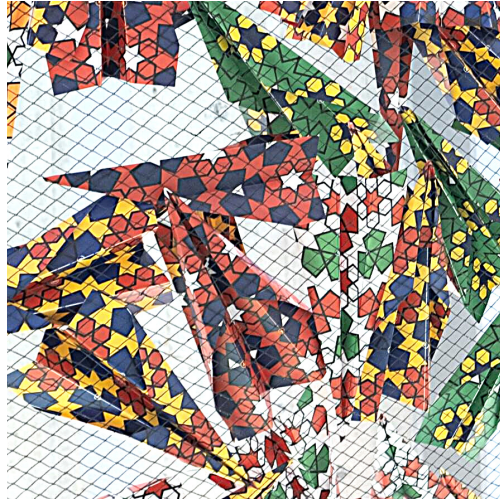


# SSAF Annual Report - 2021



SSAF Delivery Partners:





# Expenditure Summary



## Student Services and Amenities Fees at RMIT

Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF) at RMIT University are annually spent on the Australian Government's list of [Allowable Items](#). The services and amenities are delivered by RMIT University and the RMIT University Student Union (RUSU).

### SSAF 2021 income & expenditure

Funds collected	<b>\$14,483,562</b>
Carried over from 2020	<b>\$1,675,850</b>
Funds spent	<b>\$14,240,810</b>
Carry over to 2022	<b>\$1,918,602</b>

## SSAF funded initiatives continue online

With the impact of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 RMIT refined delivery of funded initiatives to meet social distancing requirements or be remotely delivered. Prioritisation of student health, welfare, and financial assistance funding was also enhanced.

All key services remained in place by shifting to 100% remote delivery, and in most cases these services increased their reach.

## Your SSAF Your Say

Student input shaped SSAF spending in 2021 through:

- Co-design activity with Student Representatives
- Student focus groups
- Annual "Have Your Say Day" – student voice summit
- Survey feedback



## Your SSAF covers a lot!

Here are some of the ways your SSAF has enhanced student life in 2021.

1. Student Wellbeing & Support **\$5,039,902**
2. Career Development & Future Ready **\$3,060,540**
3. Connection & Belonging **\$4,296,800**
4. Student Media, Representation & Rights **\$1,843,568**

# Student Wellbeing & Support



## Wellbeing & Respect

- 12,500+ online counselling appointments available to RMIT students.
- 35 in person and online workshops hosted by RMIT's professional counselling team on topics such as 'Self Compassion' and 'Building Resilience'.
- Specialised training developed for HDR students on 'Assisting Others in Distress' and 'Responding to Gender Based Harm'.
- RMIT & RUSU virtual Calm Zone, provided students with care packages, competitions, wellbeing postcards and student support videos in peak assessment periods.
- Digital resources enhanced student wellbeing and culture of respect with 750+ students participating in Mental Wellbeing Essentials, Bystander Intervention training and Mental Health First Aid workshops.
- Student-led mental wellbeing initiatives in partnership with Batyr focused on sharing lived experience and enhancing leadership skills.



## Student Support

- RMIT Student Welfare Advisors supported 7,000+ international and domestic students with accommodation and financial affairs.
- Equitable Learning Service (ELS) capacity was enhanced, supporting additional students with disability, chronic health issues and/or mental health issues to develop and implement tailored Equitable Learning Plans.
- RMIT Student Legal Service provided 1,550 students with legal and referral advice both in-person and online.
- 550+ students received welfare support and advice from the RUSU Compass Service.
- RUSU's Postgraduate Support Program assisted 420+ HDR and Postgraduate students via: social activities, 'Take The Night Off' initiative, study together sessions and marketplace recipe boxes.
- RUSU Info Counter assisted thousands of students with essential information and connection to support at RMIT.
- Weekly spiritual events and activities delivered online to foster an inclusive and respectful multi-faith community at RMIT.



