

## Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF)

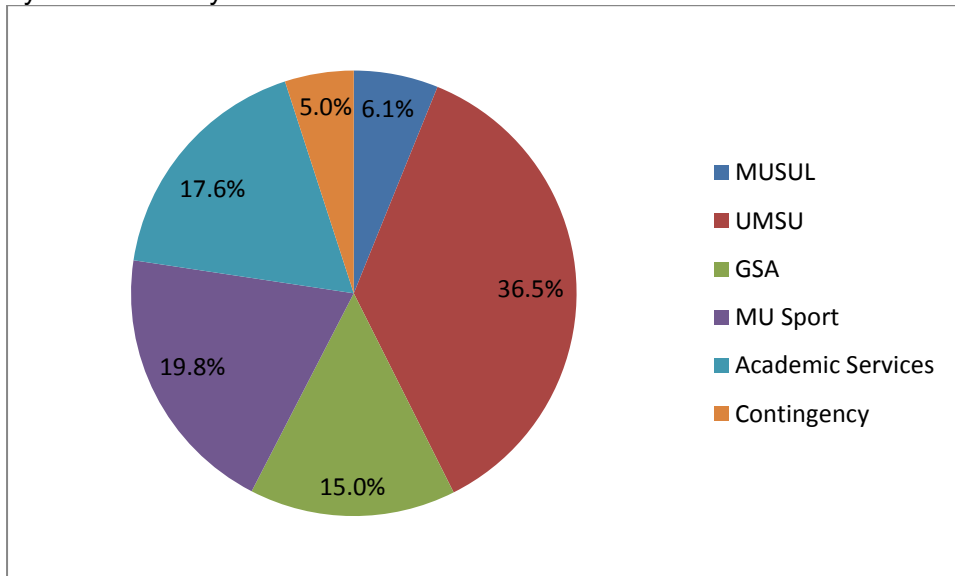
What did Sport receive and how was it utilised?

A message to students, sporting clubs and stakeholders.

The University reinstated a compulsory Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) in 2012, following an alteration to federal legislation in October 2011. In 2017 the SSAF charged to students will be \$294 for full-time and \$220 for part-time students.

In 2017 MU Sport will receive \$3.18m which is 17.6% of the total amount collected at approximately \$70 per student.

The following pie chart illustrates the proposed distribution of the \$16M SSAF to be collected by the University in 2017.



The vision for sport is:

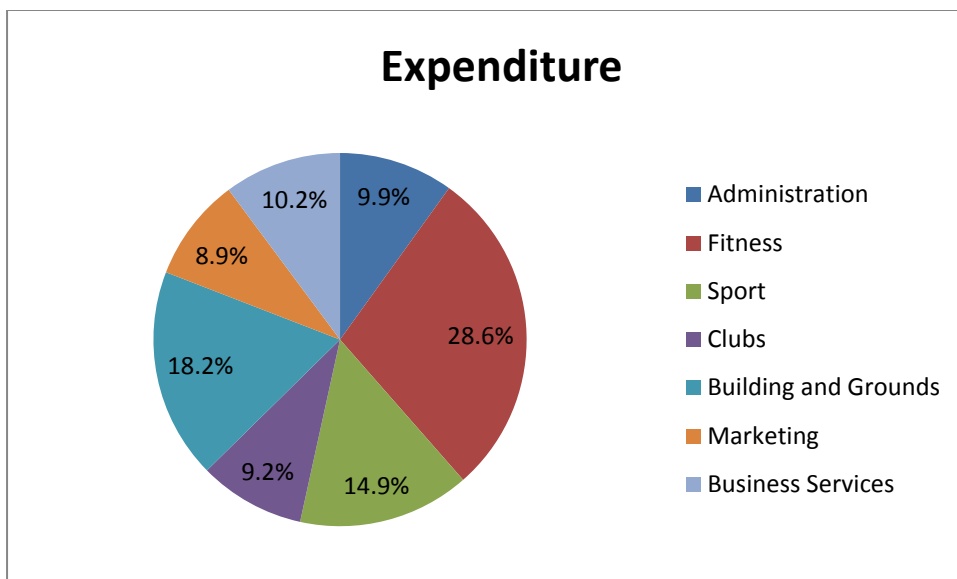
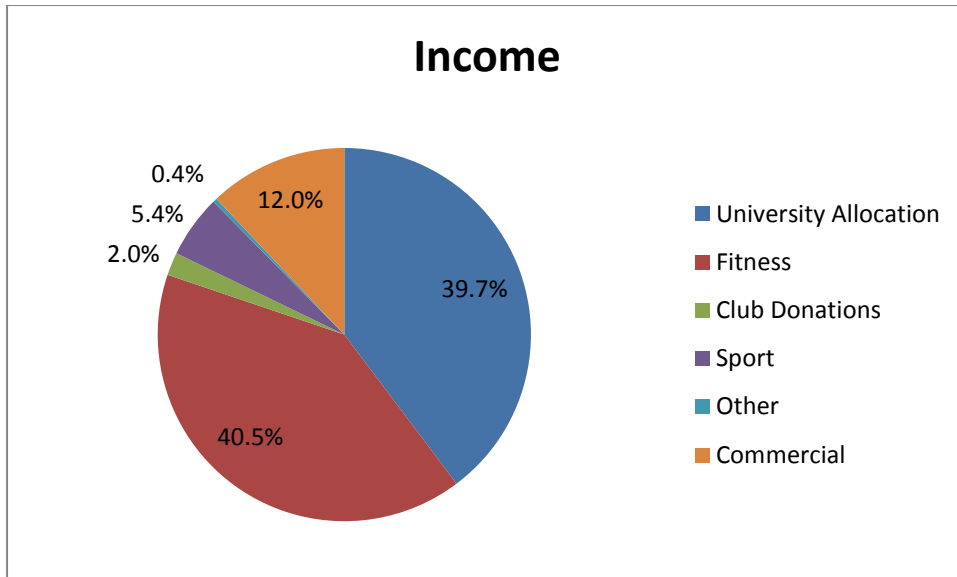
*That the University of Melbourne will be the leading Australian University for sporting performance, level of participation and the quality of facilities.*

