

# Submission

to

Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education  
References Committee

## **Inquiry into student income support**

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**Submission no:** 54

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**Submitter:** Ms Cathleen Laing

**Organisation:** Student Association Incorporated  
University of Tasmania

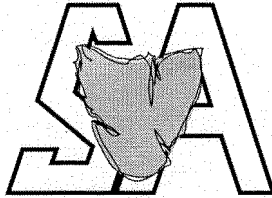
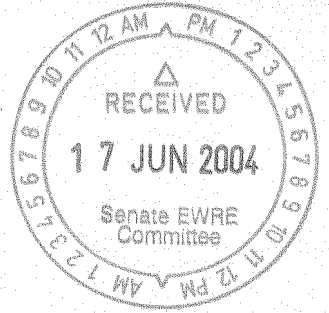
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Student Association Incorporated  
University of Tasmania, Launceston

**STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

**SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO STUDENT  
INCOME SUPPORT 2004**

**Prepared by Cathleen Liang  
Authorised By Tammie McCarthy  
16 June 2004**

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammie M. McCarthy".

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## **Introduction/Summary**

The Student Association at The University of Tasmania welcomes the opportunity to have input into the current Senate Inquiry into Student Income Support and appreciates that the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee chose to adopt such broad terms of reference for this inquiry. Specifically, we wish to provide commentary on the following selected terms of reference:

- The importance of adequate income support measures in achieving equitable access to education with reference to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and ways in which to improve access to education
- Alternative student income support measures

We wish to discuss the importance of our organisation in the greater university community by outlining our function, structure and contribution, highlighting the importance of campus culture at the university and presenting the results of our first 2004 and our 2003 student surveys. We believe that student income support is not as simple as increasing payments to students to study. Rather, we believe that it involves the availability of a loans scheme and the provision of adequate and affordable facilities, food, services and recreational activities. We therefore propose that adequate income support in the form of a repayable loan be introduced for genuine students assessed on a case by case basis and that, as an alternative student income support measure, the Government rethink its introduction of Optional Membership of Student Organisations (OMSO) legislation as this will diminish the valuable and affordable services that students currently have access to.

## **Adequate Income Support Measures in Achieving Equitable Access to Education**

Enrolments at The University of Tasmania include 28% of students with a low socio-economic status (the fourth highest in Australia) while rural and isolated students make up 39.9% of enrolments (the tenth highest in

Australia).<sup>1</sup> Generally, these groups of students have poor rates of retention, progression and completion and must certainly not be discouraged in any way from finishing their chosen course of study by inadequate income support measures.

The Student Association (SA) deals with students on a daily basis both via staff and student representatives and runs regular surveys of our students to gauge the relevance and importance of the services we offer. An organisation such as ours is best positioned for gauging and responding to the financial difficulties that students face during their course of study. The life of a university student in 2004 is by no means easy as many students work several part time jobs whilst studying for their degrees; their focus is hard work and preparation for eventual professional employment.

The safety net scheme at The University of Tasmania caters to students in genuine dire financial difficulty on a case-by-case basis. We believe that the Government should also offer adequate income support for genuine students on an individual basis in the form of a repayable loan. The need for a scheme such as this is best demonstrated by the case of Susie. Susie is an outstanding law student who had spent her summer break in Sydney working for a legal firm for 3 months. As a result, she has been offered employment when she graduates at the end of this year. While in Sydney, Susie was earning good money but relocation costs and living expenses were high so she was unable to save much money. Nonetheless, as a result of the money she had earned, she was ineligible for any Austudy payment for semester one 2004. If not for parental assistance, she would have had to drop back to part-time study to work to support herself as so many other students in her situation have had to do as they do not qualify for independent Austudy payments. Susie is a future high-income earner but, if not for the help of her parents, would have had to have taken longer to graduate due to her individual circumstances not being assessed. Students like Susie do not simply want

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<sup>1</sup> Le Grew, Daryl, 'Higher Education Package will Deliver Many Benefits to Tasmania', University of Tasmania Media Release, 5 December 2003.

to receive extra money from the Government. She is a genuine student who works hard and is more than willing to take responsibility for the cost of her education. In cases such as Susie's, the availability of individual assessment which could have entitled her to a small scale and short-term loan scheme repayable when she entered employment would have been invaluable to her and a good outcome for the Government.

Indeed, there are countless cases of students being in financial difficulty. Current University of Tasmania forecasts predict that students at the northern campuses will contribute approximately \$200 million per annum to Launceston's economy alone by the year 2010.<sup>2</sup> This sort of economic and demographic growth in a regional area should not be discouraged in any way.

### **Government Policy Statement**

In 2003, the Government flagged the introduction of OMSO in Backing Australia's Future by stating that: 'The Government will be introducing separate legislation to ensure that membership of student organisations is optional and universities do not collect fees that are not directly related to course provision. Institutions would be penalised for breaches of the legislation'.<sup>3</sup> If introduced, this legislation can only have an extremely negative impact on university life by impeding the ability of student associations, guilds and unions to continue to provide a vast range of affordable, free and heavily subsidised services to students.

