

Benefits of attending Australian University Grievance conference and TAG Campus Link conference in 2018

The Australian University Grievance conference was held in September at QUT Brisbane and was a wonderful opportunity to meet with just under 100 attendees from 90 Australian and New Zealand universities. The various presentations illustrated the various ways different universities handle student complaints and grievances; they spoke about their policies and some case studies to convey the various issues they deal with. While I felt some universities saw students as being problematic, with difficult problems to solve, others were sincerely endeavouring to support students and help them through the processes of resolving their issues. I found these perspectives helpful when thinking about the representation of students at our University.

The TAG Campus Link conference was held in May 2018 at the Melbourne Conference Centre, it was also another opportunity to meet with representatives of other universities from around Australia. There were a number of student representative organisations at this conference who gave presentations, enabling an understanding of how these organisations operate at other universities to represent their students. There were a number of high-profile speakers, including Professor Sally Varnham who is an advocate for the inclusion of the student voice and building authentic partnerships between students and the policy makers of the universities. I consider the information gained at this conference was invaluable to my work as a Director of Yourimbah when considering how our student representative organisation can best represent the students of our University.

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