

## **James McDonald – Candidate Statement**

My name is James McDonald, I'm your Monash Student Association President and I'm running to be your representative on University Council.

I have spent the last 18 months in MSA working to enhance and improve the student experience. As Welfare Officer, I set out to ensure student wellbeing was a priority of the MSA, handing out thousands of meals at Free Food Mondays, expanding Welfare on Wheels and undertaking a review of the counselling services offered at Monash.

As President this year, I have fought to support students struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic by advocating and working for a number of outcomes that were delivered at Monash including:

- Academic Safety Net (fails aren't recorded)
- Reversed the decision to shorten SWOTVAC
- The distribution of 30,000 meals to International students
- Online counselling booking

While we confront the worst economic landscape and jobs market in a century, Government attacks on higher education have left universities stranded and forced to make dramatic cuts which will affect our learning.

More than ever we need Monash to adapt to our needs as students and prioritise our standard and delivery of education.

Only a dedicated advocate – who has worked with Monash to deliver outcomes but who isn't afraid to call them out – will be able to effectively represent us on the University Council.

With my years of experience in the MSA, working to improve the student experience, I believe I am that person.

So Vote [1] James McDonald for a dedicated and experienced representative.