We fully oppose the introduction of OMSO as we believe that it will ultimately eliminate the university's capacity to charter fees for provision of non-core academic services on campus. Non-core academic services and facilities provided by the general Services and Amenities fees (S&A Fees) are an essential adjunct to the academic services and

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<sup>2</sup> 'Growth will be centred in North', The Examiner, February 2004, p. 2.

<sup>3</sup> Nelson, Brendan, Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future, Department of Education Science and Training, 2003, p. 45.

facilities provided by universities. Without the other, neither provides the complete education experience universities promote themselves as providing. While it is unclear as yet as to whether the universal activities of student organisations will disappear under this yet to be drafted legislation or whether the Government will just focus on making affiliation to and financial support of Student Representative Councils (SRCs) voluntary, we are concerned that the proposed Act will ultimately make the payment of any S&A fees voluntary. This could result in the removal of the universal membership of the student community and, ultimately, the collapse of student organisations. For delivery of the services provided by student organisations there has to be an infrastructure in place to make them available. Payment of a compulsory student fee is the most equitable and efficient way of providing this infrastructure.

Whilst S&A fees differ greatly between different universities, at the northern campuses of The University of Tasmania, a full time student pays \$244 per year. This equates to \$4.70 per week over 52 weeks or \$9.38 per week based on actual semester one and two class times. This amount is lower if a student is studying on a less than full time basis. In addition, students enrolled at the Cradle Coast Campus in Burnie pay half fees.

At the University of Tasmania, the S&A fees paid by students based at the Northern Campuses of the University are used to provide quality, cost effective and relevant services and facilities which are not provided by the University, but which are used extensively by students. Membership of the Student Association is voluntary and not linked to the payment of this fee. Without a universal service fee that subsidises the cost of our services, many students would be unable to use our facilities, be a member of clubs and societies, apply for our scholarships and bursaries, participate in our activities and so on as these services would become financially unsustainable.

Under the proposed OMSO legislation, the Student Association would lose approximately 75% of its net income. This would almost certainly result in the winding up of the organisation, terminating the delivery of services and activities currently provided and also terminating any prospect of development or improvement of campus facilities in the future. In addition, the SA's representational role in the university decision making processes would be lost.

The Student Association provides many services and facilities to its members which are listed below. In addition, the Student Association is about to go into business with a training organisation and offer a 10 week course for bar and waitressing work for our member students.

### **The Student Association's Facilities, Services and Operations**

A summary presentation of the facilities, services and operations provided, conducted and administered by the Management Committee of the Student Association in 2003 is presented below:

#### **Intellectual**

- Scholarships & Bursaries
  - SA Mt. Nelson Award
  - NW Bursary Scheme

#### **Material**

- Catering Operations
  - ◆ Cafeteria & Restaurant
  - ◆ Coffee Shop
  - ◆ Bar
  
- Convenience Store & Services
  - ◆ SA Shop
  - ◆ Resource Centres\*
  - ◆ Graduation and Academic Dress Hire
  - ◆ Student Gallery – Inveresk

◆ Extensive Website (See Appendix One)

\*No outside operator would provide what we provide in our Resource Centres as everything we sell, we sell at cost price. The S&A fees cover the cost of wages and overheads in operating our Resource Centres.

**Goods and services provided by the 2 Resource Centres**

- Student photocopying service
- Laser printing service
- Student fax service
- Laminating service
- 24 hour access computer laboratory
- Supervision of the operation of the computer laboratory
- Ticket sales office for campus events
- Typing register
- Lecture notes
- Internet access student subscription and registration
- Distribution of course books
- Bus tickets and timetables
- Student discount cinema tickets
- Public telephone and phone cards
- Student travel cards (ISIC)
- Locker hire
- Lost property

**Social**

- Recreation Centre – Newnham
- Recreation Centre – Inveresk
- Clubs & Societies
- Free/low costs BBQs, trivia nights, entertainment, International Student nights, trips, movie nights and general social activities. These activities have generally high participation rates of between 50-100 students per event
- Entertainment & Australasian Association of Campus Activities (AACCA) affiliation and activities

**Cultural**

- University Gallery Funding



- International Student Activities (See Appendix Two)
- Production of our website and university information brochures in 6 languages (See Appendix Three)
- International magazine subscriptions to over 30 magazines from various countries for our large population of international students to borrow. (See Appendix Four)
- Production of a monthly student magazine (See Appendix Five)

### **Sporting**

- Sport & Rec, Launceston – facilities and operations
- Australian Universities Sport – affiliation and activities, including the University Games
- Scholarships

### **Welfare**

- Secretarial support for University's Student Safety Net Grant Scheme
- Disabled students' resource and facilities grant
- Personal Accident Insurance cover for every student
- Accommodation website (See Appendix Six)
- Booklets on how to manage finances and referral services for students in financial difficulty (See Appendix Seven)
- Free Student Diary each year (See Appendix Eight)

### **Capital Expenditure**

- Facilities & equipment such at the University Sport and Recreation Centre where students are eligible for year round discounted membership

Commercial operations are operated to be self funding, and to generate a surplus after direct costs to cover management and administrative overheads.

Non-commercial operations and services, the Student Council, capital expenditure on facilities and equipment and the cost of management and administrative support of these functions are funded from Service and Amenities fees.

