

Hi. I'm Val Slade, a First-Year Secondary Education student at the Mt Helen Campus, applying for the role of Ballarat and Surrounds Student representative.

I have a passion for advocacy and understand the importance of student voices in our university.

Whilst in school I was Vice Captain, my focus was on diversity and inclusion, to which I ran campus wide events and challenges, such as the push up challenge.

One of my proudest achievements was the International Women's Day luncheon, where I integrated my community connections to be guest speakers, focusing on topics such as gender gaps and provided valuable resources.

These connections were made during my volunteer experience with the Y Ballarat. This role focused on event organisation and consultation work.

I'm committed to listening to my fellow students and using my developing skills and myriads of experiences to advocate for positive change and combat issues you have identified in Ballarat and Surrounding.

If elected, I'll work alongside students and staff to create a better university experience for all.

During my term I hope to create more opportunities for students to connect with other students from their courses, institutes, campus, and other campuses.

These networking opportunities will create a stronger culture of connection within our university, provide opportunities to spend time with friends at university, grant students' chances to meet new people, and connect with peers outside the classroom.

Other than benefiting your social lives while at FedUni, these connections may be invaluable in our professional lives post-graduation as we may be studying with our future co-workers or someone you meet may have the connection you need to land your dream job.

Federation University is an amazing place full of opportunity but our voices, with me as your spokesperson, can create more amazing experiences for ourselves and future students.