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Building a better *student experience*

2027 SSAF Expenditure Plan

The Student Consultation period was open from Monday, 28 September 2026 to Friday, 9 October 2026.
The estimated SSAF income for 2027 is forecast at $4 million.

SSAF reserves will be utilised to account for additional expenditure.
**Note: activity descriptions will be updated by Jan 2027 to reflect approved allocations (if required).*

Proposed by	Project title	Project / Activity	Lead unit / entity	2027 Allocation
JCU	Enhancing HDR Student Experience	Engages HDR candidates across JCU through networking, research communication and cohort-building activities. Combats isolation, fosters psychosocial safety and supports academic success. Includes the HDR Ambassador Program, Research Training Network events and candidature experience support across campuses.	Graduate Research School	$ 35,000
JCU	Academy HDR Engagement and Development Activities	Maintains established HDR engagement and development activities at the Academy level, equal to the Graduate Research School allocation.	Academy Division	$ 35,000
External	JCU Health - Student Health and Wellbeing	Contribution to bulk billed (no out of pocket costs) for GP services at TSV Campus and subsidised mental health support. Enablement of direct billing to overseas health insurance providers to avoid further financial stressors and ensure this doesn't impact a student's ability to seek help.	JCU Health (Controlled Entity)	$ 200,000
JCU	Foodbank Market Stall	The JCU Foodbank Market Program will deliver two high-impact events per year, building on existing Townsville initiatives. Responding to demonstrated demand (420-650 students per event), it will create engagement and provide essential food access, complementing the weekly pantry (below) through large-scale, accessible, student-centred support events.	Student Services and Support	$ 40,000
JCU	Townsville Student Food Pantry	The Townsville Student Food Pantry will provide reliable, free access to pantry staples and essential items for JCU students experiencing food insecurity during teaching periods. Operating five days per week, the service will reduce financial stress, improve wellbeing, connect students to support services, and help students remain engaged and successful in their studies.	Student Services and Support	$ 50,000
JCU	Regional Student Connection Program	A coordinated wellbeing, accommodation support and career engagement program for 300 JCU nursing, allied health and medical students undertaking placements and studying across Central, Western and Gulf communities in rural and remote Queensland. Activities may include initial orientation support, providing information on local community facilities, attractions, groups, events; placement and accommodation support; wellbeing initiatives, community engagement opportunities and rural career networking; wellbeing support options, leading to a posititive student placement experience.	Murtupuni Centre for Rural and Remote Health	$ 5,000
JCU	Indigenous Student Support Programs	The IERC supports JCU's commitment to diversity through programs that empower Indigenous students. Initiatives include community lunches, access to healthy food, hygiene support, ambassador leadership, external student engagement, study materials, and student association support. These programs build connection, wellbeing, and academic success across JCU's Indigenous student community.	Indigenous Education and Research Centre	$ 110,000
External	Inter-College Music Competition	The Intercollege Music Competition (ICMC) is an annual celebration of talent and community spirit, bringing together residents from JCU Halls of Residence, John Flynn College, and Saints Catholic College. Students showcase their creativity across Band, Instrumental, Choir, Dance, and Theatre.	On Campus Accommodation	$ 8,000
JCUB	JCU Brisbane Student Engagement	Fostering engagement, connection and support across the JCU Brisbane student community through a comprehensive program of events, activities and dedicated support services, including Student Counselling and Learning Support. The project delivers a year-round calendar of initiatives focused on Community and Culture (social engagement) and Professional Development (employability).	JCU Brisbane	$ 270,000
JCU	Mackay Clinical School	Enabling medical and pharmacy students to engage in orientation, welfare, and community-building activities that strengthen connections with peers, staff, and the Mackay Clinical School.	Mackay Clinical School	$ 5,563
JCU	Mackay Nursing - Connection and Wellbeing	This project will build social connection, peer support and wellbeing and a greater sense of belonging for Mackay nursing students through at least four resilience-focused events and a local social club, and will ensure 75% of new and commencing students engage in online or in-person orientation activities that support successful onboarding and retention.	Mackay Nursing School	$ 9,000
