

Purpose

In line with the reporting requirements outlined in the “*Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy Guidelines*” Swinburne is required to report annually on how Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF) generated are allocated and utilised. This report will provide information regarding the 2015 spend, the subsequent benefits derived, and will also provide insight into the 2016 plan for SSAF.

Background

At Swinburne University, the SSAF is collected from students studying both full-time and part-time and is currently determined on a cost per unit basis. It aims to provide a balanced, practical approach to funding campus services and amenities of a non-academic nature, such as sporting and recreational activities, employment and career advice, health and financial services, welfare and equity services.

The allocation of funds is determined by the Vice Chancellor based on advice from ongoing conversations with Swinburne Student Union (SSU), Swinburne Student Amenities Association (SSAA) and Student Representative Council (SRC). A student survey was also conducted in late 2015 as a means of seeking feedback from students as to what activities and services are important to them.

2015 SSAF Spend

SSAF funds complement other funds that are dedicated by the University to the provision of amenities and services. This report provides an overview of the services and amenities that were funded in whole or in significant part by the \$4.43m in SSAF during 2015. It does not describe all of the amenities and services that are available to students which are resourced by the additional top up funding provided by Swinburne.

In 2015, SSAF funds were collected on a full time / part time load basis and provided a total of \$4.43m towards services. An additional \$1.8m of top up funding was provided by the University.

| Areas Responsible for Service Delivery | Services Funded / Provided | SSAF Funding 2015 \$ | Top Up Funding Provided 2015 \$ | Total 2015 Spend \$ |
|---|---|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Student Support Services | Chaplaincy | | | 115,000 |
| | Counselling | | | 815,185 |
| | Health | | | 716,008 |
| | Student Housing / Student Finance & Loans | | | 266,500 |
| | Disability Support | | | 208,368 |
| | Library IT Rovers | | | 207,489 |
| | Careers | | | 884,337 |
| | Ask George | | | 64,831 |
| | | 2,608,390 | 669,328 | 3,277,718 |
| Swinburne Student Amenities Association (SSAA) | Advocacy & Legal Service | | | 439,167 |
| | Sport & Recreation | | | 501,702 |
| | Clubs & Societies | | | 179,700 |
| | Student Leadership Program | | | 649,472 |
| | Social and Cultural Activities | | | 644,486 |
| | Student Diary | | | 153,300 |
| | Night Bus | | | 41,794 |
| | | 1,631,255 | 978,366 | 2,609,621 |
| Swinburne Student Union (SSU) | Welfare & Equity Services | | | |
| | Student Events | | | |
| | Student Media | | | |
| | Student Representation & Leadership | | | |
| | | 190,000 | 123,278 | 313,278 |
| TOTAL ALLOCATION: | | 4,429,645 | 1,770,972 | 6,200,617 |

The strategy behind the 2015 spend included a focus on careers and supporting students to become more 'job ready' at the completion of their study at Swinburne. Activities included expansion of the Work Integrated Learning program, the continuation of the Emerging Leader Program, the continued provision of guidance and recourses available to students to assist in accessing employment channels, and the tools to proactively manage their career pathway.

The provision for counselling services was expanded, as a means of supporting all Swinburne students, both on and off campus. SwinCounselling expanded its service model to include an online channel as a means of providing increased access and improving response times. The model is supported by an increased pool of qualified online counsellors who assist students on an ongoing basis across a range of areas and now also includes a specialist for international students.

Ongoing demand for health services required continued financial support for resources such as qualified nursing, medical staff and allied health staff. There was a key focus in promoting on campus health services for all students in 2015, particularly international cohorts who require greater support and information in accessing health based services.

2016 SSAF Forecast

The basis for the calculation of SSAF fees was changed in 2016 as a means of reflecting the requirement for student support. Prior to 2016 fees were charged either on a full time or part time basis. From 2016 onwards fees will be charged on units studied per student, more accurately capturing demand for the services provided by SSA, SSU and Student Support Services.

As a result of the change, it is anticipated that there will be an additional \$1.0m received from students in 2016 with the average cost per student moving from \$178.24 in 2015 to \$191.54 in 2016.

In 2016, careers and health will continue to be a key focus given the positive response received and success of projects in these two streams across 2015. The funding allocation for 2016 is as follows:

| Areas Responsible for Service Delivery | Services Funded / Provided | SSAF Funding 2016 \$ | Top Up Funding Provided 2015 \$ | Total 2016 Forecast \$ | SSAF Increase on 2015 \$ / % | Top Up Funding Increase on 2015 \$ / % | Total Increase on 2015 \$ / % |
|--|--|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Student Support Services | Chaplaincy Counselling & Health Housing, Finance & Loans Disability Support Library IT Rovers Careers Ask George | 3,587,682 | 1,558,008 | 5,145,690 | 979,292 38% | 888,680 133% | 1,867,972 57% |
| Swinburne Student Amenities Association (SSAA) | Advocacy & Legal Service Sport & Recreation Clubs & Societies Student Leadership Program Volunteer Program / Orientation Social and Cultural Activities Student Diary Night Bus | 1,712,818 | 1,157,182 | 2,870,000 | 81,563 5% | 178,816 18% | 260,379 10% |
| Swinburne Student Union (SSU) | Welfare & Equity Services Student Events Student Media Student Rep. & Leadership | 243,000 | 130,500 | 373,500 | 53,000 28% | 7,222 6% | 60,222 19% |
| TOTAL ALLOCATION: | | 5,543,500 | 2,845,690 | 8,389,190 | 1,113,855 25% | 1,074,718 61% | 2,188,573 35% |

The majority of the SSAF funding increase has been allocated to the health and welfare of students, in line with the 2016 strategy to continue to focus efforts and build on momentum gained from 2015.

This will include the expansion of allied health services, particularly in the psychology space, with a key focus on mental health and wellbeing. The 2016 health program will also ensure that international students are educated and supported accessing general and emergency health services when required. This will also incorporate a component on navigating their way through related administrative matters such as claiming health insurance and accessing specialist services through the public health network.

Similarly, Swinburne will continue to focus on careers and graduate outcomes by building on the strategy of ensuring our students are work ready and work capable via the ongoing provision of the Work Integrated Learning program, expansion of industry connections as a means of creating work experience channels and workshops and support tailored to practical skills such as resume preparation and interview techniques.

New initiatives such as 'Strategies for Success', launched as part of the January Orientation Program, are also a key focus this year. The program is a short course designed to give students the skills they need to succeed by providing insights as to what to expect from University life as well as some strategies around how to stay motivated, source academic support services, balance study and

manage time. A total of 1,400 students went through the program in January and another is scheduled for the start of semester 2 based on feedback and student demand.

Looking Forward

Swinburne University recognises and supports the need for a range of student support channels and programs, as part of a student's life while studying. Swinburne University will continue to proactively engage, assess and evolve the services provided to ensure services are focused in the right area and resources are allocated accordingly. Regular annual reporting will be made available as a means of demonstrating what strategies are underway, how SSAF funds are allocated and what outcomes have been delivered for students.