What is the Student Services and Amenities Fee and how does it help?

The Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) provides universities with a means to maintain and enhance services and amenities that support a wide range of student needs.

The SSAF contributes to the maintenance and ongoing development of essential services and amenities for students, both on and off campus, without the need to reduce funding for teaching and research.

In 2014 Charles Sturt University (CSU) calculated the SSAF at $34 per 8 point subject, with the maximum annual fee capped at $272 per student.

The CSU SSAF Steering Committee formally calls for SSAF project proposals from staff and students twice a year. Submissions for potential SSAF-funded projects can be made at any time throughout the year. Students can raise their ideas and suggestions with Student Representative Committee members on their respective campus.

Each proposed project lodged with the CSU SSAF Steering Committee is then put through a review process. The committee particularly looks for projects that provide long-term effects and equitable impact for the diverse student body at CSU.

This document provides details of the SSAF projects (part or fully funded) that CSU’s Division of Facilities Management (DFM) is, or has been, involved with. This is a snapshot of how the University is continually improving student facilities and services.

DFM receives about one-third of the overall pool of SSAF funding to complete facilities and student services-related projects across all CSU locations.

Did you know?

SSAF-related information can be found on the CSU website at:

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Creating spaces for student recreation and engagement has been the focus of SSAF projects at Charles Sturt University in Albury-Wodonga. Through the latest SSAF contributions, students are now enjoying a fully equipped sports and social area. Student Services is set to receive a new meeting room in the Gums Café precinct. Combined, these spaces provide Albury-Wodonga students with central hubs to conduct a range of social activities.

Completed projects

Sports complex

In late 2013 work started on a new sports and recreation facility at Charles Sturt University in Albury-Wodonga. SSAF funding covered $250,000 of the $810,000 project. Students are now enjoying a sports complex complete with:

- leveled grass playing areas
- new multi-purpose court for a range of ball sports
- new basketball and netball half-court practice court
- two new barbecues and benches for seating
- new steel-framed shelter to cover outdoor seating and barbecue
- new roofed bleacher facility to accommodate 60 people, complete with lockable storage units
- designated footpaths and lighting.

“Having somewhere that is a great communal space is fantastic for the campus. There are always people down there shooting hoops or kicking a footy around. The barbecues and seating area make it a really social meeting area. The complex adds a lot to the University and shows there is more to university life than lectures and learning.”

Charlie Shepherd
Second-year Bachelor of Physiotherapy student, avid sports fan and Residential Advisor
Storage shed
This storage shed complements the two major SSAF projects carried out at CSU in Albury-Wodonga. The shed provides ample space for sporting equipment used on the new sports and recreational complex as well as storage for equipment and merchandise belonging to Student Support, Catering, Murray Campus Council and other student clubs. The shed is centrally located for convenience and can only be accessed via staff or student swipe cards. The shed cost $200,000 to build.

In progress projects
Gums Café
SSAF funding of about $180,000 will cover construction costs for two new offices and a meeting room inside the Gums Café (building 752) at Albury-Wodonga Campus. These dedicated work and meeting spaces will be utilised by members of the Murray Campus Council, student clubs and groups and Student Services. The offices will be ideally located in a popular student meeting space and will provide a central one-stop shop for student-based services. This project is due for completion in the second half of 2014. Recycled timber will feature throughout the new designs to match the existing building.

Did you know?
Students can submit ideas for SSAF funded projects throughout the year by contacting a member of their Student Representative Committee.
SSAF spending in Bathurst focuses on embracing all university life has to offer. The student hub at the front of the campus Learning Commons is undergoing major change. This change will happen over two stages and aims to create a vibrant space where collaboration, socialising and learning can combine. The SSAF has also helped fund a number of sporting facility upgrades, giving students access to newer, safer equipment and facilities.

