**Candidate Statements**

Student Elections 2025

Please find attached – the policy statements of all students running in the student leader elections for Western Sydney University Student Union Ltd.

In the below list, statements have been truncated to meet the 500 word limit, and where no statements were given the student has been omitted.

For the list of all nominees in each electorate please see the notice of nominations.

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 **President**

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| Ali h Thejil Independent | Firstly, a primary focus of my presidency will be on strengthening specialised academic and welfare support tailored for nursing students. We navigate demanding theoretical content, rigorous practical assessments, and the often-stressful environment of clinical placements. I will advocate for enhanced access to clinical skills workshops, extended simulation lab hours, and peer-mentoring programs specifically for placement preparation. Recognising the mental and emotional toll of nursing studies, I will champion initiatives to support our well-being, collaborating with university services to offer targeted mental health resources that address burnout and stress, and establishing quiet zones at Liverpool for focused study and decompression. Ensuring every nursing student feels comprehensively supported in their academic and personal resilience is fundamental.Secondly, I am passionate about fostering a cohesive and supportive nursing student community right here at our Liverpool Campus. University life, particularly in nursing, thrives on connection and mutual support. I will work diligently to invigorate social and educational events that encourage interaction across all nursing cohorts – from first-year students to those nearing graduation. This includes organising campus-based study groups, informal networking events, and collaborative activities with other health disciplines at Liverpool. I will advocate for improved common spaces within the Liverpool campus that facilitate both collaborative study and relaxation, ensuring our physical environment fosters a sense of belonging and camaraderie. My goal is to cultivate an environment where every nursing student feels connected, valued, and has ample opportunities to build relationships and a strong professional network.Finally, my commitment as President is to proactive and transparent advocacy specifically for the UWS Nursing students at Liverpool. My role is to be your direct conduit to the nursing faculty and university administration, ensuring our voices are not just heard, but prioritised. I will establish regular feedback mechanisms, including dedicated 'President's Pulse' sessions on campus and anonymous digital suggestion boxes, to capture your concerns regarding placements, curriculum, campus resources, and assessment policies. I pledge to communicate transparently about faculty decisions and actively represent your interests in all relevant discussions. I will tirelessly champion issues critical to our success, from optimising placement allocations to ensuring our Liverpool campus facilities meet the evolving needs of nursing education. My promise is to be a responsive, accountable, and dedicated President, ensuring that the unique needs of Liverpool Nursing students are at the forefront of every decision.By focusing on specialised support, a strong community, and unwavering, targeted advocacy, I am confident that together we can build an even more empowering and supportive experience for all nursing students at UWS Liverpool. I am eager to listen, learn, and lead on your behalf, and I ask for your vote to represent our collective aspirations. Thank you. |
| Bailey AndersenFire Up | We are Fire Up, a team of passionate students, many of whom currently serve on the Western SRC. Over the past couple of years, we have proven we can deliver real results for students.We fought for and won: • Free printing for all students • Automatic 3-day extensions on assignments • Standardised 11:59 pm submission times • Removal of ProctorU from exams • Reduced fees for international student letters • Creation of the Western Sydney University Student UnionThese wins happened because we organised, spoke out and pushed for change.Now, we’re ready to go further. Fire Up will make Western fairer, more vibrant and more supportive for every student.We will empower clubs and societies by cutting red tape and giving leaders real support. We will deliver affordable food through union-run outlets and vending services. We will create a vibrant campus culture with more social spaces and events like live music, markets and festivals. We will deliver free period products across all campuses, increase parking at Parramatta South, open the first student-run café and upgrade safe spaces.We will fight for Opal concessions for all students, expand 24-hour library access, provide independent legal support for academic misconduct, advocate for four-year HDR programs, shorten the research procurement process and secure fairer placement options.These are not empty promises. We will use the Student Union to negotiate directly with the university, build strong campaigns and keep pressure on decision-makers.It’s time to Fire Up for WSUSU! |
