UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

Annual Impact Report

SSAF Annual Report 2025

SSAF
Funded by Student
Services & Amenities Fee

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that Country for Aboriginal peoples is an interconnected set of ancient and sophisticated relationships.

The University of Wollongong spreads across many interrelated Aboriginal Countries that are bound by this sacred landscape, and intimate relationship with that landscape since creation.

From Sydney to the Southern Highlands, to the South Coast.

From fresh water to bitter water to salt.

From city to urban to rural.

The University of Wollongong acknowledges the Custodianship of the Aboriginal peoples of this place and space that has kept alive the relationships between all living things. The University acknowledges the devastating impact of colonisation on our campuses' footprint and commit ourselves to truth-telling, healing and education.

Artwork by **Samantha Hill**, Dharawal/ Wandandian woman

Foreword

Professor Helen Partridge
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)

At the University of Wollongong, students are central to everything we do. The Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) plays a vital role in turning this commitment into action – supporting every onshore students' experience, assisting them to feel connected, and enabling access to support when they need it most.

A defining strength of SSAF at UOW is its student led governance. Guided by the SSAF Subcommittee, 100% of funding allocation decisions in 2025 were recommended by students, reflecting student feedback and priorities. In 2025, this approach supported 57 projects across two funding rounds, providing services and amenities to more than 22,000 students across Wollongong, Regional, Sydney Campuses and online cohorts.

I would like to thank the students who contribute their SSAF, the student representatives who help guide its allocation, and the student leaders and staff who deliver these services with dedication and care. Their combined efforts ensure SSAF continues to make a meaningful difference to the student experience at UOW.

I am proud to present this 2025 SSAF Annual Impact Report and invite you to explore the positive impact these investments are making for UOW students.

Your SSAF at work in 2025

Your Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) supports a wide range of services and programs that make a real difference to your student experience.

SSAF funding is guided by a student led SSAF Subcommittee, which makes recommendations based on student feedback on how funds are allocated across UOW to support services and amenities that support you to:

- Stand out to future employers through careers and employability services.
- Feel informed, supported and settled when you first start uni.
- Develop and improve your study skills.
- Feel safe and supported on campus, with access to 24/7 counselling, accommodation support and quality advice.
- Meet new people, build skills and have fun through clubs, sports, events and activities.

The majority of services and amenities detailed in this report are available to students at all UOW onshore campuses and online. Each regional and Sydney campus also received specific allocations, contributing to the unique experience at each UOW campus.

Student consultation – Your Voice Shapes SSAF

Student voice plays a central role in shaping how the University of Wollongong allocates Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) funding by ensuring decisions reflect the priorities and lived experiences of the student body. In 2025, this engagement was strongly demonstrated, with 1,182 UOW students completing the SSAF survey and providing valuable insights into the services and initiatives that matter most to them. UOW also engages directly with elected student representatives around SSAF processes, priorities and allocations. A 13 member student SSAF Subcommittee reviews every SSAF submission and makes recommendations to UOW on allocations. This student committee also reviews all mid-year and final reports. Importantly, all SSAF funded project managers are required to clearly articulate how student voice has informed their funding proposal, how they actively collaborate with students in the delivery of their initiatives (including employing students), and how they embed ongoing consultation to continuously improve outcomes. They must also demonstrate how students are engaged in evaluating the impact of funded projects.

This structured and transparent approach ensures SSAF allocations remain responsive, accountable, and aligned with student needs, ultimately enhancing the overall student experience at UOW.

Top 5 SSAF highlights for 2025

- Strong reach and impact of wellbeing and support services: Thousands of students accessed critical support, including 16,400 welfare support events, 1,149 counselling users and 1,037 24/7 wellbeing contacts.
- High levels of student engagement and connection: Participation across programs included 69,288 club event attendances, 23,000 wellness engagements and 4,582 students in orientation.
- Quality learning skills development: Over 2,015 skills sessions were delivered and significant students self-reported significant skill confidence through participation in PASS.
- Expanded Access, Inclusion and Equity initiatives: This included free food services through 8,474 food pantry visits and meal services, free period products across campus, and disability, LGBTQIA+ and safety programs.
- Career readiness and real-world skills development, through 1,341 career consultations and over 2,100 workshop attendees and practical experiences, including opportunities for student employment as peer leaders.

