



## Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Revenue Allocation to Student-led Organisations

The Australian Government will require higher education providers to allocate a minimum of 40% of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) revenue to student-led organisations – which includes student associations, student unions and student guilds.

### How will this initiative work?

From 1 January 2025, subject to the passage of legislation, higher education providers that charge a Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) will be required by legislation to allocate a minimum of 40% of SSAF revenue to student-led organisations.

Currently, while higher education providers are required to consult with student representatives about SSAF revenue distribution, the revenue allocation is at the discretion of providers.

This can leave student-led organisations vulnerable to reductions in funding. At present nearly 6 out of 10 higher education providers allocate less than 40% of SSAF revenue to student-led organisations.

This initiative will be implemented via amendments to the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) and associated guidelines.

If a higher education provider is not able to allocate a minimum of 40% of SSAF revenue and maintain other key services to the expected level, the provider will be required to seek prior approval from the Department of Education before allocating a lesser amount.

Annual reporting will be required from higher education providers to provide evidence that students are regularly consulted about the SSAF fund allocations.

### Why is it important?

Connecting students to services, support and social inclusion are fundamental to students succeeding in their educational journey, particularly at the undergraduate level.

Student-led organisations will benefit from a consistent and predictable stream of SSAF revenue as they can plan and commit for long-term student support services.

It will also encourage some smaller, newer and regional universities to invest in student-led organisations and services so they can grow and provide a higher quality of services and experience for students.

## Who will benefit?

This proposal will help to improve the services that student-led organisations are able to provide to students, which will support students to succeed at university.