



vote #1  
**Left**  
**focus**

**for a student union  
with a social conscience**

published by jade eckhaus 327893 / authorised by the returning officer / please recycle

**how to vote for**



**LEFT  
FOCUS**

**President**

[1] Adriana Mells (*Stand Up!*)

**General Secretary:**

[1] Jeremy Gibson (*Left Focus*)

[2] Sarah Xia (*Stand Up!*)

**Education Officer (Academic Affairs):**

[1] Jade Eckhaus & Lia Vassiliadis (*Left Focus*)

[2] Amelia Saward & Millie Austin-Andrews (*Stand Up!*)

**Education Officer (Public Affairs):**

**[1] Anneke Demanuele & Dominic Cernaz**  
(*Stand Up!*)

**Welfare Officer:**

[1] Monica Leng & Nick Reich (*Left Focus*)

[2] Claudia Lombard & Xu Zhang (John) (*Stand Up!*)

**Women's Officer:**

[1] Mairie Sullivan (*Left Focus*)

[2] Aisling Acton & Sonia Lim (*Stand Up!*)

**Queer Officer:**

[1] Audrey Whybrow (*Left Focus*)

**Environment Officer:**

[1] Simon Aplin (*Left Focus*)

**People of Colour Officer:**

[1] Shania Khan (*Left Focus*)

[2] Amy Bartholomeusz & Jenny Huang (*Stand Up!*)

**Students' Council General Representative:**

[1] Left Focus

**Disabilities Representative on Students' Council**

[1] Dannielle Thorman (*Stand Up!*)

**Queer Representative on Students' Council:**

[1] Jade Eckhaus (*Left Focus*)

**Graduate Representative on Students' Council:**

[1] Salimeh Javadian (*Stand Up!*)

**Students of Colour Representative on Students' Council:**

[1] Darren Wong (*Stand Up!*)

**Education Committee:**

[1] Left Focus

**National Union of Students Delegates:**

[1] Left Focus

Left Focus is a coalition of activists united around a desire to campaign for student rights and social justice. We're always working to better the quality of university life and to engage students in progressive campaigns. Here's why a left-wing turn is what UMSU needs!



### Education

The government is still trying to make our degrees more expensive while narrowing our options. We organised the student campaign in 2014 and 2015 which defeated the government's attempts to deregulate all course fees. Here's why activism matters now:

#### What we're facing

- Increased HECS, including higher interest rates, and the government collecting debt from deceased students' graves
- Lower HECS repayment threshold, forcing you to pay more when you earn less
- Uncapped fees for certain degrees
- The university's 'FlexAP' program – abolition of lectures, bigger class sizes
- Cutbacks on student assistance - Stop 1 changes which have lowered the standards of student services

#### What we'll do

- Coordinate National Days of Action across Victoria and Australia for higher education
- Raise student awareness of the 'FlexAP' and campaign against the administration's cuts
- Win better funding of student services and Stop 1
- Campaign for cheaper textbooks
- Campaign to abolish the invasive Cadmus program, which monitors you while you write essays



### Welfare

One out of every 3 students lives in poverty. Youth Allowance payments are less than half of poverty wages

#### What we've organised

- National Days of Action to bring attention to student welfare
- Successful support for higher youth wages at Coles, Grill'd and Hog's Breath Café
- Successful support for unfairly dismissed student workers
- Rallies against Government ministers proposing cuts to welfare
- Student protests against fee deregulation and corporate tax evasion
- Free public forums on education and welfare policy

#### What we'll fight for

- Extending the Free Tram Zone to the Melbourne Uni stop
- Expanding concession card entitlement to end discrimination against international, graduate and part time students
- Increased Youth Allowance
- Cheaper textbooks
- An end to tutorial attendance requirements
- 24 hour library and computer access
- Free student printing allowances



### Combatting Racism

The bigotry and intolerance that exists in Australia affects students at Melbourne Uni. Earlier this year Islamophobic graffiti was scrawled around campus. Pro-refugee posters have been defaced with slogans endorsing Pauline Hanson.

UMSU once campaigned against Apartheid and the Vietnam War. We want it to lead Melbourne as a voice for social justice again.

