

National Union of Students Executive Meeting- 4<sup>th</sup> April

ACT State branch presidents report

## NDA

Firstly this was a great issue for an NDA. Student Income Support is one of the most critical issue effecting students in Australia. I must thank Jimmy Mentor for all the invaluable assistance that he provided to the ACT branch.

The proposal of having a campus NDA and then a central NDA was not suitable for the ACT. After consultation with campus presidents it was decided that ACT would hold a single NDA at each campus and an action at parliament house on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. Campus presidents and Education officers within the ACT ran their NDA on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March as they saw fit.

At the Australian National University Sham Sara led the greatest NDA in the country with over 1000 students attending and an extremely successful media stunt out the front of parliament house. At the University of Canberra Kurt Steel and the UC Education Officer also led a great NDA with over 700 students attending and an extremely positive response from the student population.

We had a fantastic response from media outlets, with coverage from Win, Prime, 104.7, ABC and the Canberra times.

ACT's success can be attributed to the fact that we didn't bother with multiple NDAs or a central NDA. I don't believe a central march or speak out in the ACT would have achieved the results that we were able to accomplish. Instead we focused upon gaining media attention and getting our message out to the majority of students at ACT universities.

I also condemn Socialist Alternative for boycotting such an important issue. Socialist Alternative boycotting this issue demonstrates lack of commitment to issues effecting the student body in Australia. Instead they wish to focus on fringe politics which have no relevance to students of Australia's universities.

## Deregulation

ACT did not participate in any actions related to Julia Gillard announcing the implementation of demand driven model. ACT state branch believes there is no issue with deregulation of student places as long as it is fully funded. The demand driven model is a progressive policy and I am struggling to fathom why conservatives within NUS are opposing it. The demand driven model will result students having more choice, opportunity to study and make institutions more accountable. NUS should not be supporting mediocrity.

## **Other business**

I spoke to the Canberra Times a number of times relating to the student services fee which was all very positive.