



Australian
National
University

2023 SSAF Survey Report

Executive Summary

On 11 October 2011, the Australian Parliament passed legislation allowing universities and other higher education providers to charge a fee for student services and amenities of a non-academic nature. This fee is known as the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF).

The fee may be spent by higher education providers on items such as sporting and recreational activities, employment and career advice, childcare, financial advice and food services.

Under the Higher Education Support (Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy) Guidelines 2022, consultation is required to be undertaken with students about the specific uses of SSAF revenue. The 2023 survey is used by the University's SSAF recipients (these include: ANU Sport and Recreation Association, the Australian National University Students' Association (ANUSA), the Australian National University Student Media Inc. (Woroni), ANU Observer and Student Services team) to develop and inform their budgets, programs and services for 2024.

The 2023 survey was open from Monday 28th August 2023 through to Sunday 10th September 2023 11:59 pm, there were 702 responses to the survey, which is approximately 2.8% of the student cohort and therefore not enough data for substantial student representation.

In the 2023 SSAF survey respondents indicated a high awareness of SSAF. However, fewer respondents were aware of the services and amenities funded by SSAF. Consequently, more could be done to increase the awareness of those services and amenities funded by SSAF and options on how this is best done will be considered by SSAF recipients.

The top three services and amenities which are the most important to students are:

1. Providing health or welfare services to students;
2. Providing support for the specific needs of student cohorts (e.g. international students or students with children or caring responsibilities); and
3. Providing legal services and support to students.

The bottom three services and amenities that are the least important to students are:

1. Supporting students to produce and share creative, artistic and news media;
2. Supporting student discussion, debate and advocacy; and
3. Supporting the orientation and transition of new students.

The top and bottom three services and amenities are consistent with previous iterations of the SSAF survey and therefore provides a good understanding to service providers where funding should be prioritised.

Survey respondents were invited to share ideas in a free text box on how their SSAF should be used. The top three themes that were mentioned multiple times were food/meals, health and wellbeing (including medical, mental health, and sport and recreation), and accommodation/housing.

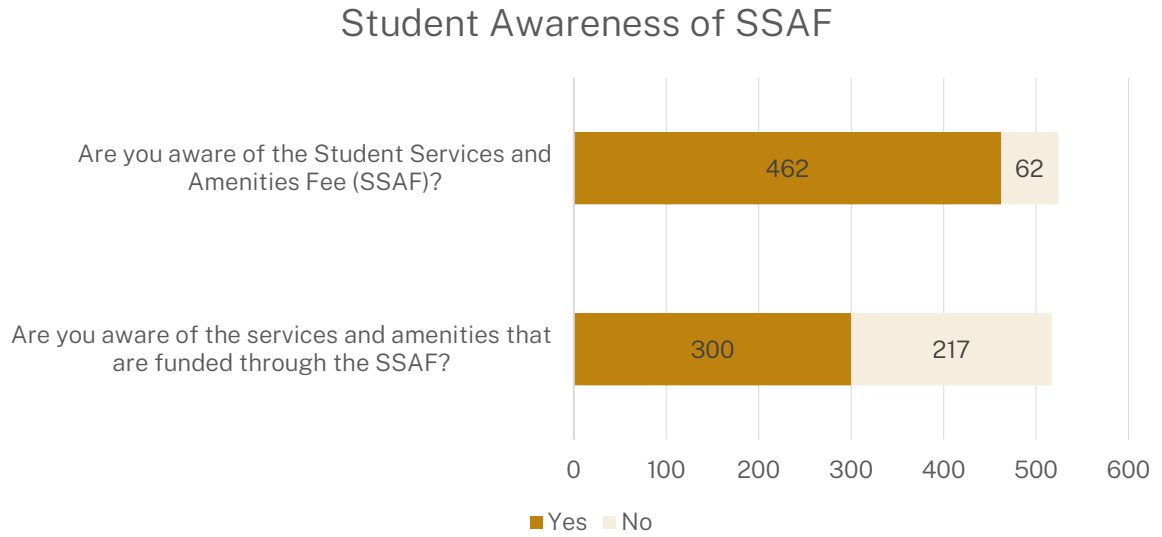
87% of respondents value participating in services and activities funded by SSAF. This shows the value of student consultation in the use of SSAF revenue to ensure that their fees are being utilised to fund services and activities in the following year.

The majority of recipients who responded to the survey live in the Canberra region and attend campus. This is expected as the majority of students study on the Acton campus.