"Amazing student support service with the counsellor. I wouldn't have been able to complete the course in lockdown without them." Anonymous

## Food Services

RUSU provided 21,700+ free meals, grocery bags and vouchers through a range of programs:

- 4,500+ meals for students living in student accommodation during lockdown.
- 800+ vouchers or grocery bags.
- 9,900+ healthy breakfast bags to students living in student housing.
- 2,700+ free lunches.
- 1,400+ free meal and recipe boxes home delivered.



# Career Development & Future Ready

THANKS  
SSAF

## Jobs, Mentoring & Industry Experience

- 3,000+ career mentoring experiences delivered online with 1200+ industry professionals from a wide range of global companies, government organisations, as well as non-for-profits and SMEs.
- 650+ RMIT students gained employment through the Jobs on Campus program.
- RMIT hosted 370+ industry experiences inc: Job Ready Workshops, Industry Professional Development Sessions and specialised Tech and Grad Bootcamps.
- RMIT Sports Academy provided 29 professional internships within Allied Health specialities.



## Career Assistance

- The Final Year Graduate Program delivered work-ready boot camps inc: 32 workshops delivered for 3,800+ students.
- 3,250+ students received tailored career support from RMIT Job Shop inc: career counselling, support finding employment and resume consultations.
- Specialised career services provided to students registered with Equitable Learning & Accessibility and/or living with a disability, supported 266 students inc: 41 employment and internship outcomes.
- RMIT's dynamic online 'Career Centre' platform enables all students to map their career, improve industry specific skills and perfect applications anytime and anywhere.
- A 'Quick Career Tips' video series developed, sharing valuable advice on key career topics from RMIT staff, students, and industry partners.

### Key Industry Partners



## Skill Development

- RMIT Future Edge program helped 2,300+ students build job-ready skills through a range of cohort specific and industry centric events and activities.
- Career development learning resources designed and embedded across 40 academic programs, to enhance industry application of learning outcomes for RMIT students.
- RMIT supported 8,000+ students to complete Careers and Work Ready micro-credentials optimising their workforce preparation.
- RUSU's Volunteering Program upskilled 121 students with Food Safety Handling, Responsible Service of Alcohol, Youth Mental Health First Aid and Student Appeal Hearing Support training.



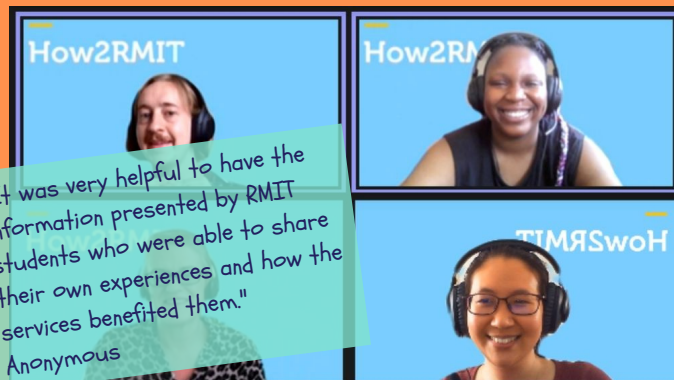


# Connection & Belonging

THANKS  
SSAF

## Preparing & Celebrating

- RMIT and RUSU delivered 14 orientation events for students inc: Celebrations, RUSU's Welcome Bash, Club Expos, Indigenous Culture and Virtual Campus Tours.
- 80+ peer-to-peer How2RMIT university induction sessions delivered preparing students for success.
- RMIT Mates Community supported off-shore and on-shore students via 30+ social activities.
- RMIT and RUSU recognised Pride Week with a series of events and activities celebrating the LGBTQIA+ student and staff communities.
- Grad Fest featured 33 activities and virtual events to celebrate and prepare graduating students for the next stage of their journey.
- 49 students employed to support key activities delivering the 2021 RMIT graduation, for 20,950 graduating students.



## Creative & Sport Activity

- Weekly student life activities to help students connect and stay healthy, such as: Esports, online yoga, dance classes, rock climbing, riding and stand-up paddle boarding.
- Creative x Pride Sport Party: celebrating LGBTQIA+ inclusion in sport for all.