2025 funding priority areas and allocation

44.6%
Student Health and Wellbeing (including sports and recreation)

18.2%
Student Engagement and Campus Life

24.5%
Developing Study Skills (including orientation)

12.8%
Student Careers and Employability

Full project detail is available at: **How SSAF is spent, University of Wollongong**

2025 SSAF allocation snapshot

2
funding rounds

61
applications received and reviewed by SSAF Subcommittee

57
projects allocated funding totaling $4,966,667

22,261
students benefit from SSAF funded services and amenities

Key SSAF outcomes for students in 2025

In 2025, SSAF funding supported a wide range of services and activities that directly improved students' wellbeing, learning, safety, connection, skills and day-to-day experience at UOW. Below is a summary of the top three student focused outcomes for each SSAF funded project delivered in 2025.

Information is drawn from each project final report.

24/7 Wellbeing Support Line & UOW Counselling Service

Top student outcomes

- 1,037 occasions of support delivered through the 24/7 Wellbeing Line, providing immediate help via phone or SMS.
- 1,149 students accessed free counselling support across UOW campuses, with options for face-to-face and telehealth appointments.
- 73% of students rated support as “excellent” and 99% said the service helped them manage their concerns, with strong recommendation rates to peers.

Enhancing Student Health and Wellbeing

Top student outcomes

- 10 wellbeing workshops delivered (online and in person), with 163 total participants and 100% of respondents recommending the workshops to a friend.
- 80 students completed Mental Health First Aid, and 39 students completed the new START Suicide Prevention program, building confidence to support themselves and others.
- Wellbeing events during R U OK? Day and Mental Health Month engaged 100+ students per activation through creative, interactive activities.

Academic Skills Centre (Learning & Maths Skills Support)

Top student outcomes

- 2,015 one to one consultations delivered in 2025 (1,564 Learning Skills and 451 Maths Skills appointments).
- 94% of students reported the support as helpful and said they would recommend the service to other students.
- Online learning resources reached scale, including 200,000+ views of the Numeracy for Nurses Moodle skill support site, available to students 24/7.

PASS – Peer Assisted Study Sessions

Top student outcomes

- 1,610 attendances from 372 unique students across 12 PASS-supported subjects in Spring 2025, delivered by students employed as PASS leaders.
- 96% of students who attended PASS sessions passed their subjects.
- 93% of students reported improved understanding and confidence which supported their studies.

Peer Learning Coaches (PLC)

Top student outcomes

- Peer learning drop in support delivered both on campus and online, with nearly 4,000 direct student messages exchanged via the Student Success Portal in 2025.
- Students reported a significant increase in confidence, with average self rated confidence increasing from 1.97 to 3.98 out of 5 after engaging with a Peer Learning Coach (student employment opportunity).
- Support targeted key challenges such as study planning (41%), time management (16%), and navigating university systems (15%).

Pulse Pantry

Top student outcomes

- Pulse Pantry supported 8,474 student visits to collect food and other staple items across 84 opening sessions.
- The service was open to students twice per week throughout the semester, including STUVAC and exam periods. Outside these periods, the pantry remained accessible through weekly opening sessions.
- A newly refurbished Pulse Pantry location was introduced, prioritising an improved student experience.

UniBar Student Dinners

Top student outcomes

- Students experienced reduced cost-of-living pressure through access to free, substantial and nutritious dinners three nights per week, with 3,600 hot meals provided during 2025, ensuring students could regularly access fresh, diet-inclusive meals at no cost.
- Students strengthened social connection and sense of belonging by sharing meals in a dine-in campus environment, often alongside existing engagement activities such as Trivia and Bingo, allowing students to participate fully in campus life without financial barriers.
- Students benefited from an inclusive “eat-out” experience that complemented other food security initiatives, providing a safe, welcoming space to connect with peers, build routine campus engagement and enjoy meals that some students may not otherwise afford or access at home.