### **Campus Culture**

It has been reported recently that university graduates are generally lacking basic skills and are unable to function in the workplace.<sup>4</sup> According to a recent survey by the Australian Chamber of Commerce, the key eight attributes that employers seek are

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<sup>4</sup> Maiden, Samantha, 'Uni Graduates Lacking Basic Skills', *The Australian*, 10 June 2004.  
< [http://news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,4057,9795689%255E2,00.html](http://news.com.au/common/story_page/0,4057,9795689%255E2,00.html)>

communication, teamwork, problem solving, self management, planning and organising, technology, learning and initiative and enterprise and that increasingly, one of the challenges faced by the higher education sector is connecting academic learning with the workforce.<sup>5</sup>

In order to produce the 'rounded student' and offer a truly fulfilling university experience, a university campus needs a student organisation. The university experience is more than simply turning up to lectures. Our services and activities are an important part of the social and cultural life of the university and students can only benefit from this environment whether they are as an officer bearer on the Student Council or a participant in our activities or personal development programmes.

In addition to the direct impact on the valuable services provided by the Student Association, campus culture and potential for personal development, OMSO could also reduce the number of international students attending the university. Campus life at the University of Tasmania is undoubtedly a strong selling point in the international student market that is worth approximately \$5 billion dollars throughout Australia per annum. The legislation could have the adverse effect of diminishing the numbers of international students who come to study at Australian universities as it would deny the university the ability to offer a comprehensively serviced campus-based education. In 2003, our organisation also conducted an international student survey where approximately 95% of the respondents expressed a wish to be more active in campus culture and activities.

We provide the ideal culture for the transition of students into tertiary education by creating a sense of community. The University of Tasmania Amendment Act 2001 states that one of the functions of the university is to: 'engage in activities which promote the social, cultural and economic welfare of the community and to make available for those purposes the resources of the university'. Our Vice Chancellor has already endorsed

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

the continuation of our student organisation as an important element in performing this function.

### **Historical Expenditure by the SA**

In spite of the fact that the SA is based on a small and regional campus, we have spent over \$4.6 million since 1993 to develop amenities and services. Below is a breakdown of our expenditure in this area:

<b><u>Property Occupied</u></b>	<b><u>Funding</u></b>		<b><u>Total</u></b>
	<b><u>SA</u></b>	<b><u>University</u></b>	
SA Building, Bar, Coffee Shop, Resource Centre Convenience Store Computer laboratory Retail service outlets Academic dress service	2,106,000	1,500,000	3,606,000
Degrees Rest't	66,000	66,000	132,000
Cafeteria	548,000	40,000	588,000
Sport & Rec	1,303,500	457,705	1,723,500
Tennis Courts	100,000	100,000	200,000
Boat Shed	250,000		250,000
Café and Gallery (Inv)	300,000		300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,673,500</b>	<b>2,163,705</b>	<b>6,837,205</b>

As would be expected, some students use our services more than others. This mirrors the experience of Local, State and Federal governments, whose services and facilities are utilised to varying degrees by rate and taxpayers. As with students and service and amenities fees, it is doubtful that those who utilise the services and facilities of Councils and Governments would pay rates and taxes if they were voluntary.

## Survey – Demand and Usage of Our Facilities and Services

The Student Association has just recently conducted the first of our 2004 student surveys and the results demonstrate that there is undoubtedly a real demand for our services. We conduct our survey to maintain our role and responsibility of serving the university community and keeping in touch with the changing demand of our student demographic. The results of our 2004 survey (See page 14) indicates that:

1. 62.2% of respondents have received a student discount
2. A clear majority of students rate our facilities as important, very important or essential in terms of their needs as students. (2004 Student Survey Results, question 9b. See page 14)
3. Approximately 36% of students rated campus catering facilities and campus activities as an important consideration in deciding to pursue their tertiary education at our campuses. (2004 Student Survey Results, question 17. See page 14)

These results are in addition to our feedback from our larger 2003 General Student Survey (See Appendix Nine) that showed:

1. 80.7% of respondents spend their mealtimes on campus – Catering facilities
2. 47% of respondents spend over 20 hours a week on campus - Catering facilities, recreation facilities, non-core academic services.
3. 79% of respondents are fulltime day students - Catering facilities, recreation facilities, non-core academic services.
4. 90% of respondents indicated that on-campus facilities were a determining factor in their decision to attend the university
5. 90% of respondents use a computer on a daily basis whereas only 72% have computer/internet access at home. We provide a resource centre with 24 hour access to computer, photocopying and printing facilities, including access to the University WebCT site.
6. 47% of respondents have voted in student council elections during their time at university (voting is not compulsory)
7. 63% of respondents have received a student discount, a scheme that we administer in conjunction with businesses statewide.

8. The use of our facilities by the respondents rated as follows:
- The Unibar 56%
  - Resource Centres 57%
  - Cafeteria 80%
  - Coffee Bar 66%
  - Shop 72%
9. 1 in 3 respondents are or have been involved in clubs and societies during their university life to date
10. 81% of respondents rated clubs and societies as important elements in our campus culture and social interaction
11. Only 52% of respondents are currently employed
12. 46% of respondents rated socialising as their primary spend out of their disposable income
13. The four most popular forms of entertainment were live bands, comedy acts, movie nights and general social events. These are all forms of entertainment that we provide to students mostly for free or at low cost, certainly at less cost than is available off campus.