#### What we've done

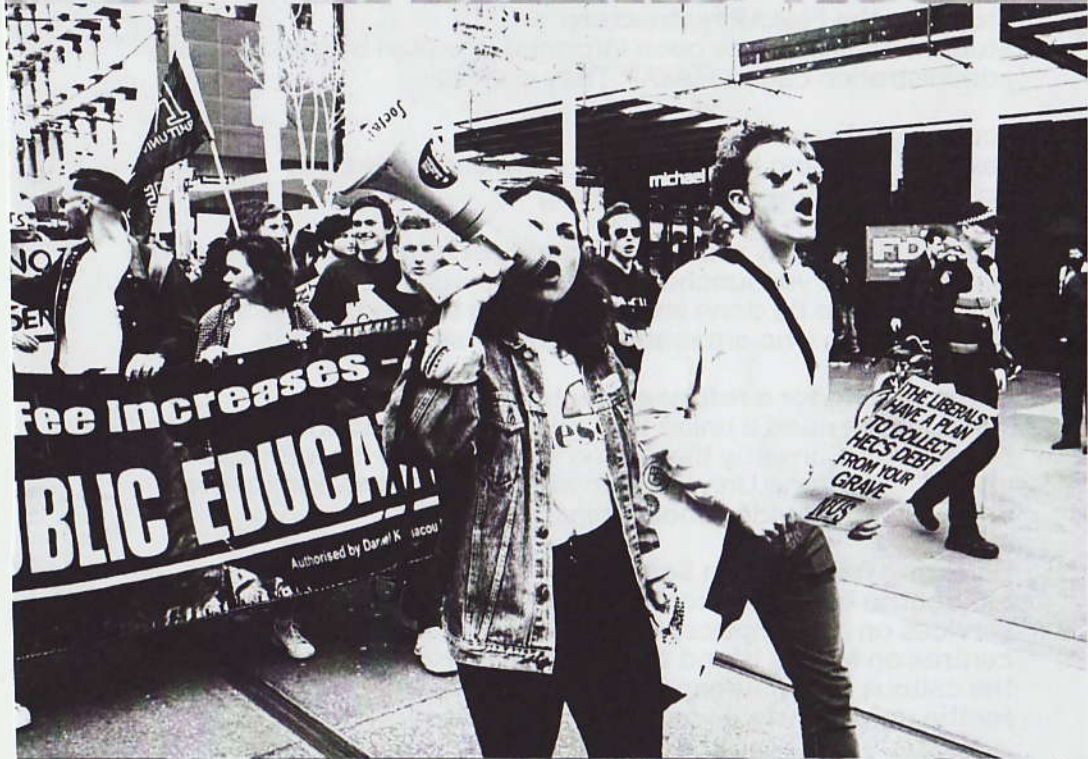
- Successfully campaign against the deportation of Faculty of Medicine member Dr Biswajit Banik and his family
- Successfully campaigned for a refugee scholarship at Adelaide University
- Collected thousands of signatures in support of the Muslim community and against Pauline Hanson, sent to Islamic Council of Victoria in solidarity with the Muslim community
- Held a Halal BBQ in solidarity with Muslim students after campus grounds were vandalised with racist graffiti
- Organised a refugee to speak at a campus forum on his experience of detention
- Organised an American Black Lives Matter activist to speak in Melbourne

