

Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)

2021 Report



Australian
National
University

Our Vision

The Australian National University (ANU) Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Annual Report (the Annual Report) that we present here, referring to the year 2021, outlines the SSAF revenue allocation and its use across 2021.

This report is a source of great satisfaction to the ANU. As part of a new governance framework, the University has established the Student Services Council (SSC) which will be an ongoing council with an advisory role on all matters pertaining to SSAF, its allocation and use across different services provided to the ANU students, as well as reporting and acquittals. As the oversight body that is committed to make great efforts to continue the work that is done by SAFF recipients, the SSC brings about a new governance model and implementation of a robust SSAF administration and management system.

The Annual reports relating to the allocation of SSAF revenue will be released following the first SSC quarterly meeting of each year. For questions relating to this report, please e-mail our SSC team at student.services.council@anu.edu.au.

Introduction

What was SSAF used for in 2021?

In mid-late October 2020, each SSAF recipient received a letter advising of the proposed funding amount for 2021 (based on the estimated SSAF funds available in 2020). The SSAF recipients also received the data and analysis from the [SSAF Survey](#). The information contained in the survey results let the service providers know what priorities are of value to the student body. The service providers were then asked to develop their operating budgets, including details of programs and services they would be offering in 2021 and the value of these programs and activities to the student body.

In 2021, the University made a commitment to allocate \$4,646,070 in fee revenue generated from SSAF to ANU service providers and reserved one percent of the total allocation which summed up to a total of \$4,693,000 committed SSAF. We also established that if the fees collected by the end of 2021 exceeded the estimated SSAF revenue collection, the excess would be allocated to the SSAF reserves fund to cover any potential shortages in the future.

The 2021 SSAF allocation amount is identified in table 1 below:

Table 1

Service providers to receive funding	2021 Allocation	2021 Percentage (%)
ANUSA	\$1,642,550	35
PARSA	\$1,454,830	31
ANU Sport and Recreation	\$844,740	18
Student services teams	\$469,300	10
Woroni Media	\$140,790	3
ANU Observer	\$46,930	1
Research Training (Dean HDR)	\$46,930	1
Reserves	\$46,930	1
TOTAL	\$4,693,000	100

SSAF Allocations Breakdown for 2021

ANUSA

In recognition of the important work that the Australian National University Students' Association (ANUSA) plays in providing independent student representation, advocacy and activities to undergraduate students, the University committed 35% of the SSAF revenue to ANUSA.

The revenue provided to ANUSA was intended to support the student association deliver some of its key priorities across 2021, including essential student activities, services,

facilities, and financial assistance which was a key aspect of the SSAF funding to ANUSA given the impact COVID had on the University's student cohorts.

Over the past two years, during unprecedented circumstances, ANUSA provided Student Assistance Grants. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, ANUSA has provided almost \$900,000 of grants directly to students. In 2021 alone, the organisation spent over \$221,000 providing financial assistance to over 1,100 students. Results from ANUSA's annual survey indicated that 97.86% of students surveyed found the financial support useful and helped ensure they didn't reduce their course load or drop out of study at ANU.

Additionally, through providing funds to over 130 unique clubs and societies, ANUSA has helped ensure that thousands of students have stayed connected to their communities throughout multiple lockdowns.

The total amount allocated to ANUSA in 2021 is outlined in table 2 below:

Table 2

ANUSA SSAF Allocation 2021	
SSAF allocation for 2021	\$ 1,642,550.00
Continuing SSAF from 2020	\$ 287,308.00
Total SSAF 2021 income	\$ 2,054,858.00

PARSA

The Postgraduate and Research Students' Association plays an equally important role in the delivery of critical activities, social and wellbeing support to the University's postgraduate and research students. For this purpose, the University committed 31% of the SSAF revenue to the activities and programs run by PARSA.

PARSA has also delivered financial assistance to its associated students across COVID years. The PARSA Emergency Grant alone provided up to \$1,500 per semester to postgraduate students who were facing genuine and unexpected financial hardship. Similarly, the Family Safety and Supplement Grants provided up to \$300 to enrolled postgraduate students who were in vulnerable situations facing domestic violence, unsafe home environments and/or faced unexpected financial hardship.

In recognition of the large number of ANU postgraduate and research students on a student visa, PARSA has offered in-house migration services to international students through a Registered Migration Agent. This initiative was critical to support international postgraduate and research students understand their rights and obligations in Australia.

