Social Work Student Placement Program at ANUSA
Emily Yam & Hassan Riaz, Australian National University Students’ Association

In 2016, 2017 and 2018, the ANU Students’ Association registered to be a placement agency with the Australian Catholic University to host their Bachelor and Master of Social Work placement students at our workplace. Bachelor and Master of Social Work students of ACU are required to complete a set number of placement hours at different relevant organisations throughout their degrees. During those years, we were fortunate to host three placement students.

The placement students shadowed and assumed the role of the ANUSA Student Assistance Officers who are full time staff members advocating and assisting fellow students at ANU with issues ranging from academic issues to financial hardship.

Throughout the years, our placement students were able to give us valuable feedback and input to our organisation and similarly, we were able to provide the placement students valuable face-to-face experience during their time here. The experience the students gained assisted them in their journey of becoming social workers, and they were able to pass on best practice examples to their own university as well.

As a students’ association, we prioritise students’ concerns first and we believe this program has allowed us to not just incorporate the voices of our students within our campus, but we were also able to gain invaluable knowledge from incorporating voices from other higher education students as well.

Learning outcomes
- Appreciate the value of the varied input from different sources.
- Understand the importance of working with different groups of students.
- Appreciate the value of partnerships between different universities.

Presenters
Emily Yam, Australian National University Students’ Association
Emily Yam is one of the Student Assistance Officers at the ANU Students’ Association. Prior to working at ANUSA, she studied Psychology and Arts at the ANU. In her current role, Emily assists undergraduate students with issues pertaining to their academic performance, financial issues and personal matters. Emily has been involved in various ANUSA events and projects on campus including the bi-annual ANUSA Less Stressival – a week where students are encouraged to relax and de-stress before their exams.

Hassan Riaz, Australian National University Students’ Association
Hassan is the Student Assistance Officer at the ANU Students’ Association. Apart from advising students on academic, financial and disciplinary matters, he also organizes the Tax Help program where students can get guidance in filing their tax returns. He has academic background in project management, accounting and business administration. He has also served as an executive of the Council of International Students Australia - the peak body for international students in Australia. Being the recipient of a residential scholarship, he has a keen interest in residential campus life. In his current role, he seeks gathering information regarding student welfare from diverse sources and directs his energy to consolidate this information to make it presentable and understandable for students and other stakeholders.