MU Sport in striving to meet the vision currently services over 3,190 student members of sporting clubs, 6,892 student members of the fitness centre, and 10,000 student casual users with over 900,000 visits per annum to the University's sporting facilities and services.

The management and board of MU Sport carefully considered how the SSAF funds would be best utilised in line with the University of Melbourne's '*Growing Esteem 2015-2020*' and '*The University of Melbourne Sport Strategic Plan*' objectives of increasing and supporting student engagement and participation mindful of the current and future financial position of the organisation, and that the long term future of the SSAF is not assured.

It was determined that the ongoing priority was to support initiatives to increase student participation and engagement while continuing to address the backlog in sport related building maintenance and capital projects partly caused as a result of the introduction of *Voluntary Student Unionism* in 2007. These strategies will be carefully explored with all stakeholders including sporting clubs and groups and general users over time and introduced as and when more resources become available.

The following pie charts illustrate the income and expenditure in broad percentages for MU Sport.



The pie charts identify that 39.7% of the total income generated by MU Sport is derived from the SSAF and that this amount is subsequently expended in subsidising student participation in fitness and sport programs, clubs and maintaining the buildings and grounds. The bulk of the remaining income is derived from student fees and charges in fitness services, clubs and facility hire and highlights that students involved in sport, fitness and recreation at the University effectively pay twice to participate; through the payment of the SSAF and again with user pay fees and charges to participate. For many students cost continues to be a significant disincentive to participation in sport and fitness activities and this will continue to be difficult to address whilst a significant percentage of income goes towards by the cost of buildings and grounds.

Despite the current challenges the SSAF provided MU Sport with the opportunity to reduce the cost to access some services, improve the quality and/or provide additional services in 2017:

### **Fitness Services (\$700,000)**

MU Sport is committed to keeping costs as low as possible, providing tailored, affordable, fitness service options to students:

- The student direct debit fee of \$28.99 has been kept at the same level since 2015 and will not increase in 2017.
- The 4 month student membership fee was \$250 in 2011 and has risen to \$260 in 2016, well below the CPI increase applied to non-student membership fees.
- Support Regional Fitness Facilities
- Access for Elite Athletes
- Regular free group fitness classes

### **Subsidised Casual Access (\$100,000)**

A range of new program initiatives were introduced to provide students with increased access to casual and one-off sporting and fitness opportunities at low or no cost. These programs include:

- Subsidised 'quick-hit' programs allowing students to access venue hire facilities for a minimal fee of \$2 such as tennis, squash, badminton courts.

### **Sport and Club Support**

#### **Coaching and Administrative Support (\$185,000)**

Increased support for targeted club coaching and management appointments.

#### **Support Services (\$100,000)**

A range of central services will be provided over time to reduce the burden on voluntary club officials. This will include administrative support for financial and payroll transactions and reporting, increased web based support including coordination of web based communication and on-line membership registration and renewal systems. Support clubs in meeting a higher level of OHS and financial risk management.

#### **Representative Sport (\$175,000)**

#### **Venue Access (\$300,000)**

Club access to internal and external venues

#### **Strategic Club Support (\$20,000)**

Opportunities for clubs to access additional support in the areas of club marketing/fundraising, alumni relations, sponsorship, merchandise, and event coordination.

#### **High Performance Student Athlete Support (\$55,000)**

Increased support for elite athletes and teams to included programming, testing and performance review.

#### **Active Student Leadership (\$40,000)**

Providing opportunities for students to undertake structured and mentored leadership roles within sport.

**Operational Club Support (\$160,000)**

Subsidies to Clubs to provide participation and engagement opportunities for students.

**Club Project Fund (\$42,000)**

Additional funds to support club based strategic initiatives and developments.

**Buildings and Grounds (\$200,000)**

**Maintenance and Capital**

Additional funds allocated to the maintenance and capital development of buildings and grounds.

**Administration (\$200,000)**

Provision of Administrative support to student participation.

Created February 2012

Update October 2016