

Charles Darwin University

SSAF Report 2021

Introduction

This report outlines the 2021 activities related to the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF). 2021 saw a return of limited on-campus delivery of activities across some campuses that met social distancing requirements whilst also including opportunities for engagement and support remotely and online. The following information represent the variety of projects and initiatives that were implemented in 2021.

Student Representation

CDU is committed to fostering inclusivity and encouraging active student participation in the decision-making process. To ensure that there is ongoing student representation in decisions regarding SSAF funding, the CDU SSAF Advisory Committee includes student representatives encompass a wide array of cohorts, including postgraduate, undergraduate, First Nations, and international students. In 2021, the SSAF Advisory Committee consisted of 8 CDU staff members and 5 CDU students.

2021 SSAF Funded Projects

LEARNER SUPPORT

Online Tutoring

24/7 online tutoring delivered by Tutor.com.

Academic Integrity Student Module

The Academic Integrity Module Project serves as a vital tool in ensuring that students are well-versed in CDU's Academic Integrity policies and guidelines.

CDU Bookshop Free Postage

This project aims at providing free postage services to our students residing in rural or remote areas, to alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with living in such regions. This project has proven successful and provided invaluable support to our domestic students.

What I'd Wish I'd Known - Podcast Series

This project is a podcast series where CDU students are interviewed in a conversational style about their experiences at CDU and share stories about life, study, and achieving academic success. The primary aim of this was for students to feel a sense of community and to hear from students how to make the best of their CDU journey. Listen [here](#).

CDU Buddy Program

The Program was established with the aim of facilitating the integration of newly enrolled international students through the assistance of current international students. This two-tiered program aims to offer newly commencing international students a sense of belonging, inclusion, and friendship through the connection with Senior Buddy's. The program sessions were delivered online and in-person.

CAMPUS ACTIVATION

Waterfront Campus Rejuvenation Project

In 2021 the campus underwent a transformation that included the introduction of amenities like table tennis, ski-hockey, and vibrant furniture. This revitalised space has since served as a thriving communal area for students to enjoy.

The Water Tower Series

This initiative from the Northern Territory Travelling Film Festival (NTTFF) and Charles Darwin University is the Water Tower Series Program; a collaboration and commissioning program that saw experimental new media works created and screened across local regional and remote water towers in the NT, culminating in a multi-day event in Darwin 2021. Further information [here](#).



NAIDOC 2021

Charles Darwin University joined the national celebration of NAIDOC Week to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and reaffirm its commitment to improving Indigenous educational outcomes. CDU celebrated by hosting a BBQ, free Indigenous movie screenings and weaving workshops.

Student Groups

There were 33 active student groups in 2021, with almost 1000 student members. This included 10 new student groups established during 2021 including: the Women's Collective, Practice Presentation Club, The GG Social Club, The CDU Magic Club, The CDU Virtual Club, Allied Health Collective, REIL & Co, CDU Catholic Society, CDU Volleyball Club and the First Nations of Australia Law Society.

WELFARE SUPPORT

Online Wellbeing

24/7 online wellbeing support delivered by Lifeline.

Sensory Space

The Sensory Space at Charles Darwin University (CDU) has been created to provide a safe and comforting environment for students to experience a range of sensory stimuli, promoting a sense of calmness funded by SSAF.

The room is designed for students living with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, sensory disorders, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, Borderline Personality Disorder, mental health conditions, anxiety, or depression, or those needing some time out. Check out a tour [here](#).



CDU Gym

The Faculty of Health and SSAF have worked together to re-open the CDU Fitness Hub. The facility aims to enhance students' overall health and well-being by providing a cost-effective, professional and safe training environment on the Casuarina campus. This aligns with CDU's new strategic plan to promote a healthy lifestyle and a better work/study-life balance for both staff and students.



Revive2Survive



This initiative proved students' free food, a lolly bar and exam survival study pack for the exam period in Semester 2. This project saw great success with over 200 students receiving a pack and over 30 students per evening enjoying free food.

Counselling Service

In 2021 the Service delivered 1091 individual appointments and introduced wellbeing workshops aimed at proactive support that builds resilience and help seeking behaviours in students.

COVID-19 Hardship Contribution

In response to the challenges faced by students during the COVID period, CDU took proactive measures to alleviate the financial burdens many were experiencing. One such initiative was the launch of the Emergency Student Appeal, a program designed with the explicit goal of providing relief to students facing extreme financial hardships. As part of its commitment to student well-being, CDU partnered with the non-profit organisation, Kindness Shakes, to host a special event. This event, a free food night, was extended to all students to ensure that no one within the CDU community would go hungry or without support during these challenging times.



STUDENT ADVOCACY

In 2021 the Student Advocacy service provided advice to 42 students with an increased need for linkages to external organisations such as Legal Aid. A Student Advocacy Charter was developed in 2021 with a promotional awareness campaign set for semester one 2022.

2021 SSAF Expenditure

Key Area	2021 Total Actual Spends	Are services available online?	Estimated No. of students accessing services
Student Support Positions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Engagement Project Officer • Student Leadership Officer • Student Advocacy Officer • Counsellor • Language and Learning Advisers 	\$ 990,542.00	Yes	16,594
Campus Activation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Groups • SSAF Funded Projects • Orientation • Student Catering 	\$ 544,346.52	Yes	16,594
Welfare Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Hardship Grants • Covid-19 Kindness Shake Free Meal Event • COVID-19 Hardship Vouchers • Emergency Student Accommodation 	\$334,266.52	Yes	600
Online Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Website Development • My Careers Centre (careers support) • Tutor.com (learner support) • Lifeline (wellbeing support) 	\$344,725.53	Yes	16,594
Total	\$2,213,880.57		