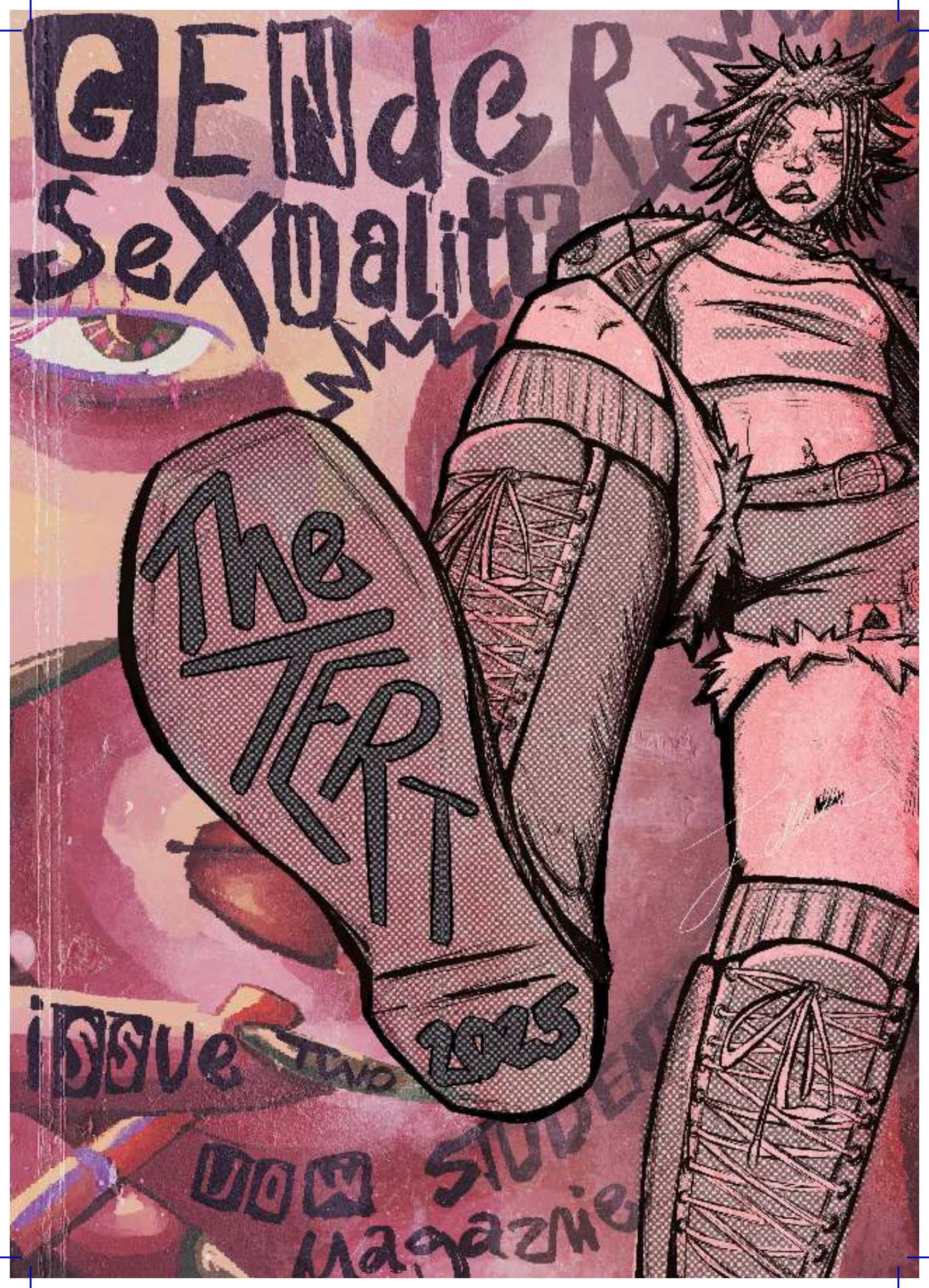




Gender
Sexuality

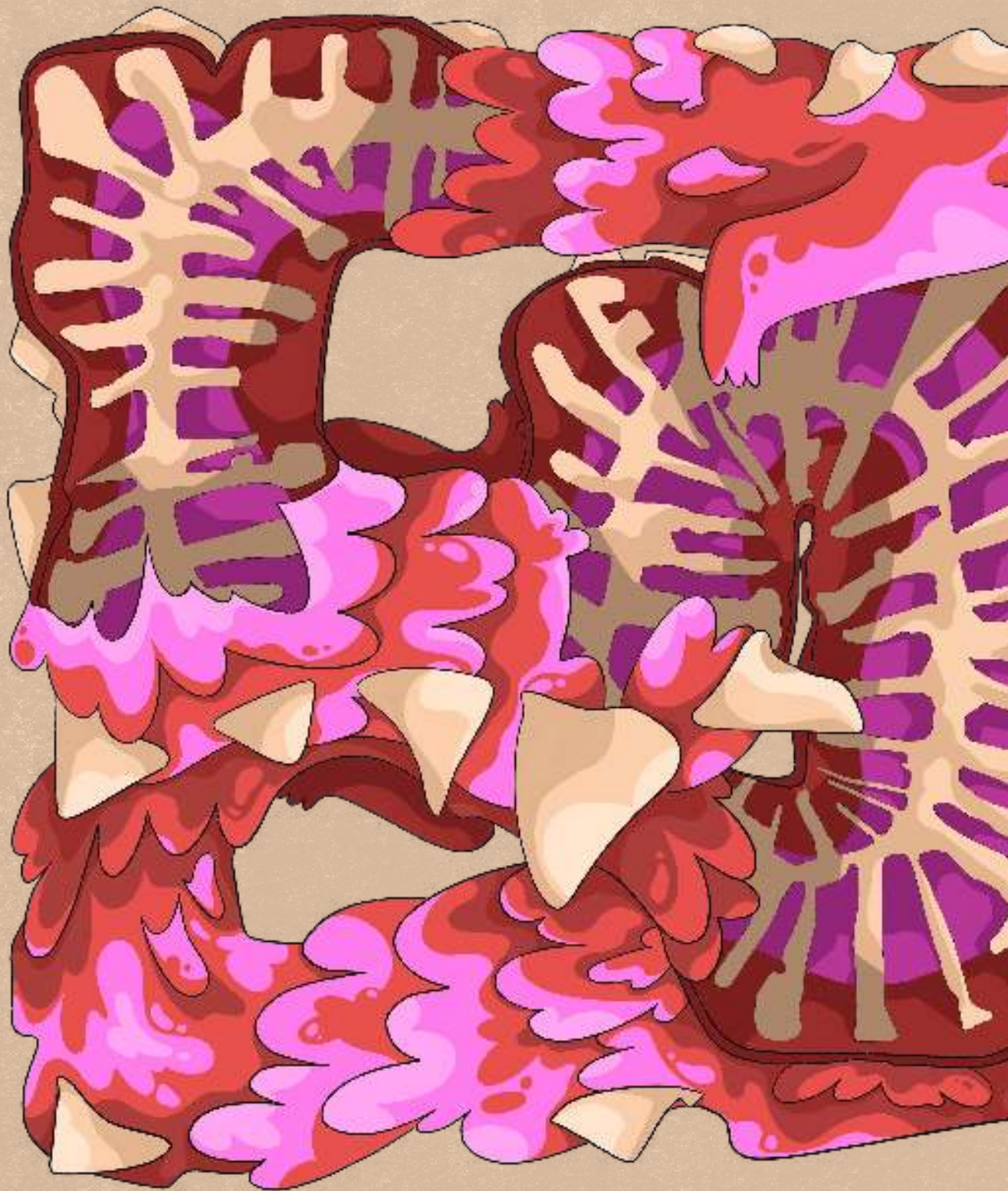


The
TERT
2025



Issue

STUDENT
Magazine



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Tert acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land upon which we meet and work, that of the Dharawal people. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes for Indigenous Australia.