#### What we will do in office

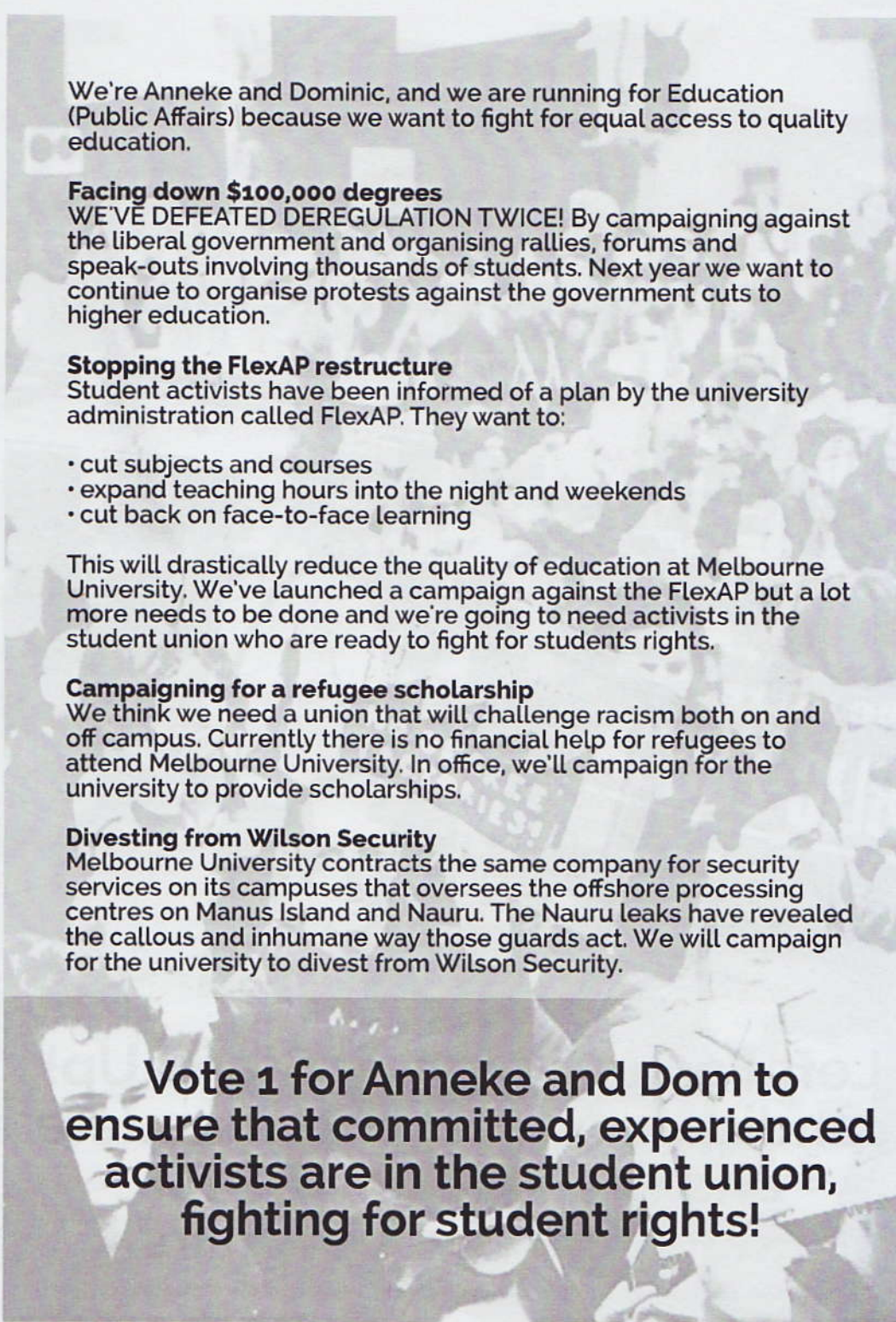
- Campaign for a refugee scholarship at Melbourne Uni
- Ensure that weekly UMSU BBQs + all affiliated clubs BBQs include halal options
- Campaign to relocate the Muslim prayer room to more central and larger location
- Hold an Anti-Racism Week with forums, BBQs, speak-outs, film screenings, and messages of solidarity to refugees
- Fundraise to get a student activist to visit the Nauru detention centre

**for a student union with a social conscience: vote #1 left focus**

# vote #1 anneke & dominic for education (public affairs)



Left Focus endorses Stand Up!  
candidates Anneke Demanuele  
and Dominic Cernaz for  
Education (Public Affairs)



We're Anneke and Dominic, and we are running for Education (Public Affairs) because we want to fight for equal access to quality education.

**Facing down \$100,000 degrees**

WE'VE DEFEATED DEREGULATION TWICE! By campaigning against the liberal government and organising rallies, forums and speak-outs involving thousands of students. Next year we want to continue to organise protests against the government cuts to higher education.

**Stopping the FlexAP restructure**

Student activists have been informed of a plan by the university administration called FlexAP. They want to:

- cut subjects and courses
- expand teaching hours into the night and weekends
- cut back on face-to-face learning

This will drastically reduce the quality of education at Melbourne University. We've launched a campaign against the FlexAP but a lot more needs to be done and we're going to need activists in the student union who are ready to fight for students rights.

**Campaigning for a refugee scholarship**

We think we need a union that will challenge racism both on and off campus. Currently there is no financial help for refugees to attend Melbourne University. In office, we'll campaign for the university to provide scholarships.

**Divesting from Wilson Security**

Melbourne University contracts the same company for security services on its campuses that oversees the offshore processing centres on Manus Island and Nauru. The Nauru leaks have revealed the callous and inhumane way those guards act. We will campaign for the university to divest from Wilson Security.

**Vote 1 for Anneke and Dom to ensure that committed, experienced activists are in the student union, fighting for student rights!**