

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



DUSA
DEAKIN UNIVERSITY
STUDENT ASSOCIATION INC.

A LOOK AT THE REPRESENTATION, SERVICES
AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY DUSA.



Welcome to DUSA

While 2022 resulted in less restrictions and constraints than in previous years, Covid was still present and having an impact on operations.

Sadly, the DUSA Bookshop closed permanently at the end of 2022 after over 20 years of service to Deakin students. The decline of the bookshop was due to the adoption of online resources and academics prescribing less textbooks each trimester.

The deficit of \$1.2m reported for the year comprises of the cost of winding up the bookshop. The operating deficit without these costs would have been \$16,000. The bookshop staff worked tirelessly to achieve a very smooth closure with minimal impact to students.

OFest was seen as an awakening of campus life after 2 years of campuses operating well short of capacity. Students embraced being back and enjoyed the events and activities on offer. Online events continued to consolidate engagement of online students seen over the previous 2 years.

Our Corporate Partners added vibrancy and colour to OFest, with activations, competitions and give away's throughout the year. New initiatives were trialled with Clubs on the Deck/Green designed to increase participation to clubs. These events will continue in 2023, modified from lessons learned in 2022.

Two formats of Orientation Camps were trialled, and both provided a memorable experience for students. A one-day experience and a weekend away were popular, with 123 students participating in both events.

The Australian Uni Nationals recommenced after a 2-year break, with 169 students representing Deakin at the games in Perth, and a further 55 students representing at stand alone events though out the year. The League of Legends were the most successful team overcoming the favourites QUT and UTS to take out first place.

Our Clubs and Societies decreased to 85 during the year. This is a direct link to the 2 years being off campus and able to engage student leaders. We are confident in 2023, we can build up this number with vibrant active clubs led by engaged students.

Students continued to struggle with food insecurity being a major issue. DUSA created the Food Pantry to provide fresh fruit and vegetables and pantry staples to students. DUSA hosted 12 events across 2022 with 1,100 Online Students accessing gift cards and 5,236 students attending across the 4 campuses. We are continually revising our welfare offerings to be relevant to student needs.

DUSA membership started to recover with 8,060 members compared to 6,847 at the end of 2021. There is a long way to go to reach the pre-Covid numbers. Research was conducted in 2022 to determine student sentiment. This research will inform the decisions made for Membership packs for 2024 and beyond.

Advocacy and Welfare cases decreased in 2022 to 2,022 and 452 respectively. There were 70 less academic integrity breach cases than the previous year. The Work and Development Permit Scheme continued to help students who had fines with Fines Victoria. Since its inception 4 years ago, the program has assisted 28 students to work off \$50,000 worth of fines.

The Deakin Student Legal Service assisted 535 students with direct legal advice and provided 9 information sessions, with 280 students registering, and the videos on the website engaging 1,231 views.

We continue to engage with students through our social media channels and monthly member emails. Our social media reach continued to rise particularly with our Instagram followers reaching an all time high.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2022 Student Council, Campus Committees, and members of DUSA Crew for their tireless work throughout the year in difficult circumstances.

The University continues to support DUSA and provide the opportunity for the student voice to be heard, through meetings with senior leaders at the University, or on the multiple committees that DUSA Council members attend.

As the incoming President in 2023, I am excited by the return to campus and the initiatives that we have planned to benefit students, and continue to advocate for students.

Georgie Brimer
DUSA President 2023

DUSA would like to show their respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we operate the Wurundjeri, Wathaurong and the Gunditjmara people and pay our respect to elders both past, present, and future.



“

**Being back on campus
was a real boost to
student morale.**

Georgie Brimer

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A Snapshot of DUSA 2022

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

- Clubs and Societies decreased by 28 to 85. Total Club members for 2021 was 8,251. The impact of Covid is still being felt, and it will take time to rebuild the club numbers and student participation
- DUSA's social media presence grew by 0.8% in 2022 with Facebook followers reaching 42,948. Instagram followers increased by 6% to 13,297.

SPORT

- 2022 Australian University National competitions were held for the first time in 2 years. Travelling to Perth DUSA sent 169 students across 17 sports and an additional 55 students who represented Deakin in stand-alone sports
- The Sport Ambassador Program decreased from 48 students in 2021 to 38 in 2022, due to students graduating. Recruitment of new Ambassadors is continuing.