DISCLOSURE

The contents of this publication are made for and by the students of the University of Wollongong. Views expressed are of the individual authors and do not reflect those of the University of Wollongong.

DISCLAIMER

The University of Wollongong accepts no responsibility for this publication.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENDER & SEXUALITY

NEWS

Exemplifying Democratic Chaos, Our Normal (EdCon!)	03
<i>Serena Emanuele</i>	
Eldercon: A Voice of Reason	05
<i>Serena Emanuele</i>	
EdConomy of Care	07
<i>Serena Emanuele</i>	
Evade-a-Con: Day 4	09
<i>Serena Emanuele</i>	
Welcome to Allsorts!	11
<i>Allsorts Representative Team</i>	

FEATURES

A Gay Walks Into a Theatre	15
<i>Asher Wood</i>	
I've never really felt exactly right with girls	19
<i>Anonymous</i>	
Sex Robot Advice Column	21
<i>Clare O'Toole</i>	
The Fetishisation of Women Loving Women Relationships	25
<i>Sophie Longmire</i>	

Fuck With the Intent to Honour Who You Are	29
<i>Miss Eddie</i>	
Aromantic in a Romance-Centred World	33
<i>Annie</i>	
Women, Weed & the Sea	35
<i>Angelina Sokolsky</i>	

ARTWORK

Artwork	45
<i>Ella Lobwein</i>	
Man In The Moon	47
<i>Serena Emanuele</i>	

POETRY

Spinning	51
<i>Angelina Sokolsky</i>	
Tart	53
<i>Angelina Sokolsky</i>	
Prophecy	55
<i>Angelina Sokolsky</i>	
Key Lime Pie	57
<i>Angelina Sokolsky</i>	
Shopping	59
<i>Angelina Sokolsky</i>	
Part 1	61
<i>Lando Sins</i>	
Part 2	62
<i>Lando Sins</i>	
Closer	63
<i>Serena Emanuele</i>	

REVIEWS

Secrets and Sex – A Review of Madame Bovary	67
<i>Serena Emanuele</i>	

EDITORS NOTES

TRADITIONS IN TRANSLATION: A NOTE FROM THE TERT COORDINATOR

Traditions are at the heart of our magazine's foundation. Since 1962, this magazine has brought students together with a common goal of creative expression, pursuit, and liberty. Throughout the years, the magazine itself has taken many forms: newspapers in the 90s, booklets in the 10s, and now, halfway through this decade, we are transforming once more.

You may have noticed that on both issues this year, our name has gotten shorter, catchier. One may even say... cooler. Given the documented history of the Tertangala name, and its inability to be traced back to a proper translation, the 2025 team unanimously agreed to officially change the name. That's right: you're

looking at the new and improved (but nonetheless comforting) name for your student-led media. Drum-roll please... simply, The Tert!

In this sense, some traditions are meant to be broken. But, the best ones are the strange ones. The odd. The weird. The Queer?

Those traditions are the ones we should never let go of. Never stop writing about. And, as the Uni keeps making cuts on subjects, funding and jobs, it's most important now to be the constant in the chaos. For years The Tert has worked closely with the Allsorts Queer Collective to create Gender and Sexuality issues, and we have no intention of stopping any time soon.

Without further ado, ladies, gentlemen, and everyone else, enjoy!

With love,
Serena Emanuele
Tert Coordinator

EDITORS NOTES

'I THINK, LOOK AT US. WITNESS US. IN A WORLD THAT WISHES FOR OUR ANNIHILATION, HERE ARE OUR BODIES, SPECTACULARLY COLLIDING.'

