

**From:** [Deputy Vice-Chancellor \(Academic\)](#)  
**To:** s22 [REDACTED] [Vice-Chancellor](#); [Vice-Chancellor EA](#)  
**Cc:** [Chancellor](#); [Director - UE](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Pro-Palestinian Protests on ANU Campus  
**Date:** Wednesday, 1 May 2024 8:36:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Dear s22 [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, I'm responding on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Genevieve Bell. I am sorry to hear of the distress the Kambri encampment has caused to you and other members of the University's Jewish community.

Here at ANU, we are a community that values diversity and inclusion. We are also a campus and community of respectful debate. All students and staff are free to express themselves on any issue in line with Australian law. ANU has robust protections and measures in place to help prevent and take action against discrimination, including alleged antisemitism, through its existing policies and procedures.

As you correctly note, the encampment is a student-led protest, the University is not involved, however, we are in constant communication with the organizers and have additional security in place to ensure everyone's safety. We have encouraged ANUSA to engage respectfully with any members of the ANU community who express concerns, and I encourage you to contact the ANUSA President directly.

We previously raised with ANUSA concerns about the 'from the river to the sea' poster which was removed for several weeks. In response to your email, I have again raised this matter directly with the ANUSA President. Please let me know if you would like to take this matter further.

I have also tasked the Director of University Experience, Lisa Kennedy, to engage directly with Jewish student groups with a view to supporting their wellbeing. Lisa, copied on this email, is available to assist with further queries.

We understand the current conflict is causing great distress among many in the ANU community and the University has a wide range of support available including a safe place specifically for our Jewish students. ANU has been actively encouraging all members of the University to be respectful when expressing views on the current conflict. We strongly encourage any student affected by the encampment or the conflict more broadly to access the support provisions ANU has put in place.

We are here to help our community through this terribly difficult time. As always, the safety and wellbeing of all our community is our highest priority.

Thank you once again for your email. We appreciate it greatly.

Kind regards

Grady

Professor Grady Venville

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic

Office of the Vice-Chancellor | Chancelry 10 East Road | The Australian National University | Canberra ACT 2601

T: + 61 2 6125 4873 | W: [www.anu.edu.au](http://www.anu.edu.au)

TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12002 (Australian University) | CRICOS Provider Code: 00120C | ABN: 52 234 063 906

*The Australian National University acknowledges, celebrates and pays our respects to the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people of the Canberra region and to all First Nations Australians on whose traditional lands we meet and work, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history.*





**From:** Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)  
**To:** s22  
**Cc:** Vice-Chancellor; Director - UE  
**Subject:** FW: Ongoing Kambri protests  
**Date:** Thursday, 2 May 2024 8:47:44 AM

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Dear s22

Thank you for your email, I'm responding on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Genevieve Bell. I am sorry to hear of the distress the Kambri encampment has caused to you and other members of the University's Jewish community.

We are a community that values diversity and inclusion. We are also a campus and community of respectful debate. All students and staff are free to express themselves on any issue in line with Australian law. ANU has robust protections and measures in place to help prevent and take action against discrimination, including alleged antisemitism, through our existing policies and procedures.

As you correctly note, the encampment is a student-led protest, the University is not involved, however, we are in constant communication with the organizers and have additional security in place to ensure everyone's safety. We have encouraged ANUSA to engage respectfully with any members of the ANU community who express concerns, and I encourage you to contact the ANUSA President directly to convey to them your views and feelings.

We previously raised with ANUSA concerns about the 'from the river to the sea' poster which was removed for several weeks. In response to your email and communication from other people, I have again raised this matter directly with the ANUSA President.

I have also tasked the Director of University Experience, Lisa Kennedy, to engage directly with Jewish student groups with a view to supporting their wellbeing. Lisa, copied on this email, is meeting regularly with the ANU Jewish Students' Association and is available to assist with further queries.

We understand the current conflict is causing great distress among many in the ANU community and the University has a wide range of support available including a safe place specifically for our Jewish students. ANU has been actively encouraging all members of the University to be respectful when expressing views on the current conflict. We strongly encourage any student affected by the encampment or the conflict more broadly to access the support provisions ANU has put in place.

