



LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT UNION

The Student Perspective on Allocation of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)

ABOUT LA TROBE STUDENT UNION

La Trobe University Student Union is the largest student or staff peak representative body at La Trobe University. Representing over 23,000 students, our representation is led by and for students and incorporates the International Students Collective and MASO (Mature Age Students Organisation).

ABOUT THE SURVEY

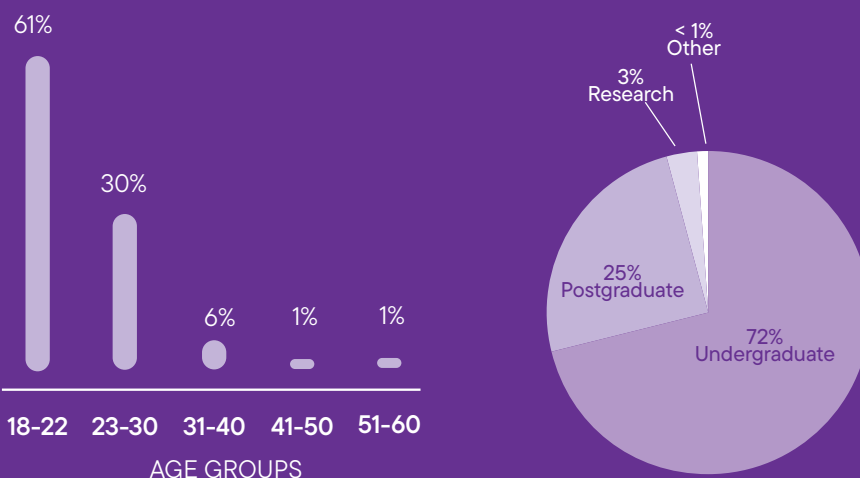
More than 830 current La Trobe Bundoora and Online students took part in Our Money, Our Way, sharing their views on SSAF and the services and amenities most important to them.

OUR MONEY, OUR WAY

La Trobe students pay millions of dollars each year through the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF). The Student Union asked students what matters most to them and where they believe their SSAF should be directed.

The comprehensive results provide the most up-to-date and clear picture of students' priorities – and an evidence base for future SSAF funding decisions.

WHO RESPONDED



STUDENTS ARE PAYING SSAF WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WHAT IT IS OR HOW IT'S DECIDED

A further 38% said they know what SSAF is, but do not know what it is spent on or how spending decisions are made. Only 8% of students said they know both what SSAF is spent on and how spending decisions are made. Most students either know very little about SSAF, or know what SSAF is but not what it is spent on or how spending is decided. 71% said they had never been asked how SSAF should be spent.

40%

said they don't really know
a lot about SSAF

8%

said they know both what
SSAF is spent on and how
spending decisions are made.



**I think there should be more notice around
SSAF and the need to pay it as well as exactly
what the money provided is going towards.”**

OUR MONEY, OUR WAY



WHAT THE RESULTS TELL US

Food and personal care had the broadest support. 73% of students put it in their top five - more than any other area.

Transport and parking showed particularly strong urgency. 58% put it in their top five, and students who selected it were more likely to rank it very highly.

Health was both widely supported and strongly prioritised. 61% of students included health services in their top five.

Students value events, clubs and connection - but practical support comes first. 57% selected events and social activities and 46% selected clubs and societies.

When students ranked their choices, practical supports were generally placed ahead of campus-life activities.

WHERE STUDENT PRIORITIES DIFFER

Careers and employment are a particularly strong priority for International students. 65% of International students put career and employment services in their top five, compared with 51% of Domestic students.

Transport and parking are a particularly strong priority for Domestic students. 63% of Domestic students put transport and parking in their top five, compared with 50% of International students. Among Domestic students who selected transport and parking, 44% ranked it as their #1 priority.

Academic support is particularly important to International students who select it. Similar proportions of Domestic and International students included academic support in their top five, but 42% of International students who selected it ranked it #1, compared with 26% of Domestic students.

WHAT STUDENTS WANT

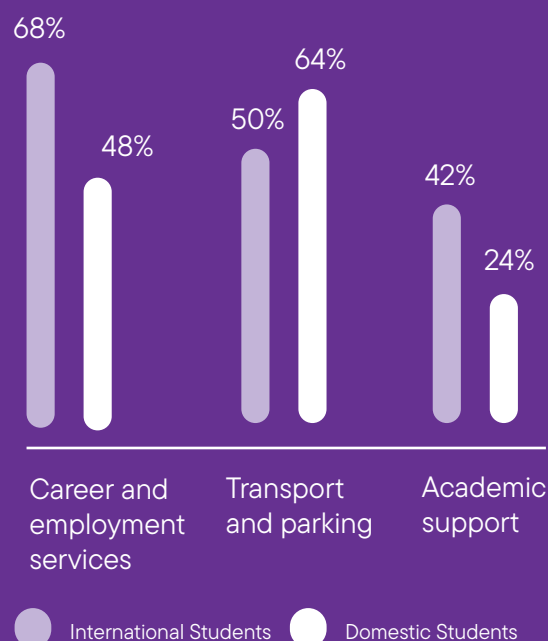
73%

of students put food and personal care support in their top five priorities

**That's 3
of every 4
students
surveyed.**



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PARTICULARLY PRIORITISE CAREERS



“I think just supporting students with the practical stuff is the first priority, then second priority is creating social opportunities for those that do want to immerse themselves in that.”

OUR MONEY, OUR WAY



2027 - STUDENT PRIORITIES

The survey points to a clear set of priorities for 2027 SSAF discussions. These priorities reflect both what students selected most often and how strongly they ranked those choices.

ESSENTIAL SUPPORT

Food and personal care had the broadest support of any area, selected by 73% of students. The results show a clear expectation that SSAF should help meet immediate, practical needs.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

61% selected health services, and 58% of those students ranked health first or second. Health is both a broad and strongly felt priority.

TRANSPORT & PARKING

58% selected transport and parking. Of those students, 65% ranked it first or second – the strongest intensity of any major priority. It was especially important to Domestic students.

CAMPUS LIFE & BELONGING

57% selected student events and social activities and 46% selected clubs and societies. Students clearly value campus connection, even when practical supports are ranked more highly.

A NOTE ON TARGETED SERVICES

While legal and financial advice, independent advocacy and childcare were selected by smaller shares of the whole student population, these are targeted services that are relevant to fewer students at any one time, so lower selection rates should not be interpreted as meaning they are unimportant to students who need them.

THE 2027 MESSAGE

Students want SSAF to prioritise practical support, health, transport, future opportunities and a strong campus experience – with clearer information and a meaningful say in how their fee is used.

“I like the idea of a bar on campus, where students can socialise in a safe, supervised environment. But also only if other, more essential (imo) services are covered... the food bank, childcare options, and access to personal care items.”



73%

of students put food and personal care in their top five



61%

of students put health services in their top five



58%

of students put transport and parking in their top five



57%

of students put events and activities in their top five



56%

of students put career and employment services in their top five