The total amount allocated to PARSA in 2021 is outlined in table 3 below:

Table 3

PARSA SSAF Allocation 2021	
SSAF allocation for 2021	\$ 1,454,830.00
Continuing SSAF from 2020	\$ 80,000.00
Total SSAF 2021 income	\$ 1,634,830.00

WORONI Media

ANU Student Media is the Association that encompasses Woroni, Woroni Radio and Woroni TV. Woroni has been the ANU student newspaper since 1950, Woroni Radio was established in 2012 and Woroni TV was launched in 2017. This organisation promotes conversations, and provides a platform for people with different views, identities and lived experiences.

As a student-led organisation, Woroni Media has the mission to produce print, radio and television content that reflects the ANU community. As a key player in promoting one of the world's best student experience at the University, Woroni has received the below SSAF revenue in 2021:

Table 4

WORONI SSAF Allocation 2021	
SSAF allocation for 2021	\$ 140,790.00
Continuing SSAF from 2020	\$ 22,003.55
Total SSAF 2021 income	\$ 182,793.55

ANU Observer

The ANU Observer plays an important role in supporting the production and dissemination to students of media; and the content is fully provided by students. Much like Woroni, the student association provides key information to students to inform their orientation and transition to the University.

Having said that, this organisation is also primarily funded by SSAF revenue and the allocation for 2021 is outlined in the table below:

Table 5

ANU Observer SSAF Allocation 2021	
SSAF allocation for 2021	\$ 46,930.00
Continuing SSAF from 2020	\$ 4,700.00
Total SSAF 2021 income	\$ 54,130.00

ANU Services

SSAF funding managed by the University is allocated across a variety of areas covering student wellbeing, writing and English skills, employment and career advice, mentoring, orientation, and campus-specific activities.

ANU Careers has been solemnly dedicated to help students maximise their potential and make a successful transition from education to work. Across 2021, this team provided enrolled students and new graduates with a range of in-person and online services that can help them with career planning and decision-making. These services have supported students within their search for a job and has helped them to successfully navigate application, interview, and selection processes.

ANU Thrive provides a range of free health promotional programs designed to enhance students' capacity, to support their wellbeing and enrich their student experience, including peer-to-peer wellbeing conversations. In 2021, its key achievement was the establishment of the ANU kitchen garden program which is a network of gardens which is intended to produce fresh, seasonal, and delicious food. The gardens offer off-campus students and self-catered on-campus residents the chance to regularly meet, carry out gardening and garden maintenance, and benefit from the harvest.

The ANU+ Award is a program that formally recognises students' experience and contribution achieved through volunteering. It encourages students to give back to the community, develop skills related to their employability prospects and reflect on their co-curricular experiences to gain a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

In 2021, the Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research (ACUR) was hosted online as part of an annual event which provides undergraduate including honours and Masters (coursework) students with the opportunity to prepare and present their research to a multidisciplinary university audience. Conference attendees were also able to attend the presentations of other students, network with potential employers and peers from universities around the country and attend multidisciplinary panel discussions and workshops in an environment that supports and encourages critical and creative academic inquiry.

Set4ANU Mentoring has catered to new international and off-campus students, preparing students to excel at university through holistic support during the first semester orientation and transition period. Orientation and Transition is designed to assist new students to connect with the ANU community, access support services, make informed decisions and navigate their start at ANU.

ANU Academic Skills has helped students develop key academic skills and communication strategies that are foundational to all academic activity. This team has assisted students from first year undergraduate to final year Phd. In 2021, Academic Skills focused on supporting students through its Writing Centre and the English Conversation Groups. The Writing Centre provided support to ANU students seeking to develop skills on academic

writing, assistance with referencing, interpreting assignment questions, reading strategies, time management, note-taking, exam preparation and presentation skills. The English Conversation groups provided opportunities for international students, both on campus and studying remotely from overseas, to meet a wide variety of students and use their English on a regular and ongoing basis.

The following tables provide a summary of the 2021 allocation to the above-mentioned ANU Services:

Table 6

SSAF 2021 Budget - Student Services (ANU Services)	
SSAF allocation for 2021	\$ 469,300.00
Continuing SSAF from 2020 and 2019	\$ 169,200.00
Total SSAF 2021 income	\$ 638,500.00

ANU Sport

ANU Sport’s vision is to facilitate the best University sport and physical recreation experience in Australia, enabling the campus community to connect and reach their full potential through health, well-being and sport. ANU Sport has had the mission to provide the ANU community with opportunities to participate in sport, fitness and recreation so as to enhance their experience at the ANU.

This organisation plays a critical role in enabling students, clubs and members to reach their potential through sport, fitness and recreation. Across 2021, the team delivered courses and programs to provide students with an introduction to various sports and programs such as Club Sport, yoga, strength and conditioning. The team has also delivered social sport programs including soccer, basketball and badminton.