| Gurkaranpreet SinghIndependent  | Hey, I’m Gurkaranpreet Singh, and yep—I’m throwing my hat in the ring for President of the Student Rep Council at Western Sydney University. If you hang around Campbelltown campus, you’ve probably seen me hustling as an SRC rep or running events for the many clubs. Honestly, being out there with all sorts of students—different backgrounds, wild stories—it’s taught me that strong leadership isn’t just about talking big. It’s about showing up, actually listening, and making stuff happen.1. Your Voice Actually Matters Look, university isn’t just about cramming for exams. Most of us are juggling jobs, family, side hustles—you name it. I’m sick of seeing students ignored. If I’m president, I’ll make sure you’re not just a number. More open forums, easier ways to rant online (constructively, of course), and real talk sessions on campus. You should actually have a say in what goes down here, not just tick some useless survey.2. Wellbeing That Doesn’t Suck Let’s be real: university can mess with your head. Placements, money stress, trying to keep it together—sometimes it’s brutal. I’m pushing for quicker, cheaper counselling, more peer support (because who actually relates better than other students?), and real resources for people doing tough placements—nursing, teaching, the lot. Support shouldn’t be a mythical unicorn you hear about but can’t find.3. Embracing the Wild Mix Western Sydney is basically the Avengers of multiculturalism—so many backgrounds, all together. I’m all in for that. I’ll team up with cultural clubs, equity groups, anyone who wants to make campus less boring and more welcoming. No room for discrimination here, and I’ll fight for policies that actually include everyone, not just stick a poster up and call it a day. International students, you’re not getting left out on my watch.4. Uni Life = More Than Boring Lectures Uni should help you get somewhere, not just hand out grades. So, yeah, I’ll push for more networking gigs, industry hookups, volunteering spots—stuff that actually helps you after you graduate. Plus, I want clubs, societies, and the SRC working together, not off in their own little bubbles. Let’s make campus buzz.5. Keeping It Honest I hate leaders who go all mysterious and “behind closed doors.” Not my style. If I’m in charge, you’ll get straight-up updates about what we’re doing, where your money’s going, and you’ll actually see decisions being made. No shady business. I’m running for SRC President because I believe we can actually make this place better for everyone. I’ve been in the trenches with the SRC and all sorts of student groups, so I know what’s up. If you want someone who gives a damn and gets things done—well, you know who to vote for. Let’s make WSU a place that’s got your back. |
| Jordan Pardoel Western Students 4 Palestine | VOTE WESTERN STUDENTS 4 PALESTINE. Vote [1] Jordan Pardoel for President! We need to up the pressure on WSU management and build a campaign that can force them to end their complicity!Our Student General Meeting (SGM) showed students will fight until WSU cuts ties with genocide. At the SGM, 150 students voted loud and clear: to halt the genocide and free Palestine we need genuine sanctions.To help build pressure on Anthony Albanese to sanction Israel we need to also force WSU to cut ties with IDF supplier Syqe Medical.Syqe MedicalSyqe is an Israeli company that produces therapeutics for the Israeli military. WSU is not only researching for Syqe through NICM but is also recruiting participants for its clinical trials at Westmead Hospital. This makes both our university and public health system complicit in arming the IDF while Palestinians are slaughtered in Gaza.Repression won’t silence usLast year, WSU invited police onto campus to arrest students protesting for Palestine. Those students were then suspended. The same management that claims to support diversity and free speech is willing to criminalise Palestine activism. We must hold this university accountable and make them lift the suspensions!Williams and management are complicitGeorge Williams, WSU Vice Chancellor, says he is comfortable with Syqe research, claiming it is far enough removed from Israel’s war crimes. This is the same pathetic excuse Penny Wong used to justify sending “non-lethal” F-35 jet parts to Israel. Whether it’s jet parts or medical research, these ties help Israel’s war machine.We need sanctions not recognition of a Palestinian state. Sympathy, kind words, and “recognition” are useless. Words don’t stop genocide. Cutting ties does.The fight goes beyond campusIsrael’s genocide in Gaza is fuelled by Australia’s F-35 jet parts and intelligence from the Pine Gap spy base near Alice Springs.The Albanese government is tying university funding to AUKUS and nuclear submarines, turning campuses into factories for militarism. University bosses comply, slashing arts courses and sacking 3,500 staff. This shows exactly why we need a fighting SRC that stands unflinchingly with Palestine and against militarism.Fight for a democratic unionWSU’s so-called “independent” student union is stacked with 5 unelected management-appointed directors alongside 6 elected students. That’s nearly half the board unelected. We want a fully elected, fully student-controlled union that represents students, not management.Vote for Western Students 4 Palestine, but more importantly TAKE ACTIONA vote for WSU4Palestine means using the SRC’s resources to fight management, back the Palestine campaign, and amplify pro-Palestine voices.That’s why we say: Vote [1] Western Students 4 Palestine for SRC and NUS.But WSU4Palestine doesn’t just want your vote, we want your involvement. The SGM was only the beginning. To win, we need to keep building. Join us at stalls, in classrooms, and at protests. But above all, join the campaign.VOTE [1] Western Students 4 Palestine (Jordan Pardoel for Presidenl) + Western Students 4 Palestine in all positions!FREE PALESTINE - CUT TIES WITH ISRAEL - LONG LIVE THE INTIFADA |