Completed projects

Upgrade to gymnasium
Students require a balanced lifestyle at university, a healthy mix of study and fitness with a focus on wellbeing. This SSAF-funded project resulted in some major changes to the gym at Bathurst Campus. More than $85,000 was spent on replacing equipment, laying new carpet and installing swipe-card access for extra security. An equipment replacement and maintenance schedule has also been implemented.

Enhancement of student hub (Stage One)
The grassed area at the front of the Learning Commons will be the central meeting place on campus and a space for lively and vibrant student activities. Stage One of this project is now complete. New seats, tables and bike racks were installed and landscaping and new pathways established. This SSAF-funded project focuses on improving social and learning spaces on campus. This first stage cost $110,000 and was ready for student use at the start of the 2014 academic year.
Barbecue area and netball court shelter

Students requested these projects as a way of increasing on campus social and sports participation. The barbecue area is now in a location closer to the sporting facilities, while the netball shelter was an important addition for players during training and competition rounds. The upgrades also help promote CSU team sports to the University community. The total project cost was $25,000, co-funded by the Bathurst Student Representative Committee.

Future projects

Students can look forward to bigger and better additions to the student hub near the Learning Commons. Stage Two of the project involves designing a space for student engagement that is active, vibrant and welcoming. The hub is part of a bigger University strategic goal. There is a $1 million price tag on this project, with a $250,000 contribution from the SSAF. A master plan has been established (see above) to ensure student expectations are met and the design and focus aligns with the University’s strategic plan. This project is expected to be completed in January 2015.
Charles Sturt University in Dubbo provides a welcoming study and social environment for students. In 2013-14 the SSAF funded a number of projects to further enhance this campus culture. Shade sails installed in the sports precinct provide a location for student socialisation and involvement in recreational activities. Other sporting upgrades covered by SSAF help to build on the social aspect of campus life.

Completed projects

**Sports storage shed**
This shed gives students peace of mind that expensive and valuable sporting equipment can be safely and securely locked away. As an extra security measure the shed has been equipped with CSU swipe-card access. The project cost $8,000 and was completed in November 2013.

**Shade sails – Building 920**
Covering the back section of Building 920, near the gymnasium, gives students extra space to socialise and get involved in team sports. As well as providing shade, the sails help to reduce heat entering the adjoining multi-purpose hall. The shade sails cost $13,000 to install and were completed in the summer of 2014.
Handrail covers

It’s safety first on the netball courts in Dubbo. Cushioned covers have been added to handrails installed on a ramp near the courts. The bright yellow coverings are an extra safety measure for players on the courts. Total project cost, including the cost of the new handrails, was $7,000.

“In Dubbo students have put forward a number of SSAF project ideas on how to provide an enhanced, safer university experiences for all students. The improvements to date from the SSAF funding have been a boost to students both socially and academically.”

Warren Frazer
Dubbo Student Representative Committee President
SSAF funding from 2013-14 has contributed to two major projects at Charles Sturt University in Orange, making it easier for students to find the right balance between learning and leisure. Additional social and sporting projects are also in the pipeline for Orange Campus students.

Completed projects

Netball and basketball court refurbishment
The SSAF helped to cover the $90,000 needed to upgrade the netball and basketball courts at Orange Campus. Improvement works carried out included:

- court extension to meet Australian netball competition standards – CSU Netball Club can now host competition matches
- resurfacing upgrades – uneven bitumen surface replaced with new smoother, safer covering
- new hoops, backboards and all associated line markings.

Enhancement of student hub
What was once an underutilised space near Building 1000 is now a well-presented student learning and socialising hub. The space underwent some landscaping work to improve the overall look, while remedial work on the existing concrete wall bordering the area was also carried out. Benches, tables, power points and a student display board were then put in to enhance the space and make it practical for student use. Total project cost was $50,000.

“The successful upgrade and construction of the netball court at Charles Sturt University in Orange provides a new training and competition playing ground, for students and the wider community. The court has been resized and resurfaced, giving CSU netball teams the opportunity to hold competition games at the University. This year three female CSU Netball Club teams are using the new facility for both training and competition purposes. This is a great asset to the University, students and the wider community.”