### **Service Agreement with the University**

Discussions between the Student Association and the University have been initiated to develop a formal service agreement between the parties for future provision of services and facilities to the University's students. The objectives of this agreement would be:

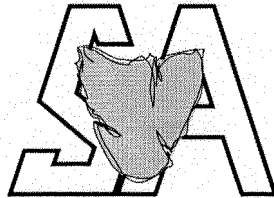
- To maintain equity in the range of services and facilities provided to campuses and student groups with different requirements and interests.
- To maintain the quality of services and facilities provided at an agreed standard.
- To maintain consistent affordable pricing across the University's campuses
- To maintain a regular programme of review between the University and the Student Association

## **Conclusion**

Funding of income support measures is an essential component of any effective Higher Education funding package. Without this component, many capable and worthy students will struggle to complete a University course, limiting their potential contribution to Australia's future. There are many students who are at Universities for all the wrong reasons, but are receiving income support funding at taxpayers' expense because they are adept at manipulating the system for that purpose. Conversely, there are many students worthy of their place at University, who are struggling financially and are in danger of prolonging their course or dropping out altogether. We encourage the Government to provide the resources required to differentiate on a case by case basis between these types of students, and to develop financially responsible funding support measures for students who qualify for assistance, not just on the basis of need, but also on the basis of merit.

We also encourage the Government to reconsider its policy on OMSO. There are many student organisations providing essential, not for profit services and infrastructure which plays an integral part in the personal development and learning of life skills by students. Throwing the baby out with the bath water by pursuing its current policy is short sighted in terms of funding of services and facilities on University campuses and irresponsible in terms of its impact on opportunities for students to develop life skills for employment and life after University.

# **2004 Student Survey Report**



Student Association Incorporated  
University of Tasmania, Launceston

## **Student Association Council and Management Committee**

### **June 2004**

Prepared by  
Cathleen Liang  
Research Officer  
Student Association  
The University of Tasmania

## Executive Summary

In 2003, the Student Association began to survey members' opinions and usage of the Student Association and its facilities as part of their long-term strategic plan. On the back of one survey of Student Association members in 2003, regular surveys are being run in 2004 with the aim of identifying areas for change in the daily and longer-term objectives of the Student Association. Indeed, the ultimate objectives of the surveys in 2004 is to ascertain a sufficiently representative proportion of Student Association members' opinions on the facilities, services, purpose and direction of the Student Association.

This is the first of those surveys. It was conducted in the first few weeks of Semester One, 2004 (March 2- March 23) and received 695 responses out of a potential 5735 individuals. This equates to a 12.1% response rate.

At the first Semester census date (31 March 2004), the total number of students enrolled through one of the study centres administered by the Student Association was approximately 5735 individuals. These students break down into categories as follows:

<b>Undergraduate:</b>	<b>5334</b>
<b>Postgraduate</b>	<b>401</b>

The Survey was conducted online and was advertised widely around the Inveresk, Newnham and Cradle Coast campuses of the university. In addition, a bulk email was sent out to all students telling them about the survey.

### Verification of results

Students were asked to enter their student number on their completed online form. As an incentive to complete the survey, students were (at a later date) given free Farmers Union Iced Coffees. In order to redeem them, students were required to present their student ID card. Without access to student numbers, it was impossible to verify every single survey form but this enabled validation of a significant number of responses.



## Survey results at a glance:

- 64.1% of respondents were women.
- The majority of respondents were Newnham undergraduates (71.5%) who had a deferred HECS debt (72.6%)
- The most popular way of receiving information on upcoming events, offers and activities was via email (57.4%) with the least popular method being via the Student Newspaper *Prodigy* (1.8%)
- 68.6% of respondents have internet access at home
- The majority of students rate our services as important, very important or essential to their needs as a student.
- 51.7% of respondents had to move to attend their chosen campus of study and 23.8% of students had trouble finding accommodation.
- The majority of students live in a shared house or flat.
- 32.5% of respondents rated Live bands as their most preferred type of entertainment on campus with quiz nights being the least preferred with only 2.1% rating it as their number one preference. Keeping this in mind however, quiz nights on campus often get attendance of approximately 100 students.
- The most important determining factor in a student choosing their course of study was, not surprisingly, course content (50%). This was followed by their financial ability to maintain themselves whilst studying (45.3%), course entry requirements (32%), cost of local accommodation (20.1%), availability of accommodation (15.2%), campus catering facilities (10.3%) and campus activities (8.4%)