JCU	Peer Social and Learning Program (Library Services activities and Learning Centre non-salary activities)	Consolidated Library Services and Learning Centre initiative supporting: • study-skills development, recreational reading and student engagement/play activities across campuses (spanning skills-for-study support and non-academic reading spaces) • JCU Student Village weekly peer-led social and learning-support sessions in Townsville and Cairns • the Learning Centre "Breakfast and Buddies" pop-up, informal peer-to-peer breakfasts building help-seeking behaviour and belonging, continuing in Townsville and piloting a limited 8-month Cairns expansion • delivery of F2F Mental Health First Aid (Standard Course) These initiatives build sustained student connection to peers, staff and support services, and directly respond to SSAF student survey priorities around health and wellbeing, social connection, skills development and food/drink on campus.	Library Services Education Design, Quality and Standards	$ 60,000
JCU	International Orientation and Student Support	Year-round program of inclusive orientation events, activations and support resources for JCU's approximately 1,400 international students, connecting them with services and community across Townsville and Cairns. International-specific complement to the general orientation program.	Student Communications and Engagement	$ 250,000
JCU	CQ Rural Student Connection	Coordinated wellbeing, accommodation support and career engagement program for JCU nursing, allied health and medical students on placement across Central Queensland. Includes orientation resources, accommodation support, shared meals, wellbeing initiatives, community engagement and rural career networking.	Central Queensland Centre for Rural and Remote Health	$ 7,000
JCU	Careers and Employability Support (pre-approved salaries from 2026)	1.4 FTE Career Development Advisors (CDAs) to provide high-quality career development support to prospective and current JCU students and recent graduates. CDAs deliver individual coaching, workshops, curriculum-embedded career development, and the Career Ready Award to optimise positive graduate employment outcomes.	Student Services and Support	$ 222,000
JCU	Student Wellbeing and Accessibility Support (pre-approved salaries from 2026)	Counselling and Mental Health and AccessAbility Support as a single integrated programme. Together these services provide free, confidential, and timely mental health, counselling, crisis, disability assessment and adjustment support to JCU students across all campuses and modes.	Student Services and Support	$ 424,000
JCU	Learning Centre 2027 (salary component pre-approved from 2026)	Learning Advisor supporting HDR candidates via the Graduate Research School and undergraduate students.	Education Design, Quality and Standards	$ 172,533
JCU	Sonder Digital 24/7 Support Platform	Sonder provides international students with 24/7 multilingual safety and wellbeing support, connecting them instantly to health professionals and emergency services via app, chat or phone. Features such as journey tracking, wellbeing assessments, real-time safety alerts and access to resources ensure students remain safe, supported and informed wherever they are.	Student Services and Support	$ 49,000
JCU	Student Communications and Engagement Team Salaries (pre-approved from 2026)	Year 2 (2027) of pre-approved two-year funding for Student Communications & Engagement Team salaries underpinning JCU's orientation and engagement program across Townsville and Cairns.	Student Communications and Engagement	$ 463,437
JCU	DVCE Student Consultation and Responsive Fund	Establishes a resourced student consultation framework, including remuneration of student participants, to pilot the Students as Partners framework at JCU.	Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Education	$ 25,000
JCU	Orientation and Engagement Plan	Delivers inclusive orientation and engagement events, activations and resources connecting new and current students with support services, tools and resources. Events delivered mainly on the Townsville and Cairns-Smithfield campuses; one Student Services staff member travels to Mackay Clinical School and the Yeinie Building to deliver a single Orientation Week activity at key intakes.	Student Communications and Engagement	$ 260,000
JCUSA	JCU Student Association	JCU Student Association's annual SSAF allocation funds student representation and advocacy, plus social, health, recreational and sporting programs, club administration, student media and facilities across all campuses.	Students Plus Pty Ltd (JCU Student Association)	$ 1,600,000
			TOTAL SSAF ALLOCATION	**$ 4,300,533**