Ellen Pattison
President of CSU Netball Club, Orange
In progress projects

Upgrade to Banjo’s deck area

Students at Orange Campus can look forward to a bigger, covered deck area at the popular Banjo’s bistro / bar. Upgrading this space will promote outdoor social activities and support a range of functions held at Banjo’s, including bar nights. Covering the deck area allows for flexibility, whatever the weather. Improved lighting and new furniture will also be included in the upgrade. The project is well on its way to being complete (expected completion date August 2014) – designs have been formulated, development application approved by Orange City Council and the process to engage a builder is underway.

Future projects

Upgrade to gymnasium

SSAF funding of about $150,000 has been allocated for this project. Students have highlighted the need for a larger gym, equipped with a bigger range of equipment, improved facilities and the possibility of offering fitness classes, as a high priority. There is also the possibility of including outside training stations near the new gym. As a whole this project will help to facilitate student health and fitness. Student representatives have been engaged throughout the process and have been an integral part of the design and planning phase. A final design (see below) for the gym has now been approved and the process to engage a builder is underway.
SSAF funding in 2013-14 has improved sports facilities and social aspects for students at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Student sports clubs have improved playing fields and amenities; the campus gymnasium has received new equipment and a swipe-card system for extra security. Meanwhile, a new dining experience at a popular student eatery is on its way.

Completed projects

Peter Hastie Oval upgrade

Students at CSU in Wagga Wagga are kicking goals due to SSAF contributions of more than $150,000 to fix one of the popular campus ovals. The upgrade, completed in December 2013, is the first significant work to be carried out on the Australian Rules football sheds and oval for more than 30 years.

Improvement works included:

- a complete makeover of the bathrooms, including new wall linings in the showers, fitting of a new instantaneous hot water system, exhaust fans and a complete paint upgrade throughout.
- security improvements – new roller shutter installed at the front of the servery, security screens fitted to all windows, solid doors on all external doorways and a security cage around external services.
- kiosk upgrades – installation of stainless steel benches, vinyl wall and floor sheeting and extraction system.

In 2013 significant works were also carried out to improve the playing grounds at Peter Hastie Oval.

“The upgrades mean a lot to the club and give new life to the place. Being a student-based club we don’t have the big membership base or financial supporters to undertake projects such as these renovations. The club looks forward to working with CSU on further projects to upgrade sporting facilities at the Wagga Wagga Campus to benefit all the University’s clubs.”

Jeff Angel
CSU Australian Football and Netball Club President

Gym and pool upgrades

Two SSAF-funded projects helped to improve the gymnasium and pool area in Wagga Wagga. Old equipment in the gym has been replaced, and some new machines introduced. Some $85,000 was spent on improving security for students in the gym and pool area. Swipe-card access is now required to enter the area, surveillance cameras have been installed and the pool fencing has been replaced.
In progress projects

Atkins Hall upgrade
Students can look forward to a new dining experience at one of Wagga Wagga Campus’s most popular dining halls. Atkins Hall on the northern side of campus is undergoing some major renovations, which will change the look and feel of the hall and adjoining cafeteria. Students can look forward to dining on a new outdoor, covered deck area with room to seat about 100 people, while a redesign of the interior space will provide a more streamlined service. SSAF funding will cover $250,000 of the project.

“The new design will add extra space and will be another campus location for casual meetings, socialising and relaxation.”

