

2017 SSAF Benefits to Students

The University takes a formula approach to the allocation of SSAF funds and grants each year, which embodies flexible funding arrangements to ensure some fixed funds as well as the ability to access short-term funds to pilot initiatives and/or meet a short-term need. This approach accommodates both need and demand at the same time, allowing for greater flexibility in the delivery of SSAF-funded student services and activities.

This model is centrally governed, managed and administered by Student Services, in consultation with the SSAF Consultative Committee, on behalf of the University. It includes:

- base allocation funding for all services currently approved for SSAF; the amount related to activity/service based costings (the allocation and funding value reviewed annually via Funding Applications and in line with University budget forecasts and business planning)
- an allocation for initiatives grants
- capital allowance for the improvement of student amenities by Student Services
- funding to support student organisations; and
- contingency for unexpected growth in usage and/or emerging needs allocation for services not currently funded by SSAF.

The review of applications for funding and grants each year takes into consideration feedback from students provided through data collection, engagement and consultation as well as feedback from the University community, to ascertain the needs and demands for allocation priorities each year.

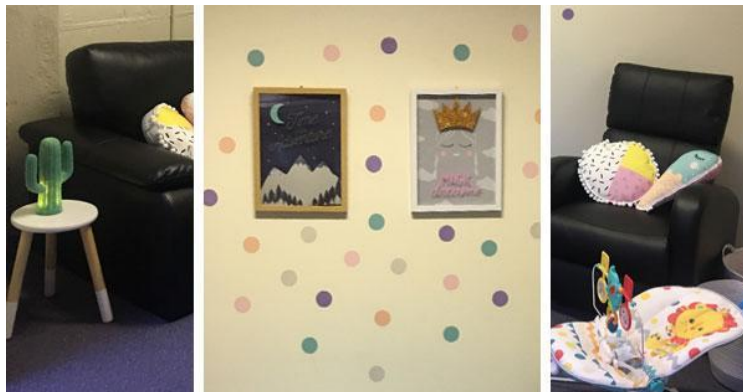
2017 Programs, activities and services delivered to students from SSAF

Student Life

(SSAF Funding \$2,031,497, Actual Spend \$1,870,187)

- Improve Student as Staff recruitment, training and support for Student Life SaS.
- Enhanced the vibrancy of life on campus for international and domestic students through events, clubs and societies, student leadership programs and volunteering opportunities.
- Partnered with students to encourage student-led initiatives, assisting VUSU and students with Student Initiatives Grants.
- Partnered with university stakeholders to oversee orientation and transition programs that ensure commencing students enjoy a successful start to their studies.
- Increased social media content and student engagement through digital channels.
- Produced the 2017 Student Diary, provided print resources for local and international students, provided design and print services for clubs and societies and managed the Student Life facebook presence with videos.
- Brokered sponsorship and discount deals for students.
- Delivered campus based orientation for all cohorts providing support for Academic Advice and Enrolment sessions, annual calendar of O-Fest activities (multi-campus, dual sector), Step Up day, Family Day, Incredible Race and Mature Age/Return to Study sessions.
- Delivered an annual calendar for events/services for students including Exam Refresher Stations, free equipment hire for student run events, Clubs Fest, Multicultural Week etc.

- Delivered the VU Student Leadership programs (Lead2Change program and workshops) that lead to recognition on student transcripts, held the Annual Student Leadership Conference, Student Leadership Awards and held monthly Student Leadership Councils.
- Delivered targeted international student engagement events and activities for International Students including Orientation International Sessions; Pre-arrival communications & IS Newsletter; Airport Reception; Big Beach Day Out; Late-Arrival support; International Hosts Program.
- Provided Show Some Initiative (SSI) grants to allow for student led initiatives, providing small grants (<\$500) for clubs and individuals who have a short-turnaround small initiative. This complemented the in-kind support Student Life provides for student-led initiatives (equipment hire, advice, bookings, promotion, etc.) making Student Life a “one-stop-shop” for student-led engagement.
- Funded and supported club-run events, Run clubs festival, training for club executives (e.g. First-Aid, Food Handling, RSA), networking and skill-sharing sessions with fellow students and link to VU Colleges/departments. Provided advice, support and approval for affiliation/re-affiliation processes with the University.
- Provided opportunities for VU students to volunteer and build skills, both on and off campus, through: promotion, recruitment, intensive training program, advertising opportunities, running social networking events and major events such as V4U day, providing a system of rewards points and linking students into the leadership program.
- Student Amenities and Facilities
 - Replaced 50+ microwaves for students on every campus.
 - Refurbished the parenting room at Footscray Park campus.
 - Refurbished the VUSU student lounge at City Queen campus.
 - Refurbished the parenting room at City Queen campus.
 - Refurbished the women's room at Footscray Park campus.