**Vice President**

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| Divyansh SethFire Up | We are Fire Up, a team of passionate students, many of whom currently serve on the Western SRC. Over the past couple of years, we have proven we can deliver real results for students.We fought for and won: • Free printing for all students • Automatic 3-day extensions on assignments • Standardised 11:59 pm submission times • Removal of ProctorU from exams • Reduced fees for international student letters • Creation of the Western Sydney University Student UnionThese wins happened because we organised, spoke out and pushed for change.Now, we’re ready to go further. Fire Up will make Western fairer, more vibrant and more supportive for every student.We will empower clubs and societies by cutting red tape and giving leaders real support. We will deliver affordable food through union-run outlets and vending services. We will create a vibrant campus culture with more social spaces and events like live music, markets and festivals. We will deliver free period products across all campuses, increase parking at Parramatta South, open the first student-run café and upgrade safe spaces.We will fight for Opal concessions for all students, expand 24-hour library access, provide independent legal support for academic misconduct, advocate for four-year HDR programs, shorten the research procurement process and secure fairer placement options.These are not empty promises. We will use the Student Union to negotiate directly with the university, build strong campaigns and keep pressure on decision-makers.It’s time to Fire Up for WSUSU! |
| Heliana Tavares Students for Campus Life, Sports & Clubs | Hi, my name is Heliana and I’m excited to be running for the role of your new SRC Vice President.I’m heavily involved in campus life as part of my role in the Sports and Recreation team, where you may have met me at our free food pop-ups on campus. I also represent the University in football (soccer) and futsal at Unisport Nationals and social sport.It’s my passion to empower student voices and create an environment where every student feels heard, included, and inspired. I advocate for greater community engagement and lively campus life so you can make the most of your university experience. You can trust me to bring fresh energy and exciting ideas to the SRC to make your time on campus more vibrant, inclusive, and connected. I’m devoted to promoting inclusive social events to bring people together across different cultures, interests, and campuses. I’ll work to push for more accessible and diverse support so that you can use the experiences you gain at university in other aspects of your life. Rest assured that you will always have my support during your time at Western and beyond.Thank you for your consideration. It would be my honour to represent you. |
| Jasmin Ahmed Western Students 4 Palestine  | My name is Jasmin Ahmed and I am honoured to be running for Vice President of the WSU Student Union. I am an organiser with WSU4Palestine, the campaign that helped organise the historic Student General Meeting (SGM) earlier this semester. At the SGM, 150 students voted unanimously to demand that WSU cut research ties with Israeli arms supplier Syqe Medical, lift suspensions on student protesters, halt staff job cuts, and call on Anthony Albanese to sanction Israel. This was a breakthrough moment that showed the power of students organising together. I am running because I want to make sure this momentum isn’t wasted. I want to build a democratic student union that fights for justice—one that represents students, not management. A union that stands up against repression, backs the fight for Palestine, and defends staff and students from the attacks coming from university bosses and the government. If elected, I will use the position of Vice President to amplify the voices of students who are fighting back—for Palestine, for staff, and for a university that prioritises people over profit. Vote [1] Jasmin Ahmed for Vice President. Vote [1] WSU4Palestine for SRC and NUS. Together, we can win. ⸻ Jasmin’s Campaign Piece Turn up the pressure on WSU VOTE [1] WESTERN STUDENTS 4 PALESTINE I’m Jasmin Ahmed, and I’m running for Vice President because we need to keep up the pressure on WSU management. Our campaign has already forced them onto the defensive, but to make them end their complicity we need to build even stronger. At the SGM, 150 students voted loud and clear: to halt the genocide and free Palestine we need genuine sanctions. To help build pressure on Anthony Albanese to sanction Israel, we must force WSU to cut ties with Syqe Medical. Syqe Medical Syqe is an Israeli company that supplies therapeutics to the IDF. WSU is not only researching for Syqe through NICM but also recruiting participants for its clinical trials at Westmead Hospital. This makes our university and public health system complicit in Israel’s war machine. Repression won’t silence us When students protested for Palestine last year, WSU invited police onto campus to arrest us—and then suspended students. This shows management’s hypocrisy: they claim to support diversity and free speech, but they criminalise Palestine activism. We must keep fighting until all suspensions are lifted. Williams and management are complicit Vice Chancellor George Williams says he is “comfortable” with Syqe research, claiming it is far enough removed from Israel’s war crimes. That is the same excuse Penny Wong used to justify sending “non-lethal” F-35 jet parts to Israel. Whether it’s jet parts or medical research, these ties fuel genocide. We need sanctions, not empty recognition of a Palestinian state. The fight goes beyond campus Israel’s genocide in Gaza is fuelled by Australian-made jet parts and intelligence from Pine Gap. Albanese is also tying university funding to AUKUS and nuclear submarines, turning our campuses into factories for militarism. Meanwhile, 3,500 staff have been sacked and |