The split of respondents between undergraduate (including honours research) students, 59%, and postgraduate (including Higher Degree by Research) students, 41%, is largely representative of the total student cohort

Survey Results

Student Awareness of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)

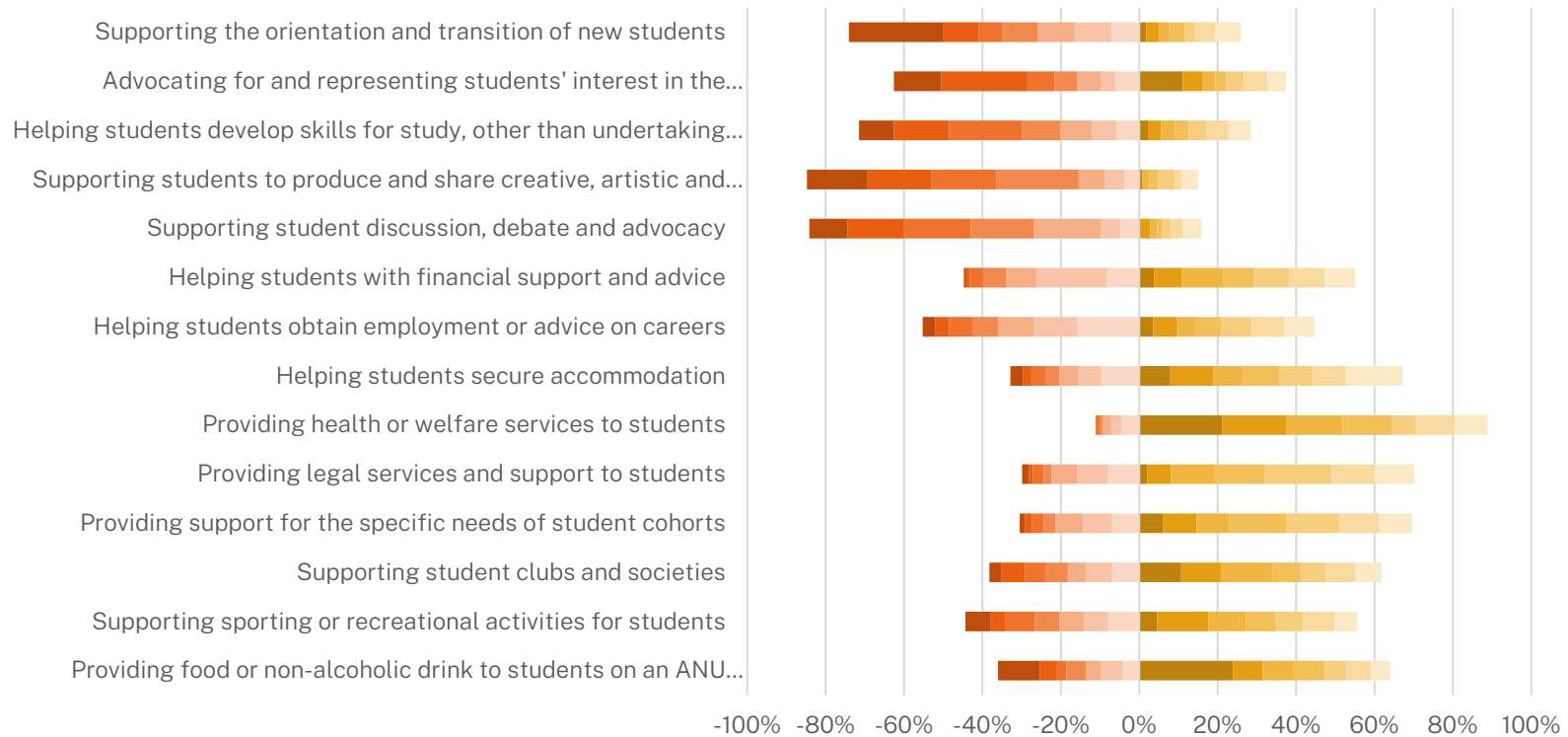




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In accordance with The Higher Education Support Act 2003, SSAF revenue must be spent on student services and amenities of non-academic nature that fall within 19 defined service types. Please rank the services from most important to least important to you.

*the list of 19 items was simplified into 14 items.





Please share ideas or comments on how your SSAF should be used.

