

# The University of Newcastle

## Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)

### 2025 Allocation Report

## Introduction

The *Higher Education Support (Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy) Guidelines 2022* (SSARA Guidelines) require higher education providers to provide a publicly available report on student services and amenities fee (SSAF) allocations and actual expenditure for the year as part of their annual reporting and in the form approved by the Minister. This *SSAF Allocation Report* is the form approved by the Minister.

The information provided in this *SSAF Allocation Report* does **not** require auditing by a financial accountant. The SSAF expenditure reporting is a separate process and remains unchanged, more information can be found in the [Financial Statements Guidelines](#) for Table A and B providers, and in the [Financial Viability Instructions: Applicants and Providers of FEE-HELP \(FVI\)](#) for all other approved providers.

## SSAF Consultation and Achievements

The University of Newcastle met legislative requirements by conducting consultations with all students, elected student representatives, and internal stakeholders to identify priorities for allocating SSAF revenue in 2025. This involved engaging with the University SSAF Advisory Group as outlined in the council-approved Framework. The SSAF Advisory Group provides advice to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) regarding the allocation of SSAF funding

and the projects and priority areas. The Advisory Group comprises essential stakeholders and representatives such as the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Chief Operating Officer, Elected Student Member, Finance Business Partner and the Chief Operating Officer of the University of Newcastle Students Association (UNSA). Throughout the meeting, the group discussed eligible SSAF categories, the outcome of the SFUN survey and SSAF priorities highlighted by students which provided insight into the allocation plans for the upcoming year. Frequent subsequent meetings and discussions with third-party entities such as NUSport and UNSA took place, with agreements outlined in a schedule outlining SSAF categories and the corresponding services.

The 2025 SFUN Student Survey is a structured feedback mechanism designed to gather student input on SSAF revenue allocation priorities. As a key consultation tool, it engaged 30,217 eligible students and achieved a strong 36.9% response rate, with 11,160 participants sharing their insights.

## **Achievements**

2025 SSAF funded several key projects and initiatives that enabled milestone achievements benefiting the overall experience for students. The following will highlight some of these milestone achievements and the beneficial impact they have had for students studying at the University of Newcastle. Following completion of consultations, several SSAF funding allocations were made that aligned with student priorities, and it was impactful to see the benefit it has had in shaping the student experience.

In 2025, SSAF-funded a subsidy for more affordable food options at LC Deli, where a community of over 1,700 on-campus students benefited from food options under \$10. The number of students who benefited from this subsidy continued to increase as the year progressed, reaching over 7,000 students, as it became available at LC restaurant. With the cost of living on the rise and students being one of the many equity groups affected, this subsidy has made a significant difference in alleviating some of the financial pressures associated with studying for students.

The 2025 SFUN survey indicated employment and/or career advice as another top priority for students. In response to this, the 2025 SSAF envelope funded several key employability roles that assisted students with not only attaining employment but also developing their employability skills, volunteering experience and leadership skills; all in all, fostering the development of life-ready graduates not only through their degree but also beyond completion as students begin to enter the workforce. The Career Service had provided 832 face-to-face and online application support sessions, addressed 1,115 'Ask A Question' career enquiries and supported students with volunteering activities that cumulatively credited to 1819.50 hrs. The iLead employability program fostered the professional and leadership development of over 335 students. Over 2,000 external jobs targeted for students had been reviewed and listed for students to apply for in 2025, in addition to over 231 proactive job application reviews conducted for students who applied for the Jobs On Campus (JOC) campaign.

Student Wellbeing has been a consistent student priority year in, year out, and 2025 was no exception to this. The 2025 SFUN indicated that health and welfare are student's 3<sup>rd</sup> highest priority. In addressing this need, SSAF revenue was allocated towards initiatives that enabled this priority and involved offering access to several different services for students through the employment of integral staff members. This includes

counselling and wellbeing advisors, Health promotion coordinators, staffing of the University Health Service Medical Centre & Campus Care to name a few. This saw 27,116 engagements with these services, highlighting demand for overall student wellbeing.

In 2025, the SSAF-funded Respectful Communities initiative achieved key milestones, including the recruitment of two student teams: The Respect at Uni Peer Leader Team and the Lived Experience Student Consultation Team. Peer Leaders delivered consent workshops, educational events, and social media campaigns to promote the primary prevention of sexual assault and harassment, aligning with the University's Action Plan (2022-2025). Meanwhile, the Lived Experience Consultants, comprising of students with lived experience of gender-based violence, contributed to the development of trauma-informed policies, fundraising efforts, and the creation of resources for survivors.

Furthermore, SSAF funded several support services for students who are engaging in HDR academic studies. By the end of the year, the HDR team recorded that 618 students had attended workshops/events designed for the development of specialised academic skills that enhance students' learning experience, alongside 342 individual academic consultations. As part of this allocation, the HDR support service also assisted 423 domestic & 85 international first-year HDR students as part of the First Year Support Program (FYSP), ensuring students thrive in their academic studies.

Overall, in 2025, SSAF has funded several key initiatives that have enabled a significant difference to the students' experience whilst studying at the University of Newcastle.

# SSAF Revenue Summary

	2025 Allocation \$ <sup>1</sup>	2025 Actual \$
SSAF Revenue <sup>2</sup>	\$9,153,786	\$9,822,212
SSAF revenue carried forward from 2025	\$450,000	\$850,548
<b>Total SSAF funds available for 2025</b>	<b>\$9,603,786</b>	<b>\$10,672,760</b>
SSAF revenue carried over into 2025	\$200,000	\$739,069

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<sup>1</sup> Allocation refers to the SSAF funds expected to be received in the reported year (i.e., budgeted SSAF revenue).