**General Secretary**

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| Genevieve Reed Students for Campus Life, Sports & Clubs  | As the General Secretary of the SRC, representing “Students for Campus Life, Sports & Clubs”, I am dedicated to strengthening student wellbeing and improving campus life, to ensure students feel supported to grow both inside and outside of the classroom.Support sports and clubs: Sports and clubs are the heart of Western Sydney University, connecting students to help them grow as individuals. Both social and representative sports deserve greater recognition and support on campus. As someone who engages in social sport through the university, I know how valuable the role Western plays in it, to provide accessible opportunities for all students to stay active, meet people, while balancing study.As a UniSport athlete, I have seen the dedication of our university’s representative students and the support needed to thrive. Our university has achieved multiple medals and the Spirit Award at national-level competitions. These achievements should be celebrated and matched with greater funding and resources so our athletes and teams can continue to excel.I will work to secure a greater investment in sports teams, clubs and societies, recognising their significant role in building a great community on campus, supporting student wellbeing and showcasing strengths outside of the classroom.Campus Life:Student wellbeing should be a top priority for the university by ensuring that there are accessible and inclusive events on campus that help enhance social, emotional and physical health.I will support current initiatives in place that help improve campus life and advocate for events and activities that bring students together to enhance their on-campus experience.SRC Transparency:As the general secretary, I will ensure that the SRC’s decisions are spoken about openly and clearly to the student population, so that students can feel properly informed. This will involve regular updates and accessible meetings to help make every student's voice heard.I will maintain open communication with the many clubs on campus to make sure their priorities and needs are being reflected in our decision-making about campus life.Promote inclusion and diversity: With the great range of opportunities at Western, it is important that everyone feels welcome and included. Exploring the university and engaging in campus life should be for everyone.I will push initiatives that engage a wider and more diverse range of students to ensure everyone feels respected and safe.Student Engagement:Activities and programs on campus should reflect the experiences, wants and needs of the students at the university. This is vital for engaging and effective programs to help improve the wellbeing of the student body.I aim to ensure that programs and activities in place at the university are appealing and exciting for students by making sure that they have a say in what we can do to help them enjoy their university experience more.I aim to make campus life, sports and clubs a proud foundation of the Western Sydney University. |
| Gina Elias Social Justice  | I think WSU students need representatives who are going to stand up for social justice and our education. We’re living through a genocide, cost of living and housing crisis, climate crisis, sexism, racism, and LGBTI+ bigotry, and so much more! I’ve been an activist for years on all of these issues, particularly for Palestine. I’ve been an organiser in Palestine Action Group Sydney since 2018. We’re the group who called the historic harbour bridge rally for Palestine this year, the Nationwide march for Palestine, and every year before this current genocide we protested on Al-Nakba to mark the genocide that established Israel in 1948. I’ve organised student general meetings and student strikes for Palestine. We need more of us who’ll stand up for justice even when it’s not popular. I’ve also been part of protesting WSU’s 400 staff cuts, Trump’s transphobic agenda that inspired conservatives here, for abortion rights, climate strikes, for refugee rights, and affordable housing. |
| Nisal Keembiyage Fire Up | We are Fire Up, a team of passionate students, many of whom currently serve on the Western SRC. Over the past couple of years, we have proven we can deliver real results for students.We fought for and won: • Free printing for all students • Automatic 3-day extensions on assignments • Standardised 11:59 pm submission times • Removal of ProctorU from exams • Reduced fees for international student letters • Creation of the Western Sydney University Student UnionThese wins happened because we organised, spoke out and pushed for change.Now, we’re ready to go further. Fire Up will make Western fairer, more vibrant and more supportive for every student.We will empower clubs and societies by cutting red tape and giving leaders real support. We will deliver affordable food through union-run outlets and vending services. We will create a vibrant campus culture with more social spaces and events like live music, markets and festivals. We will deliver free period products across all campuses, increase parking at Parramatta South, open the first student-run café and upgrade safe spaces.We will fight for Opal concessions for all students, expand 24-hour library access, provide independent legal support for academic misconduct, advocate for four-year HDR programs, shorten the research procurement process and secure fairer placement options.These are not empty promises. We will use the Student Union to negotiate directly with the university, build strong campaigns and keep pressure on decision-makers.It’s time to Fire Up for WSUSU! |
| Rowland Jackel-Fitzgerald Western Students 4 Palestine  | My name is Rowland and I’m proud to be running for General Secretary of the WSU Student Union with WSU4Palestine. The past semester has proven that students at Western Sydney University are ready to fight for justice. At the historic Student General Meeting (SGM) in Week 5, more than 150 students voted unanimously to demand that WSU cut its ties with Israeli arms supplier Syqe Medical, lift suspensions on student protesters, halt staff job cuts, and call on Anthony Albanese to impose sanctions on Israel. This was a breakthrough moment — the biggest show of student democracy in years — and I am standing to make sure that momentum is not lost. Why General Secretary Matters The General Secretary position is one of the most important roles in the Student Union. It is responsible for ensuring that the union is transparent, democratic, and accountable to students, not management. The university has deliberately stacked our so-called “independent” Student Union with five unelected management-appointed directors alongside only six elected students. Nearly half the board is unelected, which means management has an enormous influence over decisions that should belong to students. As General Secretary, I will fight for a fully elected, fully student-controlled union. No more rubber-stamping management decisions. No more silencing students who stand up for Palestine or against job cuts. We deserve a union that answers to us — the students. WSU’s Complicity in Genocide Right now, WSU is complicit in genocide. Through the National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM), the university is carrying out research for Syqe Medical, an Israeli company that produces therapeutics for the Israeli military. WSU is even recruiting participants for Syqe’s trials at Westmead Hospital. This ties both our university and our public health system directly into Israel’s war machine. Vice Chancellor George Williams says he is “comfortable” with this research, hiding behind excuses that it is far enough removed from war crimes. But we know the truth: whether it’s jet parts, intelligence from Pine Gap, or medical research, all of these ties help sustain Israel’s genocide in Gaza. Repression Won’t Silence Us When students protested against WSU’s complicity last year, management invited police onto campus to arrest us — and then suspended student activists. These repressive measures are designed to intimidate us into silence. But repression won’t stop our campaign. If elected General Secretary, I will make lifting the suspensions and defending the right to protest a top priority. The Fight Beyond Campus The Albanese government is pouring billions into militarism — from F-35 fighter jets sent to Israel to nuclear submarines under AUKUS — while universities slash arts courses and sack thousands of staff. Students at WSU know what this looks like: underfunded classes, overworked staff, and degrees treated like commodities. We need a student union that not only stands with Palestine but also fights for a university that values people over profit. Vote [1] Rowland for General Secretary I am running because I believe the Student Union can and must be a megaphone for student resistance. Together, we can |