I also encourage you to consider using the ANU Harmful Behaviours Disclosure Response and Support tool to receive support and information to assist your wellbeing or to make a formal complaint. You can find the harmful behaviours tool here:

<https://www.anu.edu.au/students/health-safety-wellbeing/getting-help-at-anu/harmful-behaviours-disclosure-response-and>)

I can assure you that, while we do not discuss matters concerning individual

members of our community, we do take action when we become aware of behaviour that is in breach of the discipline rule or the student code of conduct.

We are here to help our community through this terribly difficult time. As always, the safety and wellbeing of all our community is our highest priority.

Thank you once again for your email. We appreciate it greatly.

Kind regards  
Grady

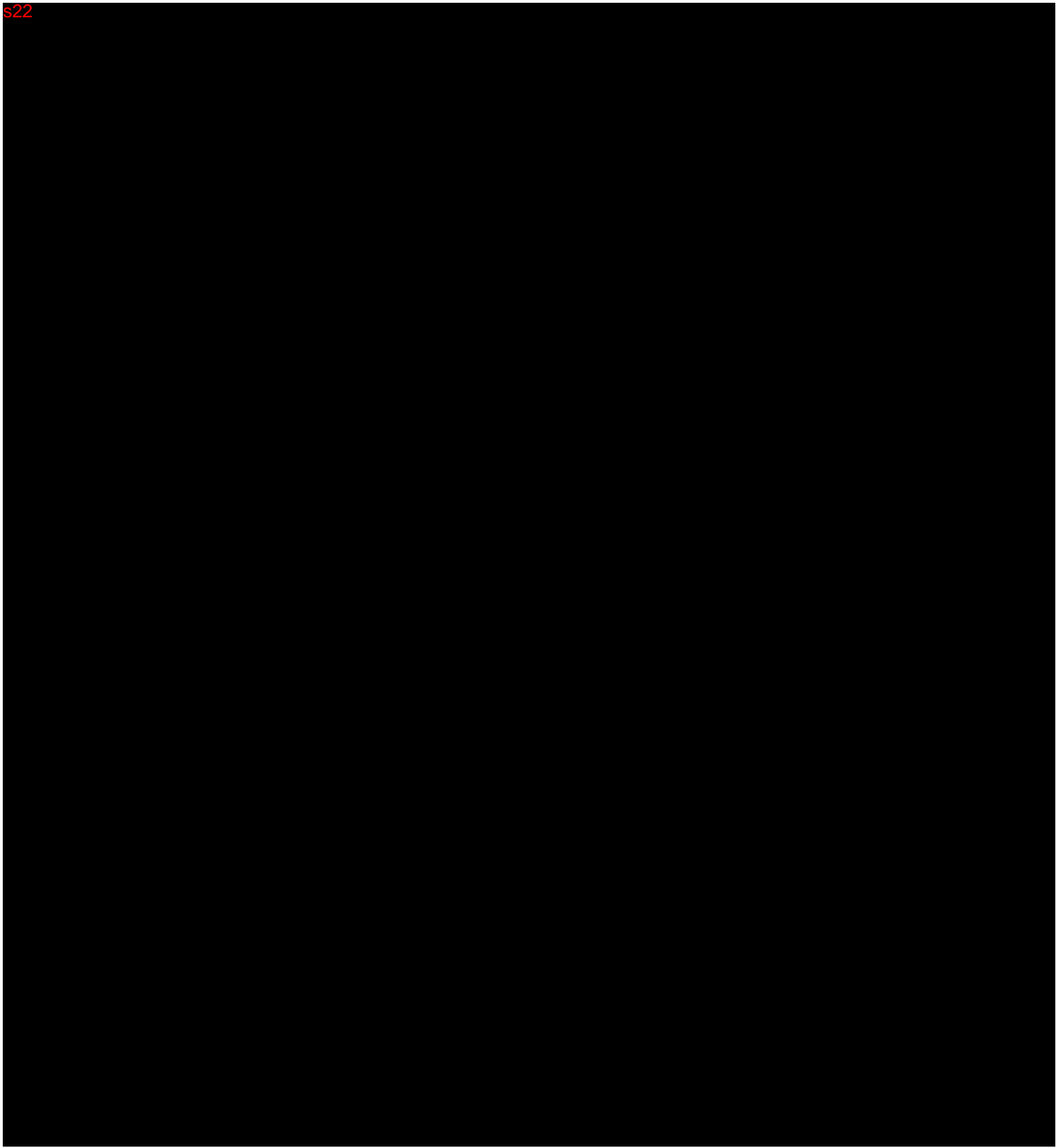
Professor Grady Venville

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic

Office of the Vice-Chancellor | Chancelry 10 East Road | The Australian National University | Canberra ACT 2601

T: [+ 61 2 6125 4873](tel:+61261254873) | W: [www.anu.edu.au](http://www.anu.edu.au)

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**From:** [Grady Venville](#)  
**To:** s47F [Vice-Chancellor](#)  
**Cc:** s22  
**Subject:** Re: ANU Gaza Solidarity Camp  
**Date:** Monday, 20 May 2024 10:14:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Dear s47F

Thank you for your email and sharing your views about the encampment on our campus. We welcome feedback.

ANU is a place of respectful debate and we are proud of our long history of student political engagement. All staff and students are free to express themselves in line with the University's Code of Conduct and Australian law. We understand that our diverse staff and students have different views on the situation in Gaza and Israel and other parts of the world and welcome those views being respectfully expressed.

To be clear, we have not asked any students to stop protesting, they may continue to respectfully and peacefully protest.

We have asked students to leave the encampment due to health and safety issues for the encampment participants themselves and also the wellbeing and safety of others. We have made this very clear to the students in the encampment.

The Vice-Chancellor invited the encampment students, through an email address provided by them, to nominate three representatives to a meeting for an open discussion. There was no response to the email, no representatives were nominated and no-one turned up to the meeting. We followed up in person and one person at the encampment said they couldn't decide who would be their representatives.