SERVICES

- 2022 saw a more stable campus life without ongoing uncertainty, however on campus numbers remained lower than pre-Covid levels
- DUSA membership increased by 18% as students return to campus and we are able to engage students through events and activities. There is still improvement required to return to pre-Covid levels
- At the end of the year there were 8,060 members, an increase from 6,847 in 2021
- 535 students were provided with direct legal advice and casework through the Deakin Student Legal Service, which was a decrease of 159 students, predominantly due to less international students in the country.



The Numbers



2,022

STUDENTS SUPPORTED
BY ADVOCACY



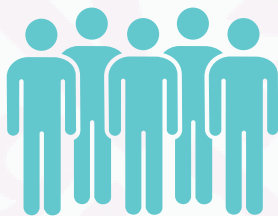
535

STUDENTS WHO SOUGHT
LEGAL ADVICE &
ASSISTANCE



\$1.2M

DEFICIT



8,251

CLUBS & SOCIETIES
PARTICIPANTS



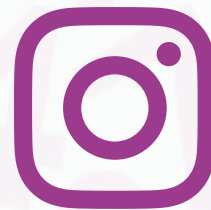
18%

MEMBERSHIP
INCREASE



42,948

FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS



13,297

INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS



“First and foremost,
we are here for
Students and to
help them
be successful.

Georgie Brimer

”

Student Engagement

While 2022 was free of lock downs and reduced restrictions, numbers of students on campus were still less than pre-pandemic levels. The focus of OFest was to reactivate the campuses and welcome everyone back.

T1 OFest, amidst the ever-changing pandemic restrictions forged ahead with 20 on-campus social events, 8 on-line information sessions and 8 on-line social events. There were 20 ticketed events with a total of 21,884 students participating. New events were trialled with Clubs on the Deck / Green showcasing DUSA clubs to increase participation levels. This model will be modified and continued in 2023.

Market days were highly engaging with Corporate Partners joining the fun, providing giveaways and competitions for all students. Our Corporate Partnership income was \$155k in 2022, favourable to budget by \$43k.

During the T2 Orientation period, we delivered a hybrid of events with 6,322 students participating in the 22 events.. T3 was smaller, with 6 events and 432 students taking part.

Two formats of orientation camp were delivered. An E-Camp (one-day virtual experience), and a weekend away at the Summit Adventure Camp. 123 students participated across both formats.

There were 242 DUSA Crew members who returned during 2022, an increase of 100% on the previous year. The students contributed 3,343 volunteer hours during 2022. This support is invaluable to DUSA and we continue to thank students for their outstanding support.

The number of Clubs and Societies decreased by 28 from 2021, with 85 Clubs comprising a total of 8,251 members. We are working to rebuild clubs as the campuses continue to reactivate into 2023.

Themed weeks continued with Self Care Week, Pride Week and UBelong Week the cornerstones of the programs. Campaigns such as Contract Cheating, Sexual Health and Wellbeing were also conducted. We also supported NAIDOC week and Donate Life Week.

Short course participation was encouraging with 30 courses delivered, and a total of 604 participants. Virtual tours were conducted and well led by students with a particular interest through personal experience. Of the 5 tours conducted, 68 participants were in attendance.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

21,884+

students participated in OFest

302

students attended the DUSA Leadership Conference

Short courses were attended by

756 students

- an increase of

25%

Learning from the pandemic years, DUSA continued to develop the online offering to keep students connected.



Sport

Sport was hit particularly hard during the second year of restrictions, and most activities moved online purely to keep students connected.

Sports clubs supported by DUSA increased from 17 to 18 with 1,897 students involved in 2022, compared to 1,468 active student members in 2021. We are expecting these numbers to continue to rise as restrictions continue to ease.

Community-based competitions started to re-emerge in 2022 and we have built connections with 7 local clubs where we do not have capacity either from a student number or a facilities perspective.

Partner clubs were encouraged to form a student led cohort within their community. One example of a club adopting this approach is the Torquay Tornadoes Hockey Club, who created the position of Deakin Student Representative within their club.

With restrictions easing, DUSA was able to conduct 63 'Come and Try' sports sessions on campus with 2,082 students participating.

The Sports Ambassador program reduced from 48 in 2021 to 38 in 2022. This is a result of graduations and recruitment being undertaken to increase the numbers in 2023 with more students returning to campus.

The Uni Nationals returned to Perth with 169 Students representing Deakin Dragons across 17 sports. In addition, 55 students participated in stand-alone events during the year. The League of Legends division 1 finished in 1st place. Mens Hockey finished in 2nd place with Women's Swimming finishing in 3rd and Swimming overall finishing in 4th place.

My time as a Sport Ambassador provided an opportunity to put my theoretical learning's from my degree into a physical real-world setting. For instance, the sporting events that I was part of like the Campus Clash and the Social Soccer Tournament had logistics to figure out which required teamwork and drawing on what I learned in my Master of Business (Sports Management) degree.