In recognition of this critical role that ANU Sport plays in supporting an active community, the ANU has allocated the below values in SSAF revenue to ANU Sport:

Table 7

SSAF 2021 Budget - Student Services (ANU Sport)	
SSAF allocation for 2021	\$ 844,740
Continuing SSAF from 2020	\$ -
Total SSAF 2021 income	\$ 844,740

What was the total SSAF revenue collection in 2021?

The total SSAF revenue collected in 2021 was \$5,700,000. In 2022, the University has committed part of the excess to the SSAF reserves to ensure that any potential shortages in the future are covered for.

Additional student programs and activities will also be discussed in the Student Services Council across 2022 to identify new funding requirements.

Background Information

The SSAF is a compulsory student fee that was created by the [Australian Parliament in October 2011](#). The fee has been designed for non-academic use that benefit all students, by providing them with a great campus experience, through recreational activities, employment and career advice, childcare, financial advice and food services.

The Australian Commonwealth [Higher Education Support Act 2003](#) and the [Administration Guidelines](#) determine how the SSAF is to be spent. In accordance with Law, SSAF revenue may be spent on student services and amenities of non-academic nature that fall within 19 defined service types, namely:

	Allowable Expenditure Category
A	providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider
B	supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students
C	supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students
D	caring for children of students
E	providing legal services to students
F	promoting the health or welfare of students
G	helping students secure accommodation
H	helping students obtain employment or advice on careers
I	helping students with their financial affairs
J	helping students obtain insurance against personal accidents
K	supporting debating by students
L	providing libraries and reading rooms (other than those provided for academic purposes) for students
M	supporting an artistic activity by students
N	supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students
O	helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled
P	advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)
Q	advocating students' interests in matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)
R	giving students information to help them in their orientation
S	helping meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation and employment.

Based on previous Grant Program records, the above services are spread across a number of service providers at the ANU. This is illustrated in the table below:

Service Providers	Linked Expenditure Category
ANUSA	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S
PARSA	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S
ANU Student Media	M, N, O
ANU Sport	B, C, F, R

ANU Observer	A, B, C, F, N, R
Woroni	M, N, O
ANU Services	A, B, C, F, H, I, K, M, O, R, S

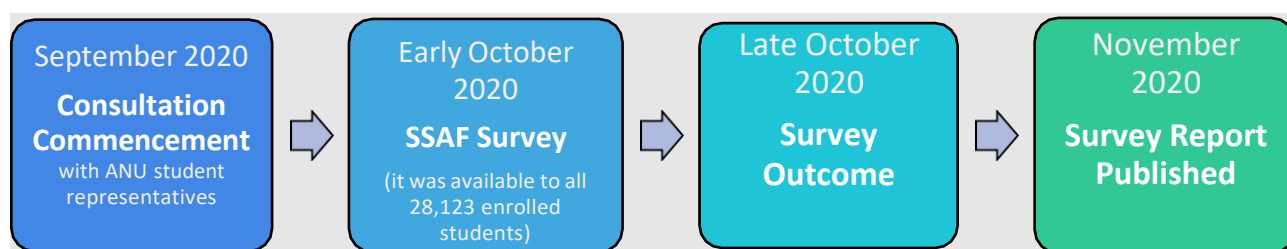
Consultation

According to the Government’s [Representation Guidelines](#), we are required to undergo a formal process of consultation with our student body to evaluate how they would like to see the SSAF revenue allocated across the defined service areas.

As part of a broader consultation process informing the allocation of SSAF for 2021, the University released a survey to all students with ten categories of priorities for services and programs in 2021. The information identified in the [2020 SSAF Survey Report](#) was circulated to service providers to inform the decisions of the priorities for SSAF.

Below the process of the consultation conducted with student representatives and enrolled students is outlined.

Consultation Process



Student Feedback Results

- The SSAF Survey was available from 6-14 October 2020 to all 28,123 coursework students and higher degree by research candidates enrolled in an ANU degree program
- A total of 1,801 students opened the survey link provided in the invitation e-mail
- A total of 1,281 students provided valid and useable responses (4.6%).

Following consultation and the outcomes of the SSAF Survey, we were able to identify students’ key priority service areas. As a result, the SSAF fee revenue was allocated to service providers who were responsible for demonstrating how their budget delivers against the priorities with the programs and services they are offering.



Australian
National
University

Contact us

Email: Student.services.council@anu.edu.au