— DYLIN HARDCASTLE, *A LANGUAGE OF LIMBS*

I wrote and re-wrote about five or six different opening lines for this note, all of which shared the same main point: we're living in scary times.

But, I don't need to tell you that. You have a working internet connection and access to all manner of platforms where you can watch things go to shit in real time. You have friends and classmates and coworkers and family and the TV in the waiting room playing silent, closed-captioned news broadcasts while you wait hours for the only bulk-billed appointment you could find. You already know.

What you need isn't more bad news. We're not wired to be this terrified and enraged every waking second.

What you need is queer joy.

Dylin Hardcastle's words, above, jumped out at me while I was busy agonising over what to say here. Our protagonist is at a beautiful party in a queer sharehouse in the late 1970s, backdropped by the brutal discrimination, homelessness, and violence faced by the queer community at the time. It's the eve of the first Mardi Gras and just a few years before the beginning of the AIDS crisis. They're fighting for their lives, but they're still living.

This is what I encourage you to do. Find the things that remind you you're alive. Chase them. Do them as much as humanly possible. Whether it's, like Hardcastle's characters, partying until sunrise with a hundred of your closest friends, or whether it's simply putting on that outfit (you know the one) for a quick trip to Woolies. If you, to quote Hannah Gadsby's *Nanette*, are wondering, 'where do the quiet gays go,' try rounding up your favourite nerds for a queer movie marathon. In a world that wants you to sacrifice every comfort, give up pride, and live in constant fear, persist.

Of course, don't stop there. Mutual aid, protest, community care, education, and combating the abhorrent attacks on our rights are as important as they've ever been. All I mean is, don't pour from an empty cup. Remember your younger self. Remember the first time something made you feel proud of who you are. That is who you're fighting to protect. Do all you can to ensure their safety, but don't forget to nourish them, too.

This issue's contributors explore the highs and lows of identity, gender, sex, and queerness. I hope you find yourself reflected somewhere in these pages. I hope it brings you joy, connection, and the motivation to keep fighting. I hope it nourishes you.

With disgusting sincerity,
Asher

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EXEMPLIFYING DEMOCRATIC CHAOS, OUR NORMAL (EDCON!)

BY SERENA EMANUELE

A summary of events from the first plenary. More to come!

The chaos that erupted in the first plenary of Day One at the 2025 National Union of Students' Education Conference (EdCon) was, perhaps, not surprising. However lacking in information regarding the development of the EdCon events, the plenary started strong with a list of main arguments that all students were urged to discuss throughout the week. The list goes as follows: Palestine; university funding cuts; the record of the Labour Party government; the global rise of the far-right; the importance of a Union of Students; and, the National Day of Action for Palestine on the 7th of August.

It's a long list – and there was much to be said about each one.

KEEPING PALESTINE IN DISCUSSION

NUS Education Officer, James McVicar, opened with a discussion on the atrocities unfolding in Palestine, describing the situation as “the crime of the century.” He called attention to starvation in Gaza, rationing, and mass graves of workers, framing Palestine as a “central political question for millions of young people around the world.”

McVicar brought up what he highlighted as a global complicity in the crisis, referencing comments made by Foreign Minister Penny Wong in October 2023. On ABC Radio National, Wong stated: “It's always very difficult from over here to make judgements about what security approach other countries take.” McVicar argued that the Australian government's position amounted to cooperation with Israel's actions in Gaza.

“No other word than cooperation.”

He went on to describe the response across Australia as a “mass movement,” citing the regular protests held since the October 7 attacks and the significant role students have played. University complicity was also raised, with several speakers noting ties between Australian institutions and weapons manufacturers. “Standing up for Palestine has meant standing up to basically every large institution in Australia,” McVicar said, adding that the right to protest and engage politically is increasingly under threat. He claimed that universities have been working to “shut down activism and protests around any issue that institutions and governments don't want to hear about.”

The situation boils down – or, perhaps, up – to one question: “Are you willing to stand up to your institutions ... complicit in this crime?”