Representative Sports Program

Top student outcomes

- Subsidised team sport registration saw an increase of more than double in 2025, with 1254 student registrations, including 251 individual registrations that supported new friendships and student connection.
- Four new sports were introduced, and 21 UOW students were employed to meet growing demand. Summer sports programs offered during the summer session were added to continue engagement.

Safety and Belonging Art Installation

Top student outcomes

- Students shared ideas and creative work through workshops that directly shaped the design and themes of the final installation.
- Students connected with others in a welcoming, inclusive space, helping strengthen their sense of belonging on campus.
- Students engaged with themes of safety and respect through interactive activities, building awareness and encouraging reflection.

Student Advocacy Service

Top student outcomes

- Students received free, confidential advice and advocacy to help them navigate complex academic issues, with 525 students supported across 574 matters.
- Students felt supported and confident using the service, with 87% reporting they were satisfied or extremely satisfied with the assistance received.
- Students benefited from advocacy that highlighted common challenges in academic policies and processes, helping raise student issues to University committees and improved system awareness.

Student Social Media Coordinator

Top student outcomes

- Daily posting of curated content was driven by a student employed as a social media coordinator. Students actively engaged through comments, feedback and polls, providing insights into what services and programs matter most.
- LinkedIn followers increased by 74% (from ~3,000 to 5,228) within the reporting period which is now the highest followers and engagement among Australian university careers LinkedIn pages.
- The project didn't just broadcast content, it created a feedback loop that improved careers services and aligned them with student needs, which supports future SSAF investment.

Art on Campus: Student Art Showcase

Top student outcomes

- The installation of two lockable student-only display boards in a high-traffic walkway (Building 4, Wollongong campus) created a dedicated space for student artwork.
- Students were also consulted on design and improvements (e.g. board location and application process), demonstrating meaningful student voice in shaping the initiative.
- Seven Expressions of Interest (EOIs) were received from students wanting to exhibit in round one, with the aim to continue to grow in 2026.

EIS MedSim Student Projects and Exposition

Top student outcomes

- Project attracted students and staff across engineering, nursing, and medical fields. Students worked collaboratively on six projects, gaining practical design and innovation skills beyond traditional coursework.
- Six student projects reached an advanced, "show-ready" stage, demonstrating strong outcomes from the funding.
- The work was presented at a public exposition (28 October 2025) and also featured in an external healthcare training setting, highlighting real-world relevance and providing students involved with valuable skills building and networking opportunity.

Orientation and Transition Program

Top student outcomes

- It's Go Time orientation program reached 4,582 commencing students across Autumn and Spring. 96.1% felt connected to other students, 98.3% felt confident overcoming challenges and 100% confident using key systems (SOLS).
- First Year Community hosted on the Student Success Portal engaged 1,895 students and enabled ongoing peer/staff interaction. 171 Student Success Hub events were facilitated for the community.
- Programs were co-designed and co-delivered with students and students employed as Peer Coaches.

UOW Maker Space Equipment Upgrade

Top student outcomes

- Students were able to access 12 new 3D printers with a supply of over 160 rolls of 3D printer filament.
- 1296 students visited the space since the installation, compared to 829 visits across the same time period in 2024.

Wellness by Pulse (including Bonus Breaky Bars)

Top student outcomes

- Enhanced student wellbeing through a whole-of-student approach, delivering 217 initiatives, supported by over 30 wellness-themed e-newsletters reaching 13,541 students with a 23.7% read rate.
- Increased student engagement and connection on campus with 23,000+ engagements and strong participation in major wellbeing events (e.g., IDAHOBIT, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Fit+Well Festival, and Stress Less Weeks). Wellness Ambassador Program trained 12 student leaders to identify and refer peers in need, improving early intervention, peer support and student leadership.
- Students benefited from Bonus Breaky Bars and regular free breakfast offerings, with Breaky Bar expanding from one day per week to two days per week in Semester 2, providing accessible nutrition support during cost-of-living pressures and supporting students to start their day on campus feeling energised and supported.