**Welfare Officer**

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| Amy Lamont Social Justice | I believe that WSU students deserve a Welfare Officer that fights for social justice issues and students rights. Education should be free! Why should domestic and international students alike be put into exorbitant amounts of debt while our university cuts up to 400 staff jobs? This year I set up Stop WSU Cuts to protest staff sackings, to stop the increases to campus parking costs and to stop the cuts to the campus Shuttle Bus service!I have been a socialist activist for many years, fighting for Palestine, student rights and social justice. I have been a part of organising Palestine activism on and off campus for over six years. I was a part of encouraging WSU students to vote in the NUS National Student Referendum for Palestine. I want all weapons companies complicit in the genocide in Gaza off our campus! I believe we should tax the rich and distribute their wealth to fund education, healthcare, housing and higher wages. |
| Mona El-hachem Western Students 4 Palestine | VOTE WESTERN STUDENTS 4 PALESTINE. Vote [1] Jordan Pardoel for President! We need to up the pressure on WSU management and build a campaign that can force them to end their complicity!Our Student General Meeting (SGM) showed students will fight until WSU cuts ties with genocide. At the SGM, 150 students voted loud and clear: to halt the genocide and free Palestine we need genuine sanctions.To help build pressure on Anthony Albanese to sanction Israel we need to also force WSU to cut ties with IDF supplier Syqe Medical.Syqe MedicalSyqe is an Israeli company that produces therapeutics for the Israeli military. WSU is not only researching for Syqe through NICM but is also recruiting participants for its clinical trials at Westmead Hospital. This makes both our university and public health system complicit in arming the IDF while Palestinians are slaughtered in Gaza.Repression won’t silence usLast year, WSU invited police onto campus to arrest students protesting for Palestine. Those students were then suspended. The same management that claims to support diversity and free speech is willing to criminalise Palestine activism. We must hold this university accountable and make them lift the suspensions!Williams and management are complicitGeorge Williams, WSU Vice Chancellor, says he is comfortable with Syqe research, claiming it is far enough removed from Israel’s war crimes. This is the same pathetic excuse Penny Wong used to justify sending “non-lethal” F-35 jet parts to Israel. Whether it’s jet parts or medical research, these ties help Israel’s war machine.We need sanctions not recognition of a Palestinian state. Sympathy, kind words, and “recognition” are useless. Words don’t stop genocide. Cutting ties does.The fight goes beyond campusIsrael’s genocide in Gaza is fuelled by Australia’s F-35 jet parts and intelligence from the Pine Gap spy base near Alice Springs.The Albanese government is tying university funding to AUKUS and nuclear submarines, turning campuses into factories for militarism. University bosses comply, slashing arts courses and sacking 3,500 staff. This shows exactly why we need a fighting SRC that stands unflinchingly with Palestine and against militarism.Fight for a democratic unionWSU’s so-called “independent” student union is stacked with 5 unelected management-appointed directors alongside 6 elected students. That’s nearly half the board unelected. We want a fully elected, fully student-controlled union that represents students, not management.Vote for Western Students 4 Palestine, but more importantly TAKE ACTIONA vote for WSU4Palestine means using the SRC’s resources to fight management, back the Palestine campaign, and amplify pro-Palestine voices.That’s why we say: Vote [1] Western Students 4 Palestine for SRC and NUS.But WSU4Palestine doesn’t just want your vote, we want your involvement. The SGM was only the beginning. To win, we need to keep building. Join us at stalls, in classrooms, and at protests. But above all, join the campaign.VOTE [1] Western Students 4 Palestine (Jordan Pardoel for Presidenl) + Western Students 4 Palestine in all positions!FREE PALESTINE - CUT TIES WITH ISRAEL - LONG LIVE THE INTIFADA |
| Nethmi Goonasekera Fire Up | We are Fire Up, a team of passionate students, many of whom currently serve on the Western SRC. Over the past couple of years, we have proven we can deliver real results for students.We fought for and won: • Free printing for all students • Automatic 3-day extensions on assignments • Standardised 11:59 pm submission times • Removal of ProctorU from exams • Reduced fees for international student letters • Creation of the Western Sydney University Student UnionThese wins happened because we organised, spoke out and pushed for change.Now, we’re ready to go further. Fire Up will make Western fairer, more vibrant and more supportive for every student.We will empower clubs and societies by cutting red tape and giving leaders real support. We will deliver affordable food through union-run outlets and vending services. We will create a vibrant campus culture with more social spaces and events like live music, markets and festivals. We will deliver free period products across all campuses, increase parking at Parramatta South, open the first student-run café and upgrade safe spaces.We will fight for Opal concessions for all students, expand 24-hour library access, provide independent legal support for academic misconduct, advocate for four-year HDR programs, shorten the research procurement process and secure fairer placement options.These are not empty promises. We will use the Student Union to negotiate directly with the university, build strong campaigns and keep pressure on decision-makers.It’s time to Fire Up for WSUSU! |
| Riley Brennan Independent | Policy Statement – SRC Welfare OfficerCandidate: Riley BrennanI am standing for Welfare Officer because I believe every student at Western deserves the opportunity not just to study, but to succeed. University is challenging enough without the added weight of financial pressures, mental health struggles, and barriers to support. My commitment is to make student welfare a central focus of the SRC’s agenda and to ensure that concerns are translated into tangible outcomes.Listening and ActingI will make it easier for students to raise issues and see them acted upon. Too often, feedback is lost in a system without a response. I want to create a clear pathway where student voices are captured, reviewed, and turned into tangible proposals to help WSU facilitate our needs.Addressing the Cost of LivingStudents are telling me that the cost of living is their number one challenge. I will advocate for expanded food relief initiatives, push for affordable food options on campus, and increase visibility of bursaries and financial supports. These are immediate, achievable changes that make a real difference in daily student life.Strengthening Mental Health SupportI know from my own experience that support needs to be accessible when students need it. I will work to expand the availability of counselling services, explore flexible delivery methods, and reduce barriers to booking and wait times. Welfare is not only about crisis response, but also about creating an environment where students are encouraged to seek help.Equity and InclusionWestern is proud of its diverse student body, and equity should be reflected in the way services are delivered. I will work to make sure support is accessible to every student, while also addressing the challenges faced by students with disabilities, international students, first-in-family learners, and those experiencing housing or transport stress. My role is to make support broad, visible, and inclusive. Every student must be heard. Student Power and TransparencyI will implement regular “welfare check-ins” across campuses, backed by clear communication of SRC actions and outcomes. Students deserve to know not only that they are being heard, but how their input is driving change. Collaboration with clubs, advocacy groups, and the broader student community will make the SRC stronger and more representative.TLDR:I believe welfare is not a side issue but is the foundation of student success. As Welfare Officer, I will drive outcomes that support every student to thrive at Western. |