Our campus is a place of work and study for more than 25,000 people and a home for more than 6000 students. Many people in our community have told me they feel unsafe, disrespected and unwelcome on campus due to the encampment and they are not able to go about their work and studies. The encampment is dividing our community and disrupting our core functions.

The University is also committed to its [Socially Responsible Investment Policy](#) through which we aim to avoid investment opportunities considered to be likely to cause substantial social injury. We strive to remain a leader nationally and internationally in working pro-actively as an active asset-owner, creating a greenhouse gas neutral future as well as promoting strong social and governance practices.

The University's Investment Office reports to the University's governing authority, Council, through Finance Committee on assets held and contradictions to the policy. The current ANU Student Association (ANUSA) President and the ACT NTEU President, both active protestors, are members of the ANU Council. They are able to raise relevant concerns about ANU investments through our regular governance processes. We don't understand



why they have not done this.

The wellbeing and safety of our people is of utmost importance, and we will work to maintain the good order of our campus and the social cohesion of our community. I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Kind regards  
Grady

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Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic

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**From** s47F

**Date:** Monday, 20 May 2024 at 12:38 pm

**To:** Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

**Cc:** Grady Venville <Grady.Venville@anu.edu.au>, s22

s22

By email

Dear Vice Chancellor and ANU Executive

We write in relation to the student encampment and the four demands concerning the

situation in Gaza that are directed to the ANU, (and the fifth that is directed to the Australian Government calling for corrective action in relation to Israel and Palestine).

We note that you have not discussed these concerns with the students at the encampment and those supporting the protest.

We urge you to sit down and talk in an open and constructive manner.

We believe as bright, thoughtful and moral young people that they have an important message to communicate to you and to our community.

Students are the “canary in the coalmine” and universities have historically played a critical role in harbouring and fostering ideas of truth, objectivity, morality and human liberation.

Human progress is never made by people who accept things as they are, even if they are wrong because it is too difficult or career limiting to challenge the powerful.

