

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
13 February 2013

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

**TOPIC:** Student Services & Amenities Fee

**REFERENCE:** Written Question - Senator Rhiannon

**QUESTION No.:** AI-102

1. Is there available a summary on what universities have spent SSAF funds on?
2. What are the details of any complaints about the expenditure decisions made by universities, or the student consultative processes?

**ANSWER**

1. The department does not require universities to report detailed expenditure information on Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) revenue.

However, based on publicly available information on universities' respective websites, the top five priorities for expenditure in 2012 were as below:

- student support and advocacy services;
  - student sport and clubs;
  - infrastructure for student amenities, both physical and online;
  - health and wellbeing services; and
  - academic, employment and accommodation assistance.
2. The department has received a small number of enquiries regarding universities' compliance with SSAF legislation. No breaches of the legislation, the *Administration Guidelines* or the *Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy Guidelines* (the Representation Guidelines) were found to occur. However, the enquiries received can be categorised according to the following key themes:

***Adequate consultation in relation to the expenditure of SSAF revenue*** - Some student organisations sought clarification as to whether universities were required to spend SSAF revenue in accordance with recommendations put forward through the consultation process. In all cases, it was found that consultation had been undertaken in accordance with requirements under the Representation Guidelines. While student representatives and organisations must be invited to contribute to the decision-making process, higher education providers are ultimately responsible for determining how SSAF revenue will be spent.

***Timing of consultation with the student body*** - The department also received some queries in relation to the timing of student consultation in the first year of the implementation of SSAF. This was generally due to the short lead time that universities had to implement the fee following the introduction of the legislation and guidelines.