Welfare Support

Top student outcomes

- Strong student engagement with the Welfare Support project with 1,250 students supported and the team delivering 16,400 support events. Of these, 250 students and 3,280 support events were directly supported by the SSAF co-investment.
- The project provided rapid response to students in distress, with seamless handovers to housing and wellbeing services.
- 100% of 65 surveyed students reported that the support provided was helpful in addressing their concerns and challenges. 85% rated the quality of the support as excellent.

WUSA Free Period Products

Wollongong Undergraduate Students' Association (WUSA)

Top student outcomes

- Improved student access and participation through the provision of free essential period products in women's and all-gender bathrooms in four key campus locations, reducing barriers to study engagement and campus life.
- Student-centred service delivery through a grassroots, feedback-driven model, ensuring initiative remains responsive, accessible, and aligned to student needs.
- Sustained student wellbeing support through the consistent refill and maintenance of products.

Student Representation and Student Voice

Top student outcomes

- Elected student representatives from across all UOW onshore campuses were supported to participate confidently in university decision-making through training, professional developments and honorariums in recognition of their service.
- Stronger, more consistent student representation was enabled through coordinated administrative support, communication and onboarding.
- Student associations and representative bodies (including WUSA and WUPA) had a dedicated SSAF-funded administration and events support staff member to enable their projects and priorities.

Clubs & Societies

Top student outcomes

- 112 affiliated UniClubs supported, with $203,797 distributed directly to student led initiatives, events and programs delivered by the Clubs.
- 1,988 club run events delivered, attracting 69,288 attendances and strengthening connection, belonging and student leadership. Significant growth in engagement, including a 46% increase in unique club members compared to the previous year.
- Successful establishment of new clubs at both the Bega Valley and Liverpool campuses, expanding opportunities for connection across UOW's onshore footprint.

Building and Maintaining Safe and Respectful Communities (SARC)

Top student outcomes

- 3,000+ students and staff engaged through awareness campaigns, training sessions, workshops and campus activations.
- 449 students participated in targeted prevention and education programs such as Bystander Intervention, Consent Conversations, and Respectful Relationships.
- 11% increase in student disclosures compared to 2024, indicating improved awareness and confidence in support pathways.

Consent Conversations

Top student outcomes

- 48 student leaders living in university residences completed the 90 minute, scenario based Consent Conversations workshop.
- 87% of participants were satisfied or very satisfied with the workshop.
- 92% reported feeling better equipped to have informed and respectful conversations about consent.

Empowerment Self Defence

Top student outcomes

- Six self defence workshops delivered at Wollongong and Shoalhaven Campuses, with 46 student participants.
- Participants rated the workshops 6.5 out of 7 on average, indicating very high satisfaction.
- Students reported increased confidence in recognising risk, using their voice, and responding to unsafe situations.

Enhancing Student Employability and Empowering Career Ready Graduates

Top student outcomes

- 1,341 career consultations delivered to students across Wollongong, regional, metro and online cohorts, with 95% positive feedback.
- 570 students received personalised resume and job application reviews, with a 24–48 hour turnaround.
- 2,100+ students attended employability workshops, employer panels, networking events and career expos.

HDR Student Success

Top student outcomes

- 176 HDR students participated in a series of career development workshops focused on articulating research skills.
- 98 HDR students attended a professional networking simulation event at First Light Brewery.
- Students reported improved confidence in career planning, networking and understanding industry pathways.

Legal Advice & Financial Assistance Clinic

Top student outcomes

- 141 students accessed free, confidential legal advice on issues such as tenancy, employment and debt (64% international students).
- A new financial counselling service was established, supporting students with budgeting and financial literacy.
- 34 students received $500 Emergency Relief Grants, providing critical support during significant personal or financial crises.

Wollongong Campus Library Extended Opening Hours

Top student outcomes

- 548 additional library opening hours delivered during peak assessment periods.
- 14,518 visits recorded during Autumn extended hours alone, with Spring usage estimated at a similar level.
- 50,000+ additional study hours enabled for students needing flexible, safe late night access to study spaces.

Period Products in UOW Library, Wollongong and Shoalhaven

Top student outcomes

- Free period products provided in Wollongong and Shoalhaven Libraries throughout 2025.
- High demand, with products restocked twice daily and no misuse reported.
- 100% of student feedback rated the initiative as “Good” or “Great”, helping address cost of living pressures.

Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program

Top student outcomes

- Free sunflower lanyards and wristbands provided to students with non visible disabilities and trained supporters.
- Increased awareness of hidden disabilities across the UOW community.
- Students reported feeling more supported and understood when engaging on campus.

Postgraduate Careers and Employability Program Support & Postgraduate Mid- and End-of-Year Gathering Party Support

Wollongong University Postgraduate Association (WUPA)

Top student outcomes

- 18 WUPA-led initiatives reaching around 1,000 students across Wollongong, Innovation and Sydney campuses, including mid-session and end-of-year gatherings drawing up to 100 attendees, which helped build community across diverse postgraduate cohorts.
- Postgraduate students improved career readiness and professional confidence through targeted career development and networking activities, with over 70 students attending career roundtables, around 100 students engaging in the “Networking Untapped” industry event, and free professional headshots provided to support job applications and LinkedIn profiles.
- Practical support and advocacy through year-round free printing services, skills-based workshops such as a web development coding session, wellbeing and social activities, and student representation initiatives including the Fair Fares transport concessions campaign, strengthening both day-to-day support and postgraduate student voice.

Disability Collective & Low Sensory Space

Wollongong Undergraduate Students’ Association (WUSA)

Top student outcomes

- Establishment of a new Disability Collective space and Low Sensory Space in Building 11 on Wollongong Campus.
- Spaces fitted with student requested sensory friendly furniture, including weighted blankets.
- Designed through consultation with students with disability; spaces prepared for full program delivery in 2026.

Allsorts UOW Queer Collective

Wollongong Undergraduate Students’ Association (WUSA)

Top student outcomes

- Delivery of social, educational and community events for LGBTQIA+ students.
- Ongoing provision of a safe, inclusive Queer Space with hygiene, recreational and educational resources. Strong student engagement and positive feedback, supporting wellbeing, community connection and identity.
- Student and staff partnership project for historic Allsorts space in building 19 progressed.

The Tert – student led media

Wollongong Undergraduate Students’ Association (WUSA)

Top student outcomes

- Expanded student reach and engagement through print, merch, new stands, and upgraded online access with new website.
- Paid stipends and contributor payments to create a more professional, sustainable student media model and recognise students for their work. Strong community connection via well-attended launch events and collaborative opportunities.
- Broadened participation and inclusivity with accessible creative tools and opportunities across disciplines.

Beach and Water Safety Program

Top student outcomes

- 101 students completed Adult Learn to Swim programs.
- 120+ students attended Beach, Banter and BBQ water safety events, including live rip tide demonstrations.
- Post event surveys showed increased confidence in water safety, local knowledge and sense of belonging.

Sydney Metropolitan Campus Housing Support

Top student outcomes

- Students accessed timely, practical housing support through regular drop in services across Sydney CBD, Liverpool and Sutherland, with average engagement of 50 students per session at Liverpool, and growing participation at CBD sessions linked to Bread & Brew, increasing visibility of housing advice in informal, accessible settings.
- Students improved their understanding of renting, housing options and tenant rights, with strong attendance at Liverpool workshops (up to 25 students per session) and increased engagement at CBD workshops compared to the previous year.
- Students benefited from strengthened pathways to secure and stable accommodation through one on one consultations, expanded Study Stays listings, a fortnightly housing newsletter, and partnerships with Mission Australia, McGrath Real Estate and Student.com, providing trusted advice and clearer housing options during a challenging rental market.

UOW Liverpool Student Experience and Success

Top student outcomes

- Students experienced stronger connection and belonging on campus, with over 5,400 attendances across 145 Tea and Toast sessions and hundreds more engaging in cultural, wellbeing and social events such as the Multicultural Catwalk (340 students), Holi Fest and Chill and Chat.
- Students were better supported to transition into and succeed at university, with more than 270 students attending Orientation events, strong peer engagement through Peer Learning Coaches, and targeted academic and life skills support delivered throughout the year.
- Students gained practical career and employability outcomes, with over 500 students engaging in career panels, graduate nursing preparation sessions and the UOW Liverpool Jobs Fair, helping them feel more informed and prepared for future employment.