**Board**

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| Aaron Carbonaro Students for Campus Life, Sports & Clubs | Candidate Statement: Aaron CarbonaroNominee for the Western Sydney Student Union BoardMy name is Aaron Carbonaro, and I’m running for a position on the Western Sydney Student Union Board. I’m currently studying Cybersecurity and Behaviour at Western Sydney University and have been a proud student here for nearly four years.Outside of university, I work as a teacher’s aide at a primary school and play rugby at a semi-professional level. These roles have taught me patience, discipline, and the importance of teamwork. Whether it's guiding young students at school or leading teammates on the field, I’ve learned that leadership isn’t just about speaking up, it’s about listening, adapting, and stepping up when it matters most.My degree has given me a unique perspective on student life. Through studying behaviour and cybersecurity, I’ve gained a deep understanding of the challenges many students face, whether social, academic, or personal, and how to approach those challenges with empathy, structure, and practical solutions. It’s also helped me appreciate the importance of safety and doing things right the first time.Over the past few years, I’ve proudly represented Western Sydney University at multiple events and captained several university sports teams. These experiences have taught me how to bring people together, organise effectively, and create positive, inclusive environments where everyone feels heard and valued.If elected to the Student Union Board, I want to focus on listening—really listening—to student concerns and helping turn those concerns into action. I believe real change doesn’t always come from big moves, but from consistent, thoughtful efforts, small or large, that make life better for students every day.I’m also passionate about improving how new student services are delivered, ensuring they’re not only accessible but actually useful and relevant to the people they’re meant to support. I believe the best outcomes come from working together, and that this role isn’t about one person making a difference but about all of us, as a community, moving forward together.It would be an honour to serve on the board in this prestigious role. I’m eager to work hard within a team, contribute meaningfully, and give back to a university that has given me so much.Thank you for your time, and I’d truly appreciate your vote. |
| Aashish NeupaneFire Up | We are Fire Up, a team of passionate students, many of whom currently serve on the Western SRC. Over the past couple of years, we have proven we can deliver real results for students.We fought for and won: • Free printing for all students • Automatic 3-day extensions on assignments • Standardised 11:59 pm submission times • Removal of ProctorU from exams • Reduced fees for international student letters • Creation of the Western Sydney University Student UnionThese wins happened because we organised, spoke out and pushed for change.Now, we’re ready to go further. Fire Up will make Western fairer, more vibrant and more supportive for every student.We will empower clubs and societies by cutting red tape and giving leaders real support. We will deliver affordable food through union-run outlets and vending services. We will create a vibrant campus culture with more social spaces and events like live music, markets and festivals. We will deliver free period products across all campuses, increase parking at Parramatta South, open the first student-run café and upgrade safe spaces.We will fight for Opal concessions for all students, expand 24-hour library access, provide independent legal support for academic misconduct, advocate for four-year HDR programs, shorten the research procurement process and secure fairer placement options.These are not empty promises. We will use the Student Union to negotiate directly with the university, build strong campaigns and keep pressure on decision-makers.It’s time to Fire Up for WSUSU! |
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| Kokulaan SanthakumarStudents for Campus Life, Sports & Clubs | With the Board of Directors, Kokulaan Santhakumar is hoping to bring a diverse perspective to the modern challenges facing students, working to ensure that university decision-making reflects the needs for student success. He is committed to working in unison with fellow members of the Western Sydney University Student Union to enhance Campus Life, Sports & Clubs, a pivotal aspect of student life that has been neglected for too long.Kokulaan is currently studying the Doctor of Medicine program at Western Sydney University. Born in France, his family migrated to Australia, where he grew up in Western Sydney. A graduate of Penrith Selective High School, Kokulaan served as School Captain and appeared on Channel 7’s Sunrise to advocate for early intervention in mental health care during the pandemic. His leadership helped raise $55,801 for Headspace and Lifeline Australia, while also uniting over 10,000 students through The Push-Up Challenge. During his gap year, Kokulaan completed a medical internship with rugby league side West Tigers and another overseas in Tanzania at St Elizabeth Hospital. Last year, he attended the Commonwealth Youth Parliament in New Zealand, selected by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to represent Australia. Kokulaan has worked for the Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Mrs. Melissa McIntosh MP, and served as an adviser to the newly appointed Manager of Opposition Business and Shadow Minister for Industry and Innovation, The Hon. Alex Hawke MP. In recognition of his achievements, he was awarded the prestigious St Andrew’s Scholar Award to reside at St Andrew’s College while completing his medical degree. More recently, he has joined the Australian Defence Force as an Officer Cadet in the Army Reserves. Beyond academics and public service, Kokulaan has a strong sporting background. He represented Western Sydney University in Men’s Touch Football at UniSport Nationals, winning Gold on the Gold Coast in 2023. He has also competed in the Vawdon Cup for the Penrith Panthers, captained the U21 Premier League football side Blacktown Premier Spurs, and represented St Andrew’s College in Rawson Football. |
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| Niruban Chakkaravarthy Dhanasekaran Fire Up | My name is Niruban Chakkaravarthy Dhanasekaran, and I am an HDR student at the Hawkesbury campus. I am conducting research in water sustainability and am a passionate advocate for sustainable development and science communication.As a student leader, I have been actively engaged in various roles to amplify the student voice. Serving as the Hawkesbury campus representative for the past two years, I would like to highlight some of my key achievements. I have actively advocated for diverse student needs, organised more events at our campus, secured essential funding to establish a new sports club with equipment, and supported the organisation of tournaments.In addition to my leadership position, I am involved in the HDR research studies committee, where I continue to advocate for student needs, such as stipends, increased internship opportunities, improved training, and a positive academic experience. I also serve as a member of the campus provost committee, engaging with various stakeholders to advocate for the rights and needs of students, particularly international students.As your leader for the past two years, I have gained a strong understanding of our university governance system, which will enable me to act swiftly and provide support wherever needed. I believe this role will allow me to effectively serve my fellow students and better represent their voices with your support and guidance. Do not think I am different because I am among you. I kindly ask for your valuable vote to help me achieve these goals. |
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**Representative to NUS Conference**