Johnson - 2022 DUSA Sports Ambassador



Student Media

The 'DUSA Goss' eDM continued to be distributed monthly to members and included important information about upcoming events, featured deals, partner discounts and exclusive competitions.

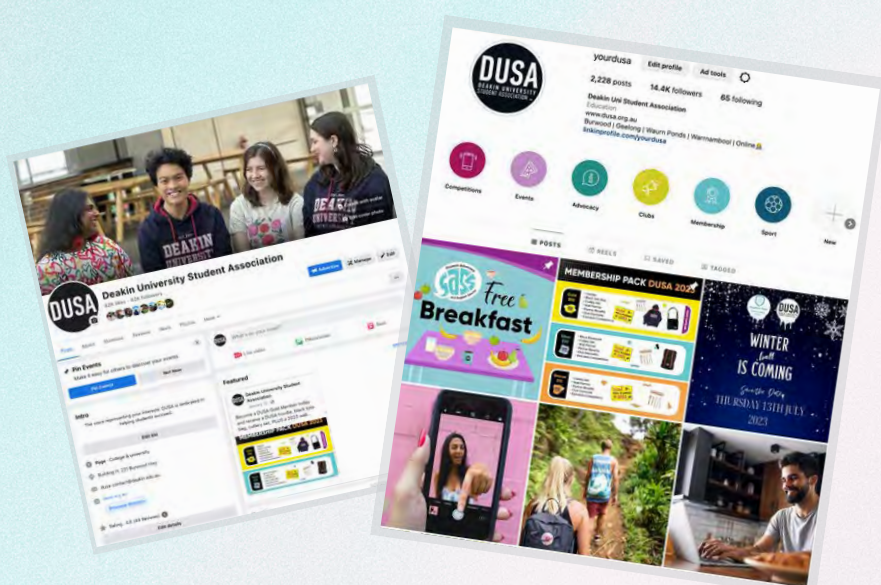
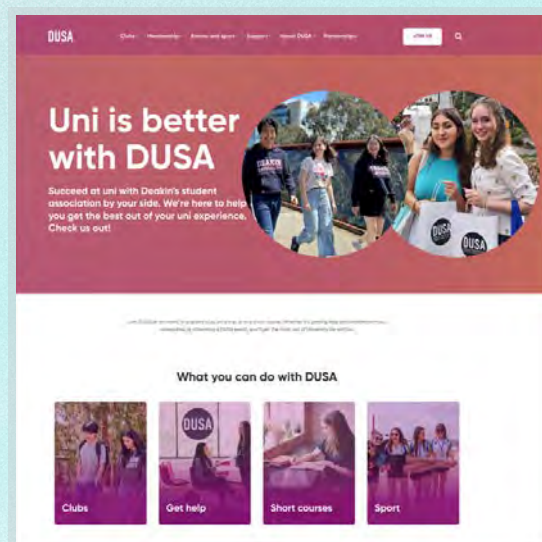
The DUSA Website continues to be developed with a Web Chat functionality added to the website, providing another avenue for students to communicate with DUSA and obtain more information.

In 2022, Wordly Magazine produced the Bloom edition of the magazine due to difficulties faced post pandemic. This edition included 26 student contributors.

A total of 440 copies of Wordly were printed and circulated. Students are paid for their involvement and the student coordinated production of Wordly assists students to gain exposure for their creative efforts. Wordly has an online presence where articles are published regularly and we are working with the team so that the magazine can return to pre-Covid levels in 2023.

A decision was made in 2022 to cease production of the DUSA Student Diary due to the increase in printing and delivery costs. The low uptake from students was also a contributing factor.

Our social media presence continued to grow with close to 43,000 Facebook followers and over 13,000 Instagram followers. We added to our online presence with the addition of a LinkedIn profile to attract Corporate Partners.



Advocacy & Welfare

ADVOCACY

- 2,022 cases in 2022 was a small decrease from the 2,098 recorded in 2021. The reduction is attributed to almost 70 less Academic Integrity breach allegation cases. Conversely, there was an upsurge in cases involving remission of debt and refund of fees in special circumstances, where mental illness diagnosis emerged as a prevailing reason for unit failure
- Appointments were now able to be in person but the flexibility of accessing the service remotely remained
- A re-brand of the Student Advocacy & Support Service occurred during 2022 with a new logo and colour palette created to develop a service identity
- A 'Students as Partners' project with 7 Deakin students was created in 2021. The students and staff co-designed and co-created two resources aimed at deterring students from contract cheating. These resources were piloted in T1 2022 when they were embedded within five Faculty of SEBE units that had a history of high incidence of substantiated allegations of contract cheating. There was a reduction in the number of allegations recorded in 4 of the 5 units.