Student Welfare

(SSAF Funding \$745,876, Actual Spend \$728,899)

- Supported students with a team of specialist advisors to guide them through welfare, finance, housing and international support matters.
- Case management for welfare and life skills support and development
- Services included support for:
 - cultural support
 - consumer affairs
 - drug and alcohol issues
 - women's support services
 - tax help
 - material aid

- legal issues
- financial counselling
- Delivered student workshops to all cohorts - transition, money management, housing
- Delivered tax help program - free tax assessment preparation service
- Produced a range of print and digital content available to provide information on services to students.
- Safety campus pop-up stands
- Lifehack# savings tips project
- Provided the Housing database service.
- Produced the 2017 Housing Guide.
- International students well-being and welfare workshops
- Social events including tree surfing, cultural days, Iftar dinner, family picnic, lunar New Year.

Student Wellbeing

(SSAF Funding \$1,284,736, Actual Spend \$1,268,114)

- Provided professional Counselling services designed to assist students in their personal and social development including overcoming obstacles such as transition, uncertainty about the future, personal and family matters, study problems and psychological issues that may hinder their participation or performance in educational activities.
- Provided one on one confidential counselling to students in all cohorts.
- Delivered counselling workshops for students to enhance skills and workshops requested by colleges and student services.
- Provided assistance to staff and students in managing critical mental health incidents involving students across VU campuses.
- Delivered Advocacy services to support students with Academic Progress, University matters and access to information and advice on their rights.

VU Student Union

(SSAF Funding \$264,630, Actual Spend \$299,527)

- Improved recognition and branding of the Union within the VU community,
- Improved leadership skills and satisfaction from elected student representatives,
- Improved student election participation, more participation from our diverse student population.
- Improved student lounge facilities and access.
- VUSU participation at orientation including stalls and engagement with new VE and HE students, introduction to the union, participation at 'Step Up Day', Clubs Week and providing an Orientation event.
- Raised awareness of the Union during the Student Welcome to identify future student leaders.
- Increased social media engagement with students.
- Launched new web site.
- Delivered a number of social activities including student forums, free breakfast and BBQ's on a variety of campuses, end of exams social activities, annual student ball, and other social events and activities designed by students for the benefit of our diverse student population.
- Delivered a number of campaigns to raise awareness and advocate for change within the university community, state and federal governments. Campaigns were linked to respective portfolios within the Union, for example, Student Poverty and Homelessness (Welfare Campaigns), Sexual Consent and Awareness (Education Campaigns). Other campaigns may address women's, LGBTQI, and culturally diversity issues.
- Grants provisioned to ISA for events designed for International Students; Specific Student Welcome sessions; Multicultural week, and other activities designed by ISA for international students.
- Grants provisioned to VUPA for events designed for Postgraduate Students; Student Welcome Sessions; 3-minute thesis; postgrad forums and other activities designed by VUPA for postgrads.
- Produced 3 editions of Hyde Magazine.

- Funded and supported College Society-run events for students in each college, run training sessions for college society executive members; networking events with relevant industries; provide support and advice to college societies on their constitution, AGM and operations.