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| Aaron Carbonaro Students for Campus Life, Sports & Clubs | Candidate Statement: Aaron CarbonaroNominee for the Western Sydney Student Union BoardMy name is Aaron Carbonaro, and I’m running for a position on the Western Sydney Student Union Board. I’m currently studying Cybersecurity and Behaviour at Western Sydney University and have been a proud student here for nearly four years.Outside of university, I work as a teacher’s aide at a primary school and play rugby at a semi-professional level. These roles have taught me patience, discipline, and the importance of teamwork. Whether it's guiding young students at school or leading teammates on the field, I’ve learned that leadership isn’t just about speaking up, it’s about listening, adapting, and stepping up when it matters most.My degree has given me a unique perspective on student life. Through studying behaviour and cybersecurity, I’ve gained a deep understanding of the challenges many students face, whether social, academic, or personal, and how to approach those challenges with empathy, structure, and practical solutions. It’s also helped me appreciate the importance of safety and doing things right the first time.Over the past few years, I’ve proudly represented Western Sydney University at multiple events and captained several university sports teams. These experiences have taught me how to bring people together, organise effectively, and create positive, inclusive environments where everyone feels heard and valued.If elected to the Student Union Board, I want to focus on listening—really listening—to student concerns and helping turn those concerns into action. I believe real change doesn’t always come from big moves, but from consistent, thoughtful efforts, small or large, that make life better for students every day.I’m also passionate about improving how new student services are delivered, ensuring they’re not only accessible but actually useful and relevant to the people they’re meant to support. I believe the best outcomes come from working together, and that this role isn’t about one person making a difference but about all of us, as a community, moving forward together.It would be an honour to serve on the board in this prestigious role. I’m eager to work hard within a team, contribute meaningfully, and give back to a university that has given me so much.Thank you for your time, and I’d truly appreciate your vote. |
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| Ali h Thejil Independent | Firstly, a core pillar of my delegation will be advocating for education quality and affordability. In an increasingly competitive landscape, access to high-quality, affordable education is paramount. I will work with the NUS to campaign against further fee hikes and support initiatives that ensure fairer HECS repayments and increased funding for public universities. For UWS students, this means fighting for resources that directly benefit our learning environments, such as improved library access, up-to-date technology, and well-funded support services. I will also champion policies that ensure our curriculum remains relevant and prepares us effectively for future careers, advocating for a student-centred approach to national education reforms. My goal is to ensure that a university education remains a right, not a privilege, for all Australians, including every student at UWS.Secondly, I am committed to addressing student welfare and equity on a national scale. Beyond the classroom, students nationwide face significant challenges related to mental health, housing, and financial stability. As your NUS Delegate, I will actively support NUS campaigns that push for greater government investment in student mental health services, ensuring that UWS students have access to comprehensive and timely support regardless of their campus. I will advocate for national policies that address the student housing crisis, pushing for affordable and safe accommodation options. Furthermore, I will champion equity initiatives that support diverse student populations, including Indigenous students, students with disabilities, international students, and those from regional and low-socioeconomic backgrounds, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are met within national policy. Our welfare underpins our ability to succeed, and I will fight for a supportive environment for all.Finally, my commitment as an NUS Delegate is to empowering UWS student voices and fostering national collaboration. It is vital that the national student movement reflects the diverse experiences of students from universities like UWS. I will establish clear and consistent channels for UWS students to provide input into national NUS policy and discussions, ensuring that our unique concerns – from specific campus infrastructure needs to the challenges faced by our local communities – are effectively communicated. I will actively engage with student representatives from other universities to build solidarity and collaborate on shared advocacy goals, bringing the best national ideas back to UWS. My promise is to be a transparent and accessible delegate, ensuring that UWS is not just represented, but is an active and influential participant in shaping the future of higher education in Australia.By focusing on affordability and quality education, comprehensive student welfare, and robust student representation, I am confident that I can be an effective voice for UWS students on the national stage. I am eager to listen, learn, and lead on your behalf, and I ask for your vote to represent our collective aspirations at the NUS. Thank you. |
| Amy Lamont Social Justice | The National Union of Students represents tens of thousands of students across the country. It has the power to organise activist campaigns that link up multiple campuses, so it has the potential to make the student movement more powerful and more coordinated. For years I have attended the NUS Student Conferences, and have fought for students rights, Palestine, LGBTI+ rights, climate justice and many other social justice issues. |
| Bailey Anderson Fire Up | Fire Up will take Western students’ voices to the national stage. The National Union of Students is the peak body for student advocacy in Australia, and it plays a critical role in securing real change from universities and government.As NUS Delegates, we will fight for the issues that matter most to students across the country.We will continue the campaign to lower the age of independence for Centrelink from 22 to 18. Too many students are locked out of income support simply because they are considered “dependent” on their families, even when that is not the case. Lowering the age of independence will give young people greater financial freedom and the ability to focus on their studies without taking on excessive work hours or debt.We will fight against staff cuts and course closures at universities. Quality education requires experienced staff, small class sizes and a diverse range of courses. Staff cuts hurt students by reducing support, increasing workloads and cutting subject offerings. We will work with students and staff unions to stop cuts and protect the quality of our education.We will also continue to support NUS campaigns for fairer student income support, affordable housing, climate action, accessible higher education, and better mental health services for all students.Fire Up will ensure Western students are represented nationally, and that our voices are heard loud and clear. |
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| Gina Elias  | I think WSU students need representatives who are going to stand up for social justice and our education. We’re living through a genocide, cost of living and housing crisis, climate crisis, sexism, racism, and LGBTI+ bigotry, and so much more! I’ve been an activist for years on all of these issues, particularly for Palestine. I’ve been an organiser in Palestine Action Group Sydney since 2018. We’re the group who called the historic harbour bridge rally for Palestine this year, the Nationwide march for Palestine, and every year before this current genocide we protested on Al-Nakba to mark the genocide that established Israel in 1948. I’ve organised student general meetings and student strikes for Palestine. We need more of us who’ll stand up for justice even when it’s not popular. I’ve also been part of protesting WSU’s 400 staff cuts, Trump’s transphobic agenda that inspired conservatives here, for abortion rights, climate strikes, for refugee rights, and affordable housing. |