## 2004 Student Survey – questions and results

- 1) What is your gender?
- 2) What is your age?
- 3) What best describes you?
- 4) What type of study are you undertaking?
- 5) Which one of the following best describes you?
- 6) Please indicate in order of preference how you would like to receive information from the Student Association on upcoming events, offers and activities, with 1 being the most preferred and 7 being the least preferred.
  - Noticeboards
  - SMS (mobile phone text messages)
  - Flyers and posters
  - By email
  - In the weekly What's On
  - In Prodigy
  - On the SA website
- 7) Do you have email/internet access at home?
- 8) Have you ever received a student discount?
- 9a) Please rate the quality of the following Student Association facilities:
  - SA UniBar
  - SA Resource Centres
  - SA Cafeteria
  - SA Coffee Bar
  - SA Shop
  - Powerhouse Gallery, Inveresk
  - Degrees Restaurant
  - Sport & Recreation
  - Clubs & Societies
  - Women's Room
  - Representation & advocacy services of Student Council
- 9b) Please rate the importance of the following Student Association facilities to your needs as a student.
  - SA UniBar
  - SA Resource Centres
  - SA Cafeteria
  - SA Coffee Bar
  - SA Shop
  - Powerhouse Gallery, Inveresk
  - Degrees Restaurant
  - Sport & Recreation
  - Clubs & Societies
  - Women's Room
  - Representation & advocacy services of Student Council
- 10) How would you rate the level of promotion and advertising done by SA Outlets?
- 11) Have you ever been a member of an SA club or society?

12) What best describes your current living arrangements?

13) Did you have to move towns to study at the northern campuses of the University of Tasmania?

14) Did you have trouble finding accommodation?

15) What type of accommodation do you reside in during semester times?

16) Please rate in order of preference the types of entertainment you prefer, with 1 being the most preferred and 12 being the least preferred:

- Comedy acts
- Live bands
- DJ events
- Quiz nights
- International/multicultural events
- Movie nights
- Special activities e.g. O'Week themed events
- Activities not involving alcohol
- Not interested
- Pub nights
- Market days
- BBQs

17) How important were the following to you when considering your chosen course of study?

- Course entry requirements
- Course content
- Availability of accommodation
- Cost of local accommodation
- Financial ability to maintain yourself whilst studying
- Campus catering facilities
- Campus activities

1) What is your gender?

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Male	249	35.8%	
Female	446	64.1%	

2) What is your age?

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
17	22	3.1%	
18	107	15.3%	
19	97	13.9%	
20	92	13.2%	
21	63	9.0%	
22	37	5.3%	
23	28	4.0%	
24	30	4.3%	
25 to 30	83	11.9%	
31 to 35	42	6.0%	
36 to 40	39	5.6%	
41 to 45	30	4.3%	
46 to 50	15	2.1%	
Over 50	10	1.4%	

3) What best describes you?

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Newnham undergraduate	497	71.5%	
External undergraduate	33	4.7%	
International undergraduate	33	4.7%	
Inveresk undergraduate	19	2.7%	
North-West undergraduate	53	7.6%	
External postgraduate	3	0.4%	
Newnham postgraduate	40	5.7%	
International postgraduate	9	1.2%	
Inveresk postgraduate	5	0.7%	
North-West postgraduate	3	0.4%	

4) What type of study are you undertaking?

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Undergraduate Bachelor Degree	613	88.2%	
Honours	20	2.8%	
Postgraduate Coursework Degree	20	2.8%	
Postgraduate Research Degree	22	3.1%	
Non-award student	2	0.2%	
Undergraduate Diploma/Associate Diploma	2	0.2%	
Graduate Diploma	3	0.4%	
Other/not sure	13	1.8%	

5) Which one of the following best describes you?

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Full-fee paying international student	47	6.7%	
Sponsored or assisted international student	6	0.8%	
Upfront HECS paying student	86	12.3%	
Deferred HECS paying student	505	72.6%	
HECS exempt student	27	3.8%	
Full-fee paying postgraduate student	3	0.4%	
Postgraduate student with a PELS liability	6	0.8%	
My company is sponsoring me to study	3	0.4%	
Other	12	1.7%	

6) Please indicate in order of preference how you would like to receive information from the Student Association on upcoming events, offers and activities, with 1 being the most preferred and 7 being the least preferred.

#### Noticeboards

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	96	13.8%	
2	129	18.5%	
3	161	23.1%	
4	126	18.1%	
5	82	11.7%	
6	58	8.3%	
7	38	5.4%	

#### SMS (mobile phone text messages)

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	63	9.0%	
2	93	13.3%	
3	48	6.9%	
4	48	6.9%	
5	39	5.6%	
6	63	9.0%	
7	336	48.3%	

### Flyers and posters

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	58	8.3%	
2	170	24.4%	
3	177	25.4%	
4	128	18.4%	
5	88	12.6%	
6	55	7.9%	
7	14	2.0%	

### By email

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	399	57.4%	
2	86	12.3%	
3	45	6.4%	
4	46	6.6%	
5	22	3.1%	
6	72	10.3%	
7	20	2.8%	

### In the weekly What's On

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	38	5.4%	
2	77	11.0%	
3	119	17.1%	
4	135	19.4%	
5	182	26.1%	
6	111	15.9%	
7	28	4.0%	

### In Prodigy newspaper

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	13	1.8%	
2	47	6.7%	
3	63	9.0%	
4	115	16.5%	
5	156	22.4%	
6	173	24.8%	
7	123	17.6%	

### On the SA website

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	23	3.3%	
2	88	12.6%	
3	77	11.0%	
4	92	13.2%	
5	121	17.4%	
6	158	22.7%	
7	131	18.8%	

7) Do you have email/internet access at home?