UOW Sutherland Student Experience and Success

Top student outcomes

- Students experienced stronger connection and belonging on campus through large-scale welcome and celebration events, with the end-of-year celebration attended by approximately half of the Sutherland student cohort and the start-of-year welcome attracting around one third of all students, helping build peer connections on a campus with limited on-site facilities.
- Students' day-to-day wellbeing and social connection improved through the introduction of all day breakfast, replacing morning only Tea and Toast, which reached more students arriving at different times and created a shared, informal space for students to sit, eat and connect.
- Students were better supported to navigate university and succeed academically through Peer Learning Coaches, orientation changes resulting in almost 100% attendance of new students, and targeted on campus support linked with counsellor and learning skills visits, improving awareness and use of support services.

UOW Sydney CBD Student Engagement

Top student outcomes

- Students experienced stronger connection and belonging through regular weekly programs and large-scale cultural events, including Bread & Brew running three times per week, Saturday Cuppa for weekend students, and high attendance celebrations such as Diwali Bollywood Night, Mooncake Festival, Holi and Ramadan Iftar, helping create an inclusive campus for a diverse, predominantly international cohort.
- Students reported improved wellbeing and stress management through multiple StressLess Weeks across trimesters, featuring free professional massages, yoga and Zumba, creative workshops, Soup for the Soul, meditation spaces and daily snacks, providing practical support during peak academic pressure periods.
- Students built meaningful peer connections and confidence through the Business International Peer Mentoring Network (BIPMN), with mentors and mentees engaging in on campus meet and greets and off campus experiences such as Taronga Zoo, Luna Park, Vivid Cruise and Winterfest ice skating, strengthening social networks and helping students feel connected to both campus and city life.

UOW Bega Valley Social Clubs and Beverage Services

Top student outcomes

- Students experienced stronger connection and belonging through daily access to free coffee, tea, snacks and fruit, alongside 10+ catered social and cohort based events such as orientation lunches, welcome pizza days and final year farewell celebrations, helping students connect across year levels and courses.
- Students felt recognised, supported and valued through purposeful milestone and wellbeing events, including International Nurses Day celebrations, R U OK? Day activities, Wellbeing Week, and end of class celebrations where students received UOW keepsake drink bottles or mugs.
- Students increased awareness and use of support services by engaging in catered workshops linked to learning skills, careers, SARC and placement preparation, where food based engagement encouraged attendance, conversation and connection with support staff and peers.

UOW Eurobodalla Social Clubs and Beverage Services

Top student outcomes

- Students had reliable access to daily food and beverage support, including tea, coffee, snacks, breakfast foods and basic lunch supplies, which was particularly critical at a campus with no food outlets within walking distance, supporting students' wellbeing and ability to remain on campus across long study days.
- Students developed stronger connection and sense of belonging through regular cohort and campus wide catered events, such as welcome back lunches, pizza and sushi days, falafel lunches and end-of-year celebrations, providing opportunities to socialise and connect outside the classroom.
- Students felt more supported in relation to wellbeing and mental health awareness through targeted initiatives such as R U OK? Day morning tea, self care packs, daily fresh breakfasts, and the provision of feminine hygiene products in all washrooms, reinforcing a culture of care and inclusion on campus.

UOW Shoalhaven Social Clubs and Beverage Services

Top student outcomes

- Students experienced improved wellbeing and reduced financial stress through regular subsidised breakfasts delivered across almost the entire year, along with free and catered lunches during high demand study periods, including a high impact August free lunch event that reached a significant number of students during peak academic pressure.
- Students built stronger connection and belonging through orientation lunches, cohort specific events and end-of-year celebrations, such as Orientation Day catering, Graduate School of Medicine (GSM) Lunch and Learn sessions, and end-of-year GSM celebrations that recognised student achievement and strengthened campus community.
- Students benefited from improved day-to-day campus experience through enhanced physical amenities, including new student microwaves, outdoor furniture, utensils and multifaith room signage, supporting inclusive, comfortable spaces for studying, eating and socialising on campus.