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| Kokulaan Santhakumar Students for Campus Life, Sports & Clubs | With the NUS National Conference, Kokulaan Santhakumar is hoping to bring a diverse perspective to the modern challenges facing students, working to ensure that university decision-making is reflective and surpasses the direction of other universities across Australia. He is committed to working in unison with fellow delegates to enhance Campus Life, Sports & Clubs at Western Sydney University, a pivotal aspect of student life that has been neglected for too long.Kokulaan is currently studying the Doctor of Medicine program at Western Sydney University. Born in France, his family migrated to Australia, where he grew up in Western Sydney. A graduate of Penrith Selective High School, Kokulaan served as School Captain and appeared on Channel 7’s Sunrise to advocate for early intervention in mental health care during the pandemic. His leadership helped raise $55,801 for Headspace and Lifeline Australia, while also uniting over 10,000 students through The Push-Up Challenge. During his gap year, Kokulaan completed a medical internship with rugby league side West Tigers and another overseas in Tanzania at St Elizabeth Hospital. Last year, he attended the Commonwealth Youth Parliament in New Zealand, selected by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to represent Australia. Kokulaan has worked for the Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Mrs. Melissa McIntosh MP, and served as an adviser to the newly appointed Manager of Opposition Business and Shadow Minister for Industry and Innovation, The Hon. Alex Hawke MP. In recognition of his achievements, he was awarded the prestigious St Andrew’s Scholar Award to reside at St Andrew’s College while completing his medical degree. More recently, he has joined the Australian Defence Force as an Officer Cadet in the Army Reserves. Beyond academics and public service, Kokulaan has a strong sporting background. He represented Western Sydney University in Men’s Touch Football at UniSport Nationals, winning Gold on the Gold Coast in 2023. He has also competed in the Vawdon Cup for the Penrith Panthers, captained the U21 Premier League football side Blacktown Premier Spurs, and represented St Andrew’s College in Rawson Football. |
| Laine Fox Fire Up | Fire Up will take Western students’ voices to the national stage. The National Union of Students is the peak body for student advocacy in Australia, and it plays a critical role in securing real change from universities and government.As NUS Delegates, we will fight for the issues that matter most to students across the country.We will continue the campaign to lower the age of independence for Centrelink from 22 to 18. Too many students are locked out of income support simply because they are considered “dependent” on their families, even when that is not the case. Lowering the age of independence will give young people greater financial freedom and the ability to focus on their studies without taking on excessive work hours or debt.We will fight against staff cuts and course closures at universities. Quality education requires experienced staff, small class sizes and a diverse range of courses. Staff cuts hurt students by reducing support, increasing workloads and cutting subject offerings. We will work with students and staff unions to stop cuts and protect the quality of our education.We will also continue to support NUS campaigns for fairer student income support, affordable housing, climate action, accessible higher education, and better mental health services for all students.Fire Up will ensure Western students are represented nationally, and that our voices are heard loud and clear. |
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| Riley Brennan Independent | Candidate: Riley Brennan, Western Sydney UniversityWestern students deserve a strong voice in the national student movement, and they deserve to be heard. At Western, we live the reality of how education policy, cost of living, and welfare systems shape our ability to succeed. Too often, those realities are left out of the national conversation. My goal is to ensure that our experiences are represented and acted upon.Student Welfare FirstStudents are under pressure like never before. Housing is unaffordable, food costs keep rising, and insecure work leaves many of us struggling to balance study and survival. Welfare cannot be treated as secondary. I will push NUS to prioritise affordable student housing, expanded income support, and accessible mental health services as core national issues.Education is a RightUniversity should be public, accessible, and properly funded. Escalating HECS/HELP debt and higher course fees punish students unfairly. I will support campaigns against fee hikes, push for debt relief, and demand greater federal investment so students aren’t paying more for less.Equity and InclusionWestern Sydney has one of the most diverse student populations in the country. NUS must reflect that reality. Students with disabilities, international students, First Nations students, and culturally diverse students need to see themselves represented. Equity cannot just be a department; it must run through every campaign and policy.Building Student PowerThe student movement is strongest when collective and visible. NUS needs to run campaigns that reach all campuses: city, regional, and suburban. That means outreach that is accessible, language that connects with lived experience, and campaigns that deliver real wins.Why Me?At Western, I am actively engaged with student welfare issues and see firsthand the challenges students face. I don’t just listen; I work to turn concerns into action. At NUS, I will bring the same approach: connecting Western students to national advocacy and ensuring their voices contribute to real change.ConclusionWestern students deserve delegates who fight hard, stay grounded, and keep welfare at the centre of the movement. I will represent our campus with honesty, energy, and commitment, making sure Western is part of building a stronger, fairer student movement. |
| Rowland Jackel-FitzgeraldWestern Students 4 Palestine  | VOTE WESTERN STUDENTS 4 PALESTINE for NUS (Jordan Pardoel)We need to up the pressure on WSU management and build a campaign that can force them to end their complicity!Our Student General Meeting (SGM) showed students will fight until WSU cuts ties with genocide. At the SGM, 150 students voted loud and clear: to halt the genocide and free Palestine we need genuine sanctions.To help build pressure on Anthony Albanese to sanction Israel we need to also force WSU to cut ties with IDF supplier Syqe Medical.Syqe MedicalSyqe is an Israeli company that produces therapeutics for the Israeli military. WSU is not only researching for Syqe through NICM but is also recruiting participants for its clinical trials at Westmead Hospital. This makes both our university and public health system complicit in arming the IDF while Palestinians are slaughtered in Gaza.Repression won’t silence usLast year, WSU invited police onto campus to arrest students protesting for Palestine. Those students were then suspended. The same management that claims to support diversity and free speech is willing to criminalise Palestine activism. We must hold this university accountable and make them lift the suspensions!Williams and management are complicitGeorge Williams, WSU Vice Chancellor, says he is comfortable with Syqe research, claiming it is far enough removed from Israel’s war crimes. This is the same pathetic excuse Penny Wong used to justify sending “non-lethal” F-35 jet parts to Israel. Whether it’s jet parts or medical research, these ties help Israel’s war machine.We need sanctions not recognition of a Palestinian state. Sympathy, kind words, and “recognition” are useless. Words don’t stop genocide. Cutting ties does.The fight goes beyond campusIsrael’s genocide in Gaza is fuelled by Australia’s F-35 jet parts and intelligence from the Pine Gap spy base near Alice Springs.The Albanese government is tying university funding to AUKUS and nuclear submarines, turning campuses into factories for militarism. University bosses comply, slashing arts courses and sacking 3,500 staff. This shows exactly why we need a fighting SRC that stands unflinchingly with Palestine and against militarism.Fight for a democratic unionWSU’s so-called “independent” student union is stacked with 5 unelected management-appointed directors alongside 6 elected students. That’s nearly half the board unelected. We want a fully elected, fully student-controlled union that represents students, not management.Vote for Western Students 4 Palestine, but more importantly TAKE ACTIONA vote for WSU4Palestine means using the SRC’s resources to fight management, back the Palestine campaign, and amplify pro-Palestine voices.That’s why we say: Vote [1] Western Students 4 Palestine for SRC and NUS.But WSU4Palestine doesn’t just want your vote, we want your involvement. The SGM was only the beginning. To win, we need to keep building. Join us at stalls, in classrooms, and at protests. But above all, join the campaign.VOTE [1] Western Students 4 Palestine Jordan Pardoel for NUS FREE PALESTINE - CUT TIES WITH ISRAEL - LONG LIVE THE INTIFADA |
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