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Yes	477	68.6%	
No	218	31.3%	

8) Have you ever received a student discount?

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Yes	436	62.7%	
No	259	37.2%	

9a) Please rate the quality of the following Student Association facilities:

1) SA UniBar

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Excellent	154	22.1%	
Good	275	39.5%	
Okay	142	20.4%	
Poor	12	1.7%	
Hopeless	11	1.5%	
Unaware of this	101	14.5%	

2) SA Resource Centres

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Excellent	116	16.6%	
Good	315	45.3%	
Okay	143	20.5%	
Poor	10	1.4%	
Hopeless	2	0.2%	
Unaware of this	109	15.6%	

3) SA Cafeteria

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Excellent	128	18.4%	
Good	312	44.8%	
Okay	169	24.3%	
Poor	21	3.0%	
Hopeless	17	2.4%	
Unaware of this	48	6.9%	

4) SA Coffee Bar

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Excellent	104	14.9%	
Good	295	42.4%	
Okay	170	24.4%	
Poor	24	3.4%	
Hopeless	9	1.2%	
Unaware of this	93	13.3%	

5) SA Shop

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Excellent	126	18.1%	
Good	334	48.0%	
Okay	134	19.2%	
Poor	25	3.5%	
Hopeless	2	0.2%	
Unaware of this	74	10.6%	

6) Powerhouse Gallery, Inveresk

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Excellent	75	10.7%	
Good	147	21.1%	
Okay	105	15.1%	
Poor	10	1.4%	
Hopeless	8	1.1%	
Unaware of this	350	50.3%	

7) Degrees Restaurant

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Excellent	88	12.6%	
Good	180	25.8%	
Okay	133	19.1%	
Poor	10	1.4%	
Hopeless	8	1.1%	
Unaware of this	276	39.7%	



8) Sport & Recreation

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Excellent	141	20.2%	
Good	219	31.5%	
Okay	136	19.5%	
Poor	9	1.2%	
Hopeless	4	0.5%	
Unaware of this	186	26.7%	

9) Clubs & Societies

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Excellent	86	12.3%	
Good	211	30.3%	
Okay	197	28.3%	
Poor	37	5.3%	
Hopeless	10	1.4%	
Unaware of this	154	22.1%	

10) Women's Room

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Excellent	44	6.3%	
Good	131	18.8%	
Okay	128	18.4%	
Poor	12	1.7%	
Hopeless	16	2.3%	
Unaware of this	364	52.3%	

11) Representation/advocacy servic

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Excellent	51	7.3%	
Good	173	24.8%	
Okay	184	26.4%	
Poor	26	3.7%	
Hopeless	28	4.0%	
Unaware of this	233	33.5%	

9b) Please rate the importance of the following Student Association facilities to your needs as a student.

1) SA UniBar

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Essential	136	19.5%	
Very important	106	15.2%	
Important	129	18.5%	
Slightly important	120	17.2%	
Unimportant	172	24.7%	
Unaware of this	25	3.5%	

2) SA Resource Centres

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Essential	179	25.7%	
Very important	190	27.3%	
Important	170	24.4%	
Slightly important	60	8.6%	
Unimportant	40	5.7%	
Unaware of this	49	7.0%	

3) SA Cafeteria

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Essential	150	21.5%	
Very important	173	24.8%	
Important	208	29.9%	
Slightly important	90	12.9%	
Unimportant	46	6.6%	
Unaware of this	19	2.7%	

4) SA Coffee Bar

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Essential	93	13.3%	
Very important	120	17.2%	
Important	206	29.6%	
Slightly important	146	21.0%	
Unimportant	89	12.8%	
Unaware of this	33	4.7%	

5) SA Shop

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Essential	147	21.1%	
Very important	171	24.6%	
Important	195	28.0%	
Slightly important	100	14.3%	
Unimportant	41	5.8%	
Unaware of this	31	4.4%	

6) Powerhouse Gallery, Inveresk

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Essential	27	3.8%	
Very important	44	6.3%	
Important	101	14.5%	
Slightly important	110	15.8%	
Unimportant	208	29.9%	
Unaware of this	191	27.4%	

7) Degrees Restaurant

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Essential	19	2.7%	
Very important	38	5.4%	
Important	104	14.9%	
Slightly important	167	24.0%	
Unimportant	238	34.2%	
Unaware of this	115	16.5%	

8) Sport & Recreation

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Essential	134	19.2%	
Very important	152	21.8%	
Important	150	21.5%	
Slightly important	90	12.9%	
Unimportant	105	15.1%	
Unaware of this	55	7.9%	

9) Clubs & Societies

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Essential	100	14.3%	
Very important	139	20.0%	
Important	177	25.4%	
Slightly important	115	16.5%	
Unimportant	106	15.2%	
Unaware of this	47	6.7%	

10) Women's Room

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Essential	52	7.4%	
Very important	73	10.5%	
Important	101	14.5%	
Slightly important	90	12.9%	
Unimportant	216	31.0%	
Unaware of this	148	21.2%	

11) Representation/advocacy servic

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Essential	133	19.1%	
Very important	140	20.1%	
Important	168	24.1%	
Slightly important	72	10.3%	
Unimportant	66	9.4%	
Unaware of this	108	15.5%	







10) How would you rate the level of promotion and advertising done by SA Outlets?