**The individual comments from respondents have been consolidated in to overarching thoughts and common themes. Some respondents were not specific with ideas or comments therefore these have not been included.*

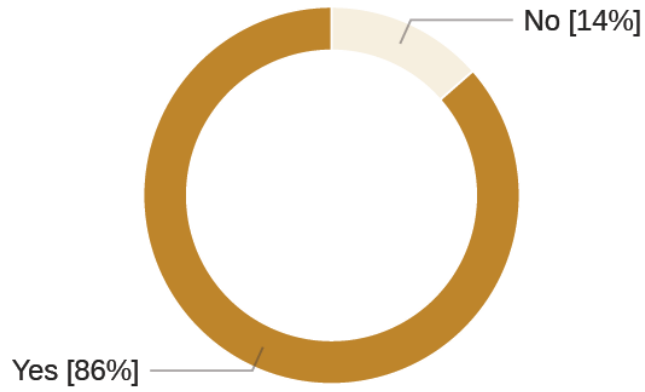
Respondents are keen to see...

- More affordable accommodation on campus
- More study spaces or quiet zones
- Access to more affordable or free food
- More accessibility across campus
- Mental health programs for students
- Better access to health and wellbeing initiatives including sport and recreation
- Grocery vouchers
- Counselling and medical support
- More support and activities for off-campus students
- Improved infrastructure and facilities (for sport and study)
- Career and skill building workshops
- Extra-curricular community building activities
- Financial and legal services
- Childcare support
- International student support

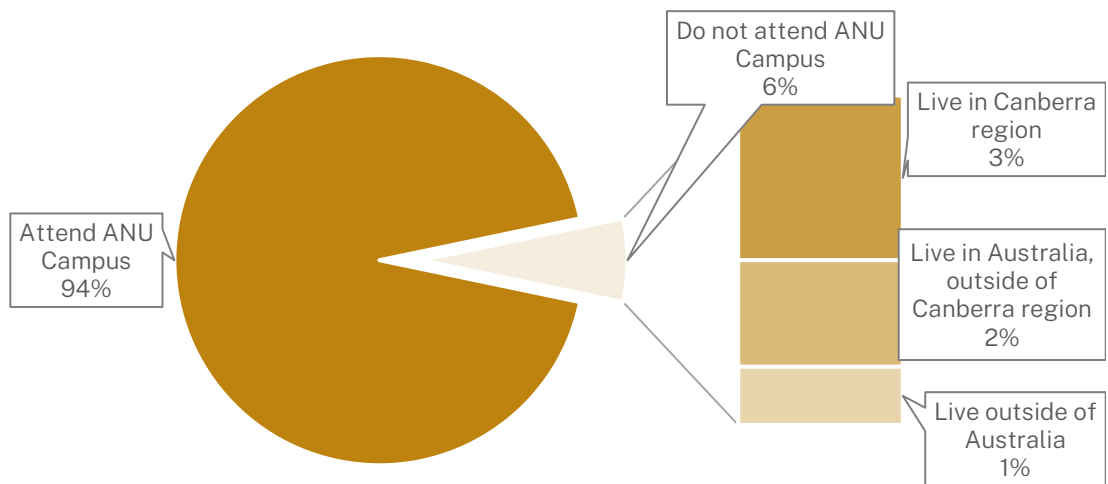
Common themes

<i>Theme</i>	<i>No. of times the theme was mentioned</i>
Food/meals	29
Health and wellbeing (including medical, mental health, and sport and recreation)	25
Accommodation/Housing	15
Career and skill building	8
International students support	7
Facilities	4
Financial and legal services	12
Childcare	7
Community Building	8

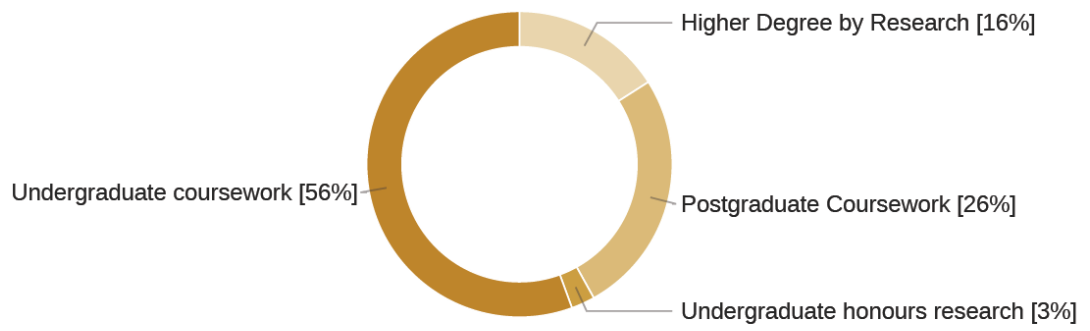
Do you value being able to participate in services and activities that SSAF money funds?



Please let us know where you are studying with ANU in Semester 2, 2023.



Please let us know what type of degree you are studying towards with ANU.



Academic Portfolio / University Experience

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