UOW Southern Highlands Social Activities and Beverage Services

Top student outcomes

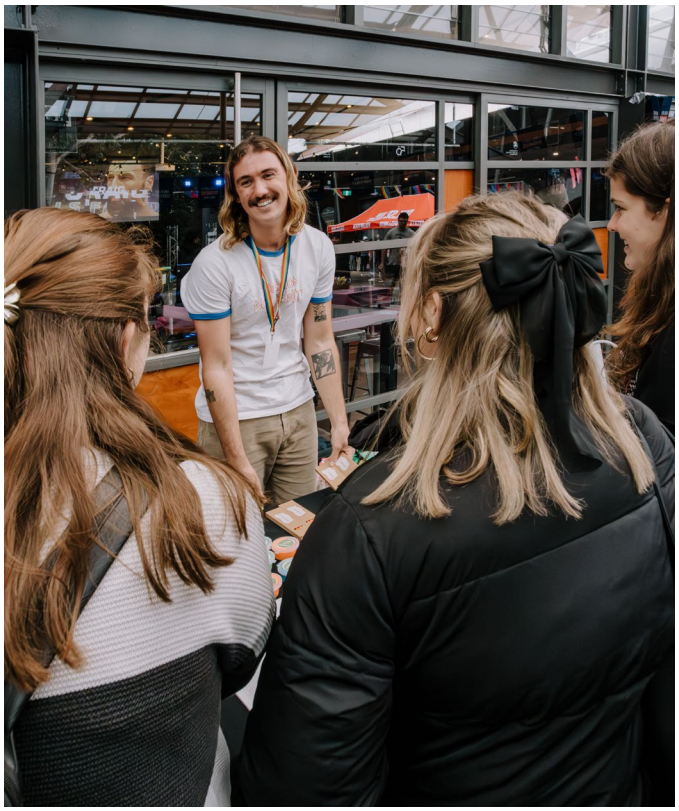
- Students gained reliable access to food, beverages and kitchen facilities on a campus with no commercial options, through the installation of a microwave and kettle and year round provision of tea and coffee, supporting daily wellbeing and study needs.
- Students experienced stronger connection and engagement at key transition points, with catered events delivered during Orientation Week, Welcome Week and specialised workshops, helping students feel welcomed and supported as they commenced or progressed through their studies.
- Students built meaningful peer connections and academic confidence through Graduate School of Medicine (GSM) mentoring workshops, which connected Phase 1 and Phase 3 students and created new opportunities for peer learning and support on a small regional campus.

How SSAF is invested alongside UOW operations

SSAF funding puts students first by turning student feedback and priorities into real services and amenities, funding the extra programs, support and services students say they need, and enhancing their day-to-day experience beyond core university provision across all campuses.

SSAF legislation

SSAF is invested in line with legislation and approved expenditure categories, guided by UOW's SSAF Transition Plan. Alongside the student led SSAF Subcommittee recommendation process, in 2025 both SSAF funding rounds were open to all student-led associations to submit project proposals, with no limit on funding requests made. This practice has continued in 2026 to continue to invest in building student-led allocations.



Looking forward – SSAF Priorities 2026

In 2026, we will continue to build a transparent, accountable, and student-led SSAF process at UOW to benefit the student community.

Priorities include:

- Pilot of SSAF Student Subcommittee direct allocation of 40% of the SSAF funds to services and amenities that matter to students, whilst continuing the practice of their recommendations informing the other 60% of allocation.
- Work alongside democratically elected student leaders to ensure they have the training, skills and knowledge needed to support SSAF administration.
- Continuing open funding submissions for all student-led organisations, with no limit on funding that can be requested and provide training and support, so they can build the services they deliver for the student community.
- Creation of this SSAF Annual Report, to detail project outcomes – bringing more visibility around outcomes for the student community who invest SSAF.
- Refine student facing communications on SSAF, including adding filters to the SSAF funded project lists on the UOW SSAF website for Wollongong, Regional, Sydney and Online campus students to easily navigate services and amenities available to them.
- Build the SSAF Survey response rate, so the SSAF Subcommittee have broader student voice to support them in making allocation decisions.
- Engage with university staff and associations around Australia to benchmark and share practices around SSAF administration.