.

Vote 1 Student Voice!

**Chris Giddings (Student Voice)**



The National Union of Students (NUS) is exactly where activists belong.

Through the NUS, student activists have used national

positions to lead campaigns for LGBTI rights, refugee rights, climate activism, and defending tertiary education.

When students and staff have been threatened with deportations, activists have led successful campaigns to let them stay. When Tony Abbott tried to deregulate and privatise universities, activists organised campaigns that made it impossible for this plan to go forward. When the federal government attempted to give religious schools and hospitals the ability to discriminate against LGBTIQ+ staff, students and patients, activists used the NUS to organise rallies to challenge homophobia and transphobia. When bushfires hit Sydney, activists in NUS mobilised tens of thousands to march for climate justice. When the Black Lives Matter movement created a wave of anti-racist activism, activists in the NUS used the opportunity to involve students in anti-racist activism across Australia.

We don't live in a bubble. Inequality, oppression and injustice impact students. We need left-wing student representatives who will be a voice to build activism.

Electing activists to NUS is a crucial part of defending students and higher education against cuts and fee hikes!

**Ella Marchionda (Student Voice)**



The National Union of Students is a body that represents all students, and so it should be an activist body that fights for their rights.

Over the past year students have faced unprecedented attacks across the board and as an NUS Delegate I will fight to make NUS a left-wing activist body that mobilises students against all attacks on students. Whilst Vice Chancellors across the country have maintained a salary of over \$1 million, students continue to pay exorbitant fees and have experienced cuts to social welfare. We need a union that fights for Free Education and against university management. The National Union of Students should also seriously be promoting activism around a range of social justice issues. The union should fight to free all refugees locked up around Australia and for them to have access to free education. It should also be on the front line of the Black Lives Matter movement, should be leading demonstrations for climate justice, for Free Palestine and in struggles for LGBTI

# Statements

and women's rights. Student unions have historically been spaces of leftwing activism that have mobilised students, and so as an NUS delegate I will fight for the union to commit to this.

## Maddie Hah (Student Voice)



We need a fight back. That fact just becomes more critical as time goes by. Weather patterns are breaking records every passing year, our world is

more unequal than ever as a result of the pandemic, and oppression is rife and it's not looking like it's going to get better. It's clear that status quo solutions are not working, and the status quo is the problem. It's time to fight the system from the outside.

I've been involved in campaigns to fight the far-right, for climate justice, for refugee rights, against racism and sexism on campus. This year I took part in protests for the freedom of refugees locked up by our government in the Park hotel that's about one tram stop away from our City campus. I've also helped organise the protest this year against Liberal party bigot and massive sexist Alan Tudge when he dared show his face on our campus. It was great fun, and if I got elected as an NUS delegate I would use the national platform to argue for our student unions to take this kind of activism more seriously. We should be using our ability to organise together as students to come together and fight for a better future.



# RUSU

RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

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