

Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) 2023 Allocation Report

The *Higher Education Support (Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy) Guidelines 2022* 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.

Additional reporting was introduced to allow for greater transparency and consistency in SSAF allocations and expenditure.

Please note, the information provided in this *SSAF Allocation Report* does **not** require auditing by a financial accountant. The SSAF expenditure reporting 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.

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SSAF Consultation and Achievements

In accordance with Murdoch University Act 1973 (20A, (3)) no less than 50% of the SSAF fee collected is allocated to the Guild. Allocations also provide Health and Counselling, Student Success, Sports and Recreation opportunities. The remainder is distributed as project funding. Each project initiative is assessed to ensure that it complies with Commonwealth legislative requirements regarding the administration of the SSAF.

In 2023 SSAF funding enabled many achievements:

- Counselling services employed professionals (3.3 FTE) who provided 1,656 counselling sessions to 336 individual students and delivered over 500 workshops and education sessions relating to wellbeing and inclusion throughout 2023. The University also funded an International Student Mental Health initiative to provide counselling services to international students and consultation support to the University's counselling staff members.
- Murdoch developed "The Den" (previously "The Living Room") project for students to build a sense of connection and belonging at the University by offering centralised, easily accessible, and diverse wellbeing services. The number of Den sessions has increased 4 days a week in 2023. Students can participate in free mindfulness activities and creative arts, enjoy herbal tea, music, board games or play with therapy dogs. Weekly International Café Day was also introduced in 2023 which has proven to be a popular initiative to connect international students and support their orientation and wellbeing at Murdoch.
- Student Success teams provided advice on navigating the University systems and support services. The team assisted international students in completing 2,283 other applications/administrative processes related to compliance to ensure those students remained compliant with their visa conditions and assessed and processed 2,413 applications for the International Student Accommodation Subsidy (ISAS) on behalf of the WA Government. Student Success team also developed an intervention strategy to provide international students with dedicated support to improve their overall progression rate.
- Murdoch Active used SSAF funds to provide opportunities for sports and recreational activities, subsidised membership fees, facility hire charges and school holiday programs for primary school aged children of students, provided employment opportunities to students to manage the School Holiday Program. Murdoch Active also provides placement opportunities to 3rd year Exercise Science students to complete the required practicum hours.
- In 2023, eight students benefitted from the SSAF funded Elite Athlete Program. The funding has evidently played a crucial role in enabling these individuals to participate and compete in their sports on a global stage.
- SSAF funded a Clinical Psychologist to provide counselling appointments and develop and deliver workshops specifically for International Students. The role also provides consultation and support to the University's counselling staff members in providing clinical interventions for international students.
- Funding was also provided to support the Students as Change Agents (SCA) program, a co-curricular program that empowers students to propose, lead and implement a project to create positive change at Murdoch University (MU). This program provides opportunities to students have a dedicated mentor to develop their ideas into project plan, to implement, to present to both internal and external stakeholders. The program also allows student to receive credit towards their degree if applicable.

- SSAF funds was provided to provide casual employment to students as Kulbardi Student Ambassadors to work closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students / prospective students, to assist in their progression into the University and provide ongoing support while studying at the University. The University has also provided sponsorship to 13 students and 2 staff members to participate in the Indigenous Nationals, a multi-sporting competition for Indigenous Student Athletes.

SSAF Revenue Summary

The following table sets out 2023 allocated and actual SSAF revenue. This includes any SSAF funds carried forward from the previous reported year and any SSAF funds carried over to the next reporting year.

	2023 Allocation \$ ¹	2023 Actual \$
SSAF Revenue	\$3,045,899	\$3,697,709
SSAF revenue carried forward from 2022	-	\$67,070
Total SSAF funds available for 2023	\$3,045,899	\$3,764,769
SSAF revenue carried over into 2024	-	\$419,696

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

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*. In 2023 the maximum SSAF was \$326.

Student Status	2023 SSAF charged (\$)²	Number of students charged in 2023³
Full-time¹ (> 0.75 EFTSL)	\$326	8,309
Part-time¹ (< 0.75 EFTSL)	\$163	9,701
	Total	18,010

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ Note: Students are categorised as full-time or part-time students based on the total EFTSL value of the units of study they undertook in 2023.

Student Status	2023 SSAF charged \$ ²	Approx. number of SSAF students remote learning 2023 ⁴
Remote learning/Online only	\$81	2,028

⁴ Note: The Department 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.

SSAF Allocation Summary

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	Sum of 2023 Total Allocation	Sum of 2023 Total Actual Spend \$	Are services available online?	Sum of Estimated No. of students who accessed the services
1. Health Services	790,329	728,574	Yes - Selected Services	19,984
2. Clubs or other associations	1,793,944	2,143,668	Yes - Selected Services	10,797
2a. Sporting	198,470	245,690	No	8,303
2b. Internal student politics	-	-	NA	-
2c. Gender, sexuality, ethnicity, race or nationality based	-	-	NA	-
2d. Areas-of study related	4,000	4,000	Yes	146
2e. Other activities e.g. music, debate, chess	58,962	52,136	No	2,148
2f. Other (University)	9,562	10,740	No	200

2g. Distribution to Murdoch Guild*	1,522,950	1,831,102	NA	20,146
3. Employment / career services	34,476	48,105	No	90
4. Legal aid	-	-	NA	-
5. Other student amenities	233,229	235,105	Yes	3,469
6. Transition/ orientation support services	193,921	189,619	Yes	5,260
	3,045,899	3,345,071		

*Assume total allocations to Murdoch Guild of Students fully spent in 2023.

Organisations, bodies or third-party providers that received SSAF funding in 2023

Organisation Name ¹	Australian Business Number (ABN)	Supported Key Area	Total SSAF Funding Received \$	% of total SSAF Funding Received
Murdoch Guild of Students	78239253623	Multiple Areas - student engagement, welfare, transition and other support programs	\$1,831,102	50%

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

Declaration by Person of Authority

I, Anthony Pine, Chief Financial Officer of Murdoch University, 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.



Signature of Person making Declaration

Anthony Pine
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 26 June 2024