ANNIKA IS THE ANSWER

VOTE [1] ANNIKA WANG

Student politics may always feel the same, but I am different.

Independent. Impact-driven. Intentional.

I'm Annika Wang.

I grew up in Beijing, China, and came to Sydney in 2023.

I am a second-year Law/Maths student and international student representative.

My platform is about getting things done — **without** factional drama, vague promises, and performative politics.



As a foodie, I realized:

Food is expensive & boring. Price caps aren't working.

MY SOLUTION:

- **Negotiate Discounts with Newtown/ Camperdown/ Glebe/ Chippendale Vendors:**
  - The USU should act like a union — negotiate with local cafes, restaurants, and grocers in Newtown to provide discounts (e.g. 10–15%) to Access Card holders. In return, the USU offers them promotion across its media platforms. This gives students real savings without the cost of running new outlets.
- **New Pop-Up Eateries:**
  - Bring in rotating food trucks and subsidised pop-up stalls, prioritising cultural cuisines and affordable staples under $8. This adds supply, increases competition, and offers choice.
- **Meal Plan Bundles:**
  - Introduce prepaid, heavily discounted meal bundles for students — think "3 lunches for $20" — available at off-peak hours to ease strain on main vendors.
- **Transparent Vendor Deals:**
  - Mandate public disclosure of USU-vendor contracts. Students deserve to know how their money affects pricing. Reassess rent pricing to allow vendors to keep prices low without operating at a loss.

Authorized by Serina Guo | 2414926

As an equity student, I

MY SOLUTION:

- **Equity Tickets Guarantee:**
  - Require that all USU-supported events (balls, camps, conferences) allocate *some* equity tickets — advertised early and clearly on registration pages. Formalise this through C&S funding rules.

- **Transparent Ticketing Policy:**
  - Build an online calendar showing when equity ticket applications open and close for each event. This prevents societies from quietly skipping their obligations or only offering them when convenient.

- **Society Equity Fund Boost:**
  - Set aside a pool of money within the USU's budget to allow C&S to apply for direct subsidies *in advance* of large events. This avoids the issue of societies taking the financial hit themselves and quietly avoiding equity tickets.

- **Free Materials Marketplace:**
  - Set up a permanent online exchange platform — coordinated by the USU — for students to give away or request free items like lab coats, calculators, **textbooks** and costumes. This goes beyond SRC textbook trading!!

- **Equity Training for C&S Executive:**
  - Improve and make mandatory a training module on equity and access for all incoming society leaders. This includes best practices on pricing, accessibility, and cultural sensitivity — not just a policy document few read.

As we live in this economy, I want the job.

BUT... Students struggle to find jobs and meaningful volunteering.

MY SOLUTION:

- **USU Jobs & Internships Portal Revamp:**
  - Partner with local businesses, startups, and university departments to list casual, part-time, and internship roles. AND Tag roles open to international students or requiring no experience. We should have a USU JOBS BOARD.
- **Offer resume/CV help**:
  - Short workshops in collaboration with careers services.
- **Launch Student Freelancer Hub:**
  - Trial a "Student Talent Directory" for designers, editors, photographers, etc. Clubs, USU, and even external groups can commission work — paid where possible, or credited professionally.

As an international student, I feel that:

Campus culture is patchy and inaccessible.

MY SOLUTION:

- **Open Access Discretionary Funding**:
  - Reintroduce flexible grants for clubs with time-sensitive or experimental ideas — with shorter approval turnaround.

- **Week 5 'Homecoming Festival'**:
  - An inclusive, mid-semester event series spotlighting underrepresented cultural, accessibility and international groups.

- **Equity Arts Access Pass**:
  - A pilot card giving discounted/free access to USU theatre and gallery shows — modelled on the London Young+Free pass.

- **Manning Revitalisation Without Cops**:
  - Extend Manning hours for casual use, reintroduce themed nights with harm-minimisation (pill testing, no sniffer dogs).
- **Support for Victim-Survivors**:
  - Make services for victim-survivors more accessible and visible. Provide outreach programs, support groups, and information in multiple languages to assist international students.

AND MORE - You can check them out on my Rednotes @ 小卡 because that is dedicated for the international student policies campaign.

- **Dedicated Housing Support**:
  - Provide a caseworker and staff dedicated to helping international students navigate the housing market, find affordable housing, and understand their rental rights.

- **Multilingual Support**:
  - Translate key resources, including safety information and student guides, into multiple languages (Mandarin, Hindi, Arabic, etc.) to support students from diverse backgrounds.

- **Cultural Integration Programs**:
  - Offer programs to help international students better integrate into campus life, such as mentorship schemes, cultural events, and peer support networks. Currently these exist but are not advertised properly - USU should utilize its social media presence on Rednotes to reach out their their marketing team.

As a woman, I am frustrated that:

Sexual violence is systemically mishandled.

MY SOLUTION:

- **Heatmap Safety Audit**:
  - Publish a live USyd map showing areas with poor lighting and patrols. Use it to lobby Campus Infrastructure for targeted improvements (see ANU's model).

- **Mandated Sober Officers & Reporting Training**:
  - Require all major events to have trained, sober equity officers. Develop online training with real case examples and multilingual resources.

- **C&S Code Compliance Checks**:
  - Introduce biennial reviews to ensure clubs follow safety and equity rules — especially those receiving USU funds.

As a student who wants to be heard, I found that:

Student consultation is often a tick-box.

MY SOLUTION:

- **Monthly Town Halls**:
  - Open Q&A forums in Manning, Fisher and online. The Board and CEO answer questions directly, not filtered through paperwork.

- **Policy Tracker**:
  - A live webpage showing what students have suggested (via forms or events) and what the USU is doing about it. If not feasible, we explain why.

- **C&S Input Mechanism**:
  - Let clubs formally submit issues twice a semester — their lived experience should guide USU policy on funding, events and campus life.

As a passionate society lover, I noticed that:

Societies are seen as users, not collaborators.

MY SOLUTION: Let societies shape the USU's future.

1. Society–USU Collaboration Grants

- Offer funding and planning support for society-led events that align with USU strategic goals — e.g. *Cultural Week* with cultural societies, *Wellbeing Week* with health or equity-focused clubs.
- USU helps with marketing, logistics, and evaluation — societies keep their creative control.

2. Strategic Planning with Student Think Tanks

- Partner with consulting societies (180DC, Enactus, etc) to co-design research or impact assessments — e.g. event accessibility, vendor affordability, or comms effectiveness.
- Students get experience and recognition. The USU gets sharper insight.

3. International Student Engagement Panel

- Work with cultural societies to design inclusive welcome weeks, equity events, and language-accessible materials.
- Rotate representatives so smaller societies are also heard.

As a GenZ doom-scroller, I noticed that:

The USU's digital footprint is sometimes outdated and unhelpful.

MY SOLUTION:

- **USU Events Calendar 2.0**: A central calendar with filters for "free food", "ball tickets", and "equity events" — updated in real time.
- **Website + App Revamp Consultation**: Include student designers and programmers in a working group to modernise and integrate systems.
- **Digital Club Wall**: A live screen in Fisher, SciTech and Manning displaying what's on — like a virtual club wall that reflects real-time engagement.