As an organisation promoting peace, we also support the students demand that the ANU divest from all arms companies, and disclose all investments by the university

The situation in Gaza almost defies description in the scope and scale of its horror.

Nothing justifies the inhumanity of the wholesale destruction of Gaza or the slaughter of civilians - nor the 76 year history of dispossession and oppression of the Palestinians.

Ultimately justice will prevail as the world becomes aware of the actual facts of the displacement and oppression since 1948 in Palestine.

It is important that the university take no action to impede peaceful, if at times uncomfortable, debate on critical issues of morality and power.

We understand that seven students have been notified of disciplinary action if the encampment is not removed.

The initial reasons given were damage to the lawns and disagreeable smells from the camp. We understand that the most recent reasons given were concerns for the well being of all students, which we certainly share.

These reasons are ludicrous and unfounded when compared to the grave, indeed horrifying, circumstances of the Palestinians and the peaceful nature of the encampment.

We also note the rising clamour from the right wing press and political pressure to close down the protest by forcefully demolishing the camp. Those representatives of the press, and the Israeli lobby, would no doubt prefer that the public focus be on the claims of anti semitism, which we reject as false, rather than the horrific genocide happening in Gaza.

Further, we note that the University of Sydney VC, Mark Scott, is reported as saying that chants such as “intifada” and “from the river to the sea” do not cross the line into hate speech, and that universities “must be safe and responsible bastions of free speech”. We ask that you take the same approach.

We urge you not to take the path of repression - for the sake of the students, many of whom we have met, for the sake of the university and its reputation, and for the sake of the Palestinians suffering almost indescribable horrors.

Please stay on the right side of history.

Remain an institution that promotes free expression and allows protest against injustice.

We would like to meet with you urgently as a community group with close ties to the ANU to further discuss these issues.

I may be contacted on s47F to make the necessary arrangements.a

Yours faithfully

s47F

For the IPAN ACT Steering Committee (Independent and Peaceful Australia Network)

20 May 2024

From: [Grady Venville](#)

To: s47F

Cc: [Vice-Chancellor](#); s22

s22

Subject: Re: Gaza solidarity camp at ANU

Date: Monday, 20 May 2024 10:50:18 PM

Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

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Dear s47F

We appreciate your concern and feedback about the University's investments and how to manage the campus and we take these concerns very seriously.

It might be helpful for you to know that the University's Investment Office reports to the University's governing authority, Council, through Finance Committee on assets held and contradictions to the policy.

The current ANU Student Association (ANUSA) President and the ACT NTEU President, both active protestors, are members of the ANU Council. They are able to raise relevant concerns about ANU investments through our regular governance processes. We don't know why they have not done this. You might like to raise your concerns with them.

I'd like to reassure you that we will scrutinise our investments to ensure they are consistent with our socially responsible investment policy and our University values. Again, we appreciate your feedback.

Kind regards

Grady

Professor Grady Venville

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic

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s47F



On Fri, May 17, 2024 at 10:07 AM Grady Venville <[Grady.Venville@anu.edu.au](mailto:Grady.Venville@anu.edu.au)>  
wrote:

Dear 

Thank you for your email to the Australian National University. I'm responding on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell, and my other colleagues.

s47F



I assure you that the University is committed to its Socially Responsible Investment Policy through which we avoid investments considered to be likely to cause substantial social injury. We strive to remain a leader nationally and internationally in working pro-actively as an active asset-owner, creating a greenhouse gas neutral future as well as promoting strong social and governance practices.

ANU is a place of respectful debate and we are proud of our long history of student political engagement. All staff and students continue to be free to express themselves in line with the University's Code of Conduct and Australian law.

Thank you again for your email, we look forward to seeing you on campus again soon.

Kind regards

Grady

Professor Grady Venville

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic

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**From:** s47F

**Date:** Thursday, 16 May 2024 at 11:14 am

**To:** Vice-Chancellor <[vc@anu.edu.au](mailto:vc@anu.edu.au)>

**Cc:** Grady Venville <[Grady.Venville@anu.edu.au](mailto:Grady.Venville@anu.edu.au)>, s22

s22

s22

s47F