WELFARE

- Demand for Welfare Services were slightly lower, with cases decreasing from 479 in 2021 to 452 recorded in 2022. Some students returning multiple times for assistance
- While the Financial Counselling service had a decrease in case numbers from 138 cases in 2021, to 123 cases in 2022, the number of intensive case work cases increased from 13 in 2021 to 27 in 2022: Overall there were 169 consultations
- Work and Development permits allow students to work off fines incurred through the Department of Justice. In the 4 years this program has been operating, 28 students have extinguished \$50,000 worth of fines
- Issues with food insecurity continued to impact on many students. Building on the success of the DUSA Food Pantry in 2021, DUSA continued the program in 2022. DUSA hosted 12 events across 2022 with 1,100 online students accessing gift cards and 5,236 students across the 4 campuses were provided with fresh fruit, vegetables, and pantry staples. DUSA took this opportunity to interact with students in a supportive environment to educate about welfare offerings available
- To evaluate the food insecurity issue participants were surveyed. 80% of students were living with food insecurity, 18% were experiencing severe food insecurity where students often ran out of food. The Food Pantry is having a positive impact with 54-59% of students accessing the service, less worried about running out of food. Almost one third of students had food security needs that exceeded what the Food Pantry can do alone
- The Food Pantry will continue in 2023, however cuts to the SSAF allocation from Deakin will impact on the amount that can be allocated to this service. DUSA will continue to procure funds and donations to support the program.



Student Legal Service

The DSLS team continues to sit on several relevant networks and working groups to advocate for systemic change, strengthen referral pathways and stay up to date with changing laws and processes. These include:

- Student Legal Service Network
- International Student Housing Network
- Partnerships for International Student Support (East)
- Tenancy Working Group Infringements Working Group
- Victorian Employment Law Working Group

The numbers of students who attended the Deakin Student Legal Service (DSLS) remained consistent, reaching 535 students in 2022, a decrease of 159 from 2021. The decrease can be attributed to the lack of ability to promote the service to students on campus throughout the year as it was not possible to attend in-person promotional opportunities and refresh referral pathways.

Migration advice is the most predominate reason for students seeking legal advice at Burwood. In Geelong, tenancy is the main area of concern for students.

The team continued the series of highly successful 'Know Your Rights' information sessions in 2022 through Zoom. In total there were 9 online information sessions presented across the year, with a total of 280 students registering and 115 students attending live – representing a 41% attendance rate.

Recordings were uploaded to the DSLS website for students to watch. These videos were updated whenever newer sessions and recordings were available to ensure that students received the most up to date information. To date, these videos have been viewed 1,231 times, this is in comparison to 1,617 views from the previous report.

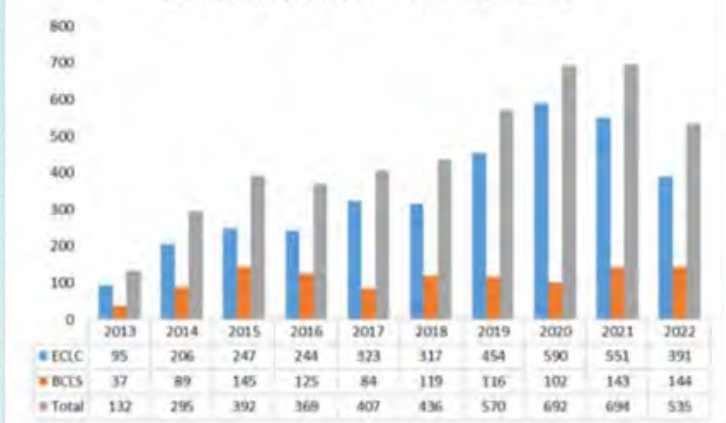
CASE STUDY

Dean approached the DSLS to receive advice on several fines he had incurred over a few years totalling more than \$5,000. Dean had entered into a payment plan but due to financial stresses, was not able to continue the payments.

Dean contacted the DSLS seeking advice in relation to alternative options to deal with the fines. During the appointment with the DSLS Lawyer, the options available were discussed, which included his eligibility for the Work and Development Scheme, allowing students to work off their fines.

Following the appointment, DSLS contacted and referred Dean to the Financial Counsellor to discuss the Work and Development application process and to receive other financial supports.

Student Services - 2013 to 2022





DUSA

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