<sup>2</sup> Note: 2025 SSAF revenue includes \$180k of SSAF revenue incorrectly collected in 2025.

# SSAF Charge Summary

The student services and amenities fee (SSAF) charged to students must not be above the maximum fee for a calendar year. The maximum SSAF is indexed annually as required by the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (the Act). In 2025, the maximum SSAF was \$365.

Student Status <sup>3</sup>	2025 SSAF charged \$ <sup>4</sup>	Number of students charged in 2025 <sup>5</sup>
Full-time (> 0.75 EFTSL)	\$373.00	15,164
Part-time (< 0.75 EFTSL)	\$279.75	6032
		<b>Total: 21,196</b>

Student Status <sup>6</sup>	2025 SSAF charged \$	Approx. number of SSAF students remote learning 2025 <sup>7</sup>
Remote learning/Online only	<b>\$373.00</b>	

<sup>3</sup> Note: Students are categorised as full-time or part-time students based on the total EFTSL value of the units of study they undertook across that year. For example, a student that undertook a full-time study load in Semester 1, which was equal to 0.5 EFTSL, and undertook a part-time study load in Semester 2, which was equal to 0.375 EFTSL, would be categorised as a full-time student in as the total EFTSL they undertook was equal to 0.875.

<sup>4</sup> Note: As per Part 2 of the *Higher Education Support (Administration) Guidelines 2022* (Administration Guidelines), students studying on a part-time basis must not be charged more than 75 per cent of the maximum SSAF that a higher education provider determines for students studying on a full-time basis. The term “part-time basis” means a study load of less than 75 per cent of the normal full-time student load for the period to which the fee relates. As per part 7 of the Administration Guidelines, the normal EFTSL value for a full-time student studying over a period of one year is 1.0

<sup>5</sup> Note: As per Part 2 of the Administration Guidelines, a higher education provider may choose to determine a different SSAF for particular categories of persons, including a zero amount.

<sup>6</sup> Note: The Department of Education understands that not all higher education providers capture mode of study in their information systems and many students undertake a mixed mode of study such as face-to-face and remote learning. The data provided above is for students who undertook remote learning for 100% of their units of study.

<sup>7</sup> Note: Due to the limitations of our information systems, the above data may be approximate

# SSAF Allocation Summary

## Key areas of expenditure 2025

Subsection 19-38(4) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (the Act) provides a list of 19 allowable expenditure items which higher education providers may allocate and spend SSAF revenue on.

Please note, under subsection 19-38 of the Act, SSAF revenue must not be spent to support a political party or the election of a person as a member of the legislature of the Commonwealth, State or a Territory, or a local government body.

Key Area (reporting against these are mandatory)	2025 Total Allocation \$	2025 Total Actual Spend \$	Are services available online?	Estimated No. of students accessing services online
1. Health Services	2,617,709	3,011,007	Yes	#34,000+ (over multiple services)
2. Clubs or other associations	See below		-	-
a. Sporting	1,300,266	1,247,433	Nil	N/A
b. Internal student politics	-	-	-	-
c. Gender, sexuality, ethnicity, race, or nationality-based	-	-	-	-
d. Areas-of-study related e.g. law	-	-	-	-
e. Other activities e.g. music, debate, chess	23,637	20,288	Nil	N/A
f. Other	390,968	610,218	-	-
3. Accommodation	251,875	151,277	Yes	#290+
4. Employment/career services	938,960	833,892	Yes	#2,700+
5. Legal aid	-	-	-	-
6. Support for financial affairs	245,404	263,710	Yes	#700+
7. Other student amenities	3,834,966	3,795,867	NIL	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,603,784</b>	<b>9,933,691</b>	-	-

## Organisations, bodies or third-party providers that received SSAF funding in 2025

Note: Only organisations, bodies or third-party providers who receive over \$1,000 in SSAF funding are expected to be disclosed

### 1. Allocation of SSAF revenue – non-student-led organisations

Organisation Name	Australian Business Number (ABN)	Supported Key Area	Total SSAF Funding Received from provider \$	% of total SSAF revenue collected by the Provider
NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY SPORT NUSPORT	67096090372	7. Sports & Rec Activities	\$800,000	8.1%
<b>Total SSAF provided to non student-led organisations</b>			\$800,000	8.1%

### 2. Allocation of SSAF revenue to student led organisations – evidence of meeting requirement of 40 per cent

Organisation Name	Australian Business Number (ABN)	Supported Key Area	SSAF Funding Received from Provider \$	% of total revenue collected by the provider	If below 40 per cent, is there an agreed transition plan in place	Details of transition plan
UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION LTD	40641135195	3. Clubs or other association	\$2,342,568	24.2%	Y	Agreed on 31.10.25
<b>Total SSAF provided to student-led organisations</b>			\$2,342,568	24.2%	Y	Agreed on 31.10.25

### 4. Attestation that student led organisations in receipt of a minimum of 40 per cent of SSAF revenue are meeting governance requirements

Organisation Name	Majority student-led	Democratically elected leaders	Independence	Audited accounts	Corporate Governance policies and procedures established and adhered to	If replying no on any measure, is there an agreed transition plan in place?	Details of transition plan
UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION LTD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Agreed on 31.10.25

## Declaration by Person of Authority

I, [insert full name], [insert position title] of [insert full name of higher education provider], declare that the information provided in this Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Allocation Report is to the best of my knowledge true, complete and correct.

I further attest that the information provided in this Report meets the requirements of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and the Higher Education Support (Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy) Guidelines 2022 and that, where transition arrangements have either been sought or approved, information is provided on this.



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Signature of Person making Declaration

Belinda Tynan

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Full name of Person making Declaration

Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & Global)

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Position of Person making Declaration

5 June 2026

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Date