Sport and Health

(SSAF Funding \$385,000, Actual Spend \$385,000)

- Sport club growth and support to Clubs
- Sport Club presence at orientations
- Provision of access to VU sport facilities at subsidised rates
- Active Living programs: walking, running, cycling groups
- Adventure programs x 6
- Delivery of supporting programs at all Orientation and Festival events.
- Delivery of 9 x VUnite community fitness events, supporting preparation and participation.
- Sport Awards
- Support of University Teams in various competitions endorsed by Australian University Sport (AUS).
 - Southern University Games (multi-sport)
 - Snow University Games
 - Australian University Games (multi-sport)
 - Indigenous University Games, in partnership with Moondani Balluk
 - World University Games - Summer
 - Australian University Distance Running Championships
- 25 (10 staffed) opportunities for social on campus sport and activities per week, at 5 campuses, over the 40 week VET calendar.
- Provision of 1 to 1 health consultation, health education and linkage to practitioners
- Health Seminar Series
- Short course programs in a range of health, first aid and sport and recreation areas.

2017 SSAF Student Experience Initiative Grants

Since 2013, SSAF Student Experience Initiatives funding has helped students and staff provide student amenities, services and activities that contribute to a positive student experience of a non-academic nature.

2017 SSAF Student Experience Initiative Grant projects, Round 1

Recipient	Project Title	Project Description
Individual student recipient	Osteopathy Student Parent Support Group	An Osteopathy Students Parents Group that meets twice a semester for friendship and support.
Victoria University Music Society	Victoria University MS Agency	The VU MS Agency aims to provide a booking and management agency for current bachelor of music students.
Student Welfare Support	Student Support Life Hack Videos	Student Support (VU-SS) aim to engage with students by presenting a number of 'Life Hack' videos that cover a range of financial literacy topics.
Libraries	De-stress Festival	The aim of the project is to engage with all VU students to support their health and well-being. Two "De-Stress Festivals" will be run in 2017, one in each semester. The festivals would be held during SWOTVAC, leading up to the exam period when students are under pressure to get their final assignments in and prepare for their exams. The activities would be held across multiple campuses. There would be no cost to students.
College of Arts & Education (Bachelor of Youth Work)	Mental Health First Aid and First Aid Training for VU Students	To provide Youth Work students with a subsidised Mental Health First Aid certificate and/or First Aid/CPR certificate.
Victoria University Postgraduate Association	Research Festival Networking Evening Event	This evening networking activity supports the annual Victoria University Research Festival which is jointly run by the GRC and VUPA to bring together all researchers in a spirit of collaboration and inquiry.
Victoria University Postgraduate Association	VUPA Seminar Series "A new line of thought"	The VUPA seminar series is a platform designed for high profile, industry leaders to deliver insightful, novel and realistic views on matters important to the furtherance of student's careers.
VUSU	Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training for VU Students going to Placement	This project aims to provide a partial subsidy from SSAF for students who are looking to gain their Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) qualification.
Centre for Student Success	Empowering Arts Students for Career Success	"Empowering Arts Students for Career Success" is a co-curricular program that aims to broaden penultimate Arts students' knowledge of the range of graduate employment opportunities available to them, and to assist them to identify and communicate their transferable skills to a wide range of potential employers.
VUSU	Hyde Magazine	Hyde Magazine aims to create dialogue within Victoria University to help students engage with the wider community It is also a way in which the achievements of VU students can be showcased.

2017 SSAF Student Experience Initiative Grant projects, Round 2

Recipient	Project Title	Project Description
Individual student recipient	Improving Paramedicine student experience through professional engagement	The project will allow several Paramedicine to attend The Paramedics Australasia International Conference (PAIC). This will allow these students to engage with the wider industry and forge strong industry connect with the entire University.
Individual student recipient	Victoria University Travel Australia Group (VUTAG)	This project provides travel opportunities to VU post-graduate students and aims to give these students a time to relax away from the pressure of study. It will allow social interaction between students and give international students an opportunity to engage with Australian culture.
Individual student recipient	VU STEM Sisters	The project will organize a monthly event for female Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) research students in Victoria University. It will foster connections and give professional and career advice to female students studying STEM subjects.