Brett Russell
Manager of CSU’s Food and Beverage Services

Future projects

Improvement options for the netball club at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga are being explored. Projects for consideration include building a new netball court shelter to accommodate up to 15 people, or relocation of the courts, with new shelters and amenities included. Also in the SSAF future works plan is the creation of an outdoor social, teaching and learning space. A proposal has been put forward to upgrade a grassed section at the front of the Jack Cross Centre (Building 15) and adjacent tutorial rooms.
Completed project

Learning Commons refurbishment

The School of Policing Studies at Charles Sturt University in Goulburn received $120,000 in SSAF funding to provide students with a space that combines study and recreation. Through consultation with the NSW Police Force, CSU Student Support Officers, students and the Head of School it was agreed to refurbish an existing NSW Police Force library and turn it into a CSU Learning Commons. Walls received fresh coats of paint and new furniture was purchased for the space. Students are now enjoying a vibrant and inviting space for study.
Future project

Cyclist facility
Students at the School of Theology in Parramatta, Sydney, have requested on-site bicycle facilities. An existing laundry will be renovated into two bathrooms, complete with showers, toilets and vanity, for cyclists’ convenience. Bike racks will also be installed near the facility. SSAF funding of $15,000 will go towards this project, due for completion late 2014.
## Completed projects

The following is a list of all projects completed by DFM since SSAF funding became available in 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>SSAF contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albury-Wodonga</td>
<td>Sports complex (2014)</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Storage shed (2014)</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathurst</td>
<td>Enhancement of student hub (stage 1) (2014)</td>
<td>$110,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gymnasium upgrades (2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barbecue area and netball shelter (2014)</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dubbo</td>
<td>Shade sails – building 920 (2014)</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sports storage shed (2014)</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Handrail covers and associated work (2014)</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goulburn</td>
<td>Learning Commons refurbishment (2014)</td>
<td>$92,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Netball and basketball court refurbishment (2014)</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enhancement of student hub (2014)</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Banjo’s Café store room (2013)</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wagga Wagga</td>
<td>Peter Hastie Oval upgrade (kiosk and change rooms) (2013)</td>
<td>$155,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gymnasium equipment upgrade</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peter Hastie Oval upgrade (grounds) (2013)</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Beres Ellwood Oval upgrade (2013)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total cost = $1,216,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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* All figures are approximations to the nearest rounded number.
SSAF success: the numbers

SSAF Project Expenditure

- TOTAL REMAINING ($): 764,300
- TOTAL FUTURE COMMITTED ($): 985,000
- TOTAL SPEND TO DATE ($): 950,600

SSAF % of spend by campus since 2013 (completed and in progress projects)

- WAGGA WAGGA: 37%
- ALBURY-WODONGA: 24%
- BATHURST: 16%
- ORANGE: 12%
- GOULBURN: 10%
- DUBBO: 1%

WAGGA WAGGA 37%
ALBURY-WODONGA 24%
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ORANGE 12%
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DUBBO 1%
### SSAF success: 2013-14 project work plan

#### Albury-Wodonga

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<td>complete</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gums Café office development</td>
<td>in progress</td>
<td>$110,000</td>
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#### Bathurst

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<td>complete</td>
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#### Goulburn

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<tr>
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#### Orange

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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade Banjo’s Café deck area</td>
<td>in progress</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball and basketball court refurbishment</td>
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#### Wagga Wagga

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* All figures are approximations to the nearest rounded number.
Student SSAF wish list

Each year students are given the opportunity to highlight projects they would like their SSAF money to contribute to. The following is a list of projects students have previously pitched to DFM, and are currently under consideration:

- covered pathways between residences and lecture halls at Bathurst Campus
- improved social and recreation facilities at Rafters bar at Bathurst Campus
- installation of digital signage at Dubbo Campus
- after hours and self-catering stations for tea, coffee and food preparation at Dubbo Campus
- pool room and table tennis facilities at Orange Campus
- bicycle shed and shower facilities at Orange Campus
- improved sports / multi-purpose facility at Orange Campus
- ATM at Orange Campus
- spectator seating near Peter Hastie Oval at Wagga Wagga Campus
- extra social and learning spaces and more bus shelters at Wagga Wagga Campus.

*Note: Due to some constraints not all projects are feasible. However, DFM always encourages students’ suggestions and feedback on projects they think would enhance their university experience. All project suggestions are subject to a review process aimed to ascertain the long-term benefit and equitable impact for the diverse student body at CSU.*