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Excellent - I am always aware of events	179	25.7%	
Average - I wish there was more promotion	353	50.7%	
Poor - I am rarely aware of events	93	13.3%	
Unsure	70	10.0%	





11) Have you ever been a member of an SA club or society?

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Yes	200	28.7%	
No	495	71.2%	





12) What best describes your current living arrangements?

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Living in own home	121	17.4%	
Living in parental/relative home	177	25.4%	
Boarding in private residence	35	5.0%	
Renting via private landlord	262	37.6%	
University accommodation	72	10.3%	
Other	28	4.0%	








13) Did you have to move towns to study at the northern campuses of the University of Tasmania?

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Yes, from another town in Tasmania	248	35.6%	
Yes, from another state in Australia	61	8.7%	
Yes, from overseas	43	6.1%	
No/Not applicable	343	49.3%	

14) Did you have trouble finding accommodation?













Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Not an issue for me - I live at home	196	28.2%	
Not an issue for me - I own my own home	61	8.7%	
Yes	166	23.8%	
No	272	39.1%	

15) What type of accommodation do you reside in during semester times?













Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Live with parents	179	25.7%	
Live on campus	61	8.7%	
Shared house/flat	228	32.8%	
Own my own home	100	14.3%	
Rent house/flat alone	100	14.3%	
Homestay	11	1.5%	
Hostel-based accommodation	16	2.3%	

16) Please rate in order of preference the types of entertainment you prefer, with 1 being the most preferred and 12 being the least preferred:


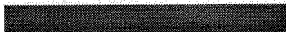




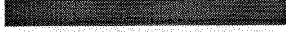





**Comedy acts**

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	82	11.7%	
2	92	13.2%	
3	69	9.9%	
4	73	10.5%	
5	92	13.2%	
6	65	9.3%	
7	72	10.3%	
8	47	6.7%	
9	34	4.8%	
10	35	5.0%	
11	14	2.0%	
12	13	1.8%	

**Live bands**

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	226	32.5%	
2	126	18.1%	
3	73	10.5%	
4	60	8.6%	
5	35	5.0%	
6	32	4.6%	
7	33	4.7%	
8	27	3.8%	
9	30	4.3%	
10	22	3.1%	
11	18	2.5%	
12	6	0.8%	

**DJ events**

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	31	4.4%	
2	75	10.7%	
3	83	11.9%	
4	67	9.6%	
5	62	8.9%	
6	62	8.9%	
7	74	10.6%	
8	73	10.5%	
9	67	9.6%	
10	51	7.3%	
11	32	4.6%	
12	11	1.5%	

### Quiz nights

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	17	2.4%	
2	23	3.3%	
3	47	6.7%	
4	49	7.0%	
5	59	8.4%	
6	63	9.0%	
7	86	12.3%	
8	99	14.2%	
9	97	13.9%	
10	83	11.9%	
11	48	6.9%	
12	17	2.4%	

### International/multicultural events

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	25	3.5%	
2	32	4.6%	
3	40	5.7%	
4	31	4.4%	
5	42	6.0%	
6	55	7.9%	
7	72	10.3%	
8	74	10.6%	
9	86	12.3%	
10	125	17.9%	
11	80	11.5%	
12	26	3.7%	

### Movie nights

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	47	6.7%	
2	62	8.9%	
3	65	9.3%	
4	74	10.6%	
5	78	11.2%	
6	96	13.8%	
7	77	11.0%	
8	78	11.2%	
9	58	8.3%	
10	42	6.0%	
11	10	1.4%	
12	1	0.1%	

**Special activities e.g. O'Week themed events**

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	50	7.1%	[Bar]
2	52	7.4%	[Bar]
3	75	10.7%	[Bar]
4	79	11.3%	[Bar]
5	85	12.2%	[Bar]
6	80	11.5%	[Bar]
7	61	8.7%	[Bar]
8	65	9.3%	[Bar]
9	58	8.3%	[Bar]
10	43	6.1%	[Bar]
11	30	4.3%	[Bar]
12	10	1.4%	[Bar]

**Activities not involving alcohol**

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	27	3.8%	[Bar]
2	25	3.5%	[Bar]
3	32	4.6%	[Bar]
4	34	4.8%	[Bar]
5	27	3.8%	[Bar]
6	31	4.4%	[Bar]
7	37	5.3%	[Bar]
8	49	7.0%	[Bar]
9	57	8.2%	[Bar]
10	90	12.9%	[Bar]
11	205	29.4%	[Bar]
12	74	10.6%	[Bar]

**Not interested**

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	36	5.1%	[Bar]
2	3	0.4%	[Bar]
3	4	0.5%	[Bar]
4	7	1.0%	[Bar]
5	11	1.5%	[Bar]
6	10	1.4%	[Bar]
7	15	2.1%	[Bar]
8	10	1.4%	[Bar]
9	29	4.1%	[Bar]
10	21	3.0%	[Bar]
11	101	14.5%	[Bar]
12	441	63.4%	[Bar]



