

STUDENT SERVICES AND AMENITIES FEE GUIDELINES

The Student Services and Amenities Fee Guidelines ('the Fee Guidelines') will be a legislative instrument made under proposed amendments to the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA).

The Fee Guidelines will specify the purposes for which any compulsory student services and amenities fee ('the fee') can be used; and prescribe the administrative arrangements for the fee, including those relating to SA-HELP.

The Fee Guidelines will apply to higher education providers that choose to charge the fee, and that would also be required to provide access to SA-HELP. Individual higher education providers are expected to consult their student body on the specific uses of the fee within the Fee Guidelines.

Proposed amendments to HESA will require that providers must not spend the funds collected from the fee to provide support to a political party, or to support a candidate for political office. The amendments also impose a similar prohibition on any person (including organisation) who receives any such funds from the provider (in relation to the use of those funds).

The uses of the fee to provide student services and amenities will need to be over and above those services required by the **National Access to Services Benchmarks**.

The fee will also be able to be used for enhancements to academic support services that are over and above those required by the **National Student Representation and Advocacy Protocols** and are within the allowable uses of the fee.

Revenue from the fee may be used directly by the higher education provider or provided to third party services and amenities providers for the provision of allowable services for students.

Allowable uses of the fee in relation to services and amenities may include the categories listed below. In all cases the purpose would include but not be limited to, the direct provision of the service or amenity, the provision of infrastructure (including new construction) and subsidies that would reduce the price that students may have to pay.

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| (a) food and beverages; | Relating to the provision of food and beverage services available to students on campus. |
| (b) sports and recreation; | Relating to the support of sport and recreation activities for students. |
| (c) clubs and societies; | Relating to the provision of administrative support for student clubs and societies. |
| (d) child care; | Relating to the provision of child care services for students. |
| (e) legal services; | Relating to the provision of legal services for students, including for example, employment of |

- legal officers and contributions to community legal centres.
- (f) health care; Relating to the provision of health care and welfare services, including non-academic counselling, for students.
 - (g) housing; Relating to the provision of services to assist students to secure housing and accommodation.
 - (h) employment; Relating to the provision of employment and career advisory services for students.
 - (i) financial services Relating to the provision of financial assistance services for students.
 - (j) visual arts, performing arts and audio visual media; Relating to support for student visual and performing arts and audio visual media activities.
 - (k) debating; Relating to the support for student debating activities.
 - (l) libraries and reading rooms; Relating to the provision of services and support for libraries and reading rooms (other than the provider's academic libraries and student study areas).
 - (m) student media; Relating to support for the production and dissemination to students of student media (including radio, television, newspapers, audio-visual media and internet publications).
 - (n) academic support; Provision of specific skills training and advocacy services to assist with advice on matters arising under the academic and procedural rules and regulations of the higher education provider.
 - (o) personal accident insurance for students; Relating to the provision of personal accident insurance for students.
 - (p) orientation information; and Relating to the provision of orientation information and activities over and above those required by the **Access to Services Benchmarks**.
 - (q) support services for overseas students Relating to the provision of services for overseas students over and above those required by the *National Code of Practice (Standard 6 – Student Support Services)* and the **Access to Services Benchmarks** (for example, welfare, accommodation and employment services targeting the specific needs of overseas students).

Items not included in the above list would require Ministerial and Parliamentary approval as an amendment to the Fee Guidelines (and be subject to Parliamentary disallowance).