### Student-led creative initiatives:

- Journey of Mapiyal Indigenous Solidarity Art Project.
- Art Therapy Workshops during Study Break.
- Public Art Trail 'We are Connected' student designed public art activations.
- Art Squad large-scale art activations.

### Sports highlights:

- Free 30-day Bundoora Gym student memberships.
- Healthcare Cup - STEM College Social Sport Competition.
- Pride in Sport Online Q&A with AFLW & WNBA Champion, Erin Phillips.
- Esports and Games club Rumble events on Discord (inc. League of Legends and Valorant).
- Sports Academy Indigenous rounds.
- Redbacks Men's Basketball 3vs3 Basketball Nationals – Bronze Medallist.



## Clubs & Events

- RMIT and RUSU supported 160+ student-led clubs to deliver online and in-person social events and development activities.
- RUSU delivered a mixture of 70+ remote and on-campus events inc: outdoor cinemas, trivia, lawn bowls, movie nights, game nights and more!
- RUSU's 'Food with Friends' and 'Take the Night Off' initiatives connected 650+ international students in-person and online.
- RMIT & RUSU annual club leadership development program provided a series of training workshops building executive skills in communication, conflict resolution and managing volunteers.



# Student Media, Representation & Rights



## Student Media

- 43 RMIT students participated in creating radio programs, television shows and podcasts through SYN Media.
- RMIT Catalyst Magazine produced four editions: Infinite, Flicker, Rose and Glow featuring 40 student contributors.
- RMITV provided practical industry experience, giving students the opportunity to produce five TV series and two animated short films for YouTube and Channel 31.
- The Swanson Gazette produce online news content covering current events, lifestyle and student culture.



"Volunteering with RMITV has been fantastic. I've gained experience working on two in-studio shows... which has provided me with invaluable insight." Jack M

## Student Representation

- New CANVAS Module created to prepare 680+ students to represent their classmates at Student Staff Consultative Committees. Student reps supported via an online community, professional development and social activities.
- 28 elected student council representatives trained and supported, representing RMIT students on the Academic Board, Sustainability Committee, Health Safety & Wellbeing Committee and a range of advisory groups.
- RUSU delivered a range of successful advocacy campaigns such as "International students fee bursary support" in 2021.
- 50+ student representatives engaged with senior RMIT staff at 'Have Your Say Day' sharing student insights on career development, learning and connection at RMIT.

"Being able to bridge the gap between us, the students, and the teaching staff was an amazing experience and I would love to have this chance again." Anonymous



## Student Rights

- RUSU Student Rights Officers provided advocacy support for 500+ student cases.
- RUSU Student Rights officers attended 110 hearings to support/represent students.
- RUSU Student Rights appeal volunteers attended 71 hearings.
- Postgraduate and HDR students supported by a dedicated specialist RUSU Student Rights Officer.



**RUSU** Student Rights  
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

RUSU Student Rights  
is an independent and  
confidential service



# Student priorities for SSAF in 2022

THANKS  
SSAF



## Top priorities

RMIT students shared their priorities for SSAF spending in 2022:

1. Counselling & support services
2. Free food services
3. Career support, mentoring & networking
4. Social & inclusion activities
5. RUSU student Rights & Advocacy service

## Highlighted initiatives

- Careers Uplift: Job Shop Assistants and Activations, and Industry Mentoring.
- RUSU Healthy Breakfasts & Chill n Grill
- International Student Support: conversation workshops, meals and social events.
- Increased student knowledge and awareness of Gender Based Violence support services.
- Connection to campus and community.

## How to get involved

[RMIT students can share their feedback about the way SSAF is spent. If you have feedback or you would like to be involved in bringing an idea to life, complete this form.](#)



## Acknowledgement of Country



RMIT University acknowledges the people of the Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nation on whose unceded lands we conduct the business of the University. RMIT University respectfully acknowledges their Ancestors and Elders, past and present. RMIT also acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and their Ancestors of the lands and waters across Australia where we conduct our business.