### Pub nights

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	66	9.4%	[Redacted]
2	74	10.6%	[Redacted]
3	71	10.2%	[Redacted]
4	67	9.6%	[Redacted]
5	49	7.0%	[Redacted]
6	57	8.2%	[Redacted]
7	39	5.6%	[Redacted]
8	38	5.4%	[Redacted]
9	36	5.1%	[Redacted]
10	67	9.6%	[Redacted]
11	65	9.3%	[Redacted]
12	59	8.4%	[Redacted]

### Market days

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	19	2.7%	[Redacted]
2	34	4.8%	[Redacted]
3	51	7.3%	[Redacted]
4	55	7.9%	[Redacted]
5	71	10.2%	[Redacted]
6	63	9.0%	[Redacted]
7	68	9.7%	[Redacted]
8	81	11.6%	[Redacted]
9	95	13.6%	[Redacted]
10	82	11.7%	[Redacted]
11	60	8.6%	[Redacted]
12	9	1.2%	[Redacted]

### BBQs

Ranking	Responses	Percentage	Graph
1	62	8.9%	[Redacted]
2	90	12.9%	[Redacted]
3	78	11.2%	[Redacted]
4	92	13.2%	[Redacted]
5	77	11.0%	[Redacted]
6	74	10.6%	[Redacted]
7	54	7.7%	[Redacted]
8	47	6.7%	[Redacted]
9	41	5.8%	[Redacted]
10	27	3.8%	[Redacted]
11	25	3.5%	[Redacted]
12	21	3.0%	[Redacted]

17) How important were the following to you when considering your chosen course of study?

1) Course entry requirements

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Extremely important	223	32.0%	
Important	277	39.8%	
Not especially important	131	18.8%	
Not important	61	8.7%	

2) Course content

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Extremely important	348	50.0%	
Important	279	40.1%	
Not especially important	49	7.0%	
Not important	17	2.4%	

3) Availability of accommodation

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Extremely important	106	15.2%	
Important	151	21.7%	
Not especially important	173	24.8%	
Not important	260	37.4%	

4) Cost of local accommodation

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Extremely important	140	20.1%	
Important	167	24.0%	
Not especially important	122	17.5%	
Not important	259	37.2%	

5) Financial ability to maintain

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Extremely important	315	45.3%	
Important	228	32.8%	
Not especially important	84	12.0%	
Not important	66	9.4%	

6) Campus catering facilities

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Extremely important	72	10.3%	
Important	189	27.1%	
Not especially important	261	37.5%	
Not important	169	24.3%	

7) Campus activities

Result	Responses	Percentage	Graph
Extremely important	59	8.4%	
Important	204	29.3%	
Not especially important	268	38.5%	
Not important	160	23.0%	

## Detailed Student Association Membership Figures as of 31 May 2004

		<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>		<u>ALL</u>	
		<u>International</u>	<u>ALL</u>	<u>International</u>	<u>ALL</u>	<u>International</u>	<u>ALL</u>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	Distance	0	25	0	17	0	42
	Launceston	111	2,488	129	1,563	240	4,051
	All Off-shore	374	391	431	450	805	841
	NW Centre	0	225	0	115	0	340
	<b>TOTAL SA</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>3,129</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>5,274</b>
<b>Other Postgraduate</b>	Distance	0	4	0	2	0	6
	Launceston	4	81	1	39	5	120
	All Off-shore	2	7	3	10	5	17
	NW Centre	0	4	0	3	0	7
	<b>TOTAL SA</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Higher Degree Coursework</b>	Distance	0	5	0	3	0	8
	Launceston	12	70	23	49	35	119
	All Off-shore	2	6	5	9	7	15
	NW Centre	0	3	0	5	0	8
	<b>TOTAL SA</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Higher Degree Research</b>	Distance	0	32	1	28	1	60
	Launceston	12	86	8	78	20	164
	All Off-shore	1	10	2	9	3	19
	NW Centre	0	3	0	5	0	8
	<b>TOTAL SA</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>251</b>
<b>Other</b>	Distance	0	1	0	1	0	2
	Launceston	2	289	0	122	2	411
	All Off-shore	1	1	0	0	1	1
	NW Centre	0	91	0	34	0	125
	<b>TOTAL SA</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>539</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	Distance	0	67	1	51	1	118
	Launceston	141	3,014	161	1,851	302	4,865
	All Off-shore	380	415	441	478	821	893
	NW Centre	0	326	0	162	0	488
	<b>TOTAL SA</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>3,822</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>2,542</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>6,364</b>

Please note that the total individual student membership is estimated at approximately 5735 as that some students enrol in double degrees and, thus, are duplicated when it comes to estimating overall student numbers. The most common example of this is when a student is in a degree course and an enabling course such as the Unistart program. The easiest way to eliminate the double counting here is to disregard the 'other' category as these are enabling courses and a relatively small number of students enrol in just an enabling course. The only exception here is approximately 60 students enrolled at the Cradle Coast Campus who are only undertaking an enabling course such as the University Preparation Program.

