

CURTIN STUDENT GUILD

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

STUDENT GUILD

CURTIN STUDENT GUILD

CURTIN STU



2024 Guild Executive

L to R: Max Zhang, Jacquie Bicanic, Jasmyne Tweed, Mitch Craig and Veronika Gobba

OUR MISSION

Create a fun and vibrant community that maximises the student experience.

OUR VISION

To be the leading independent student-run organisation in Australia, which is highly valued by all of the university community, especially our members.

OUR VALUES

Autonomy

Student control of student affairs for the benefit of our members

Integrity

Valuing difference between people and standing for equity, equality and fairness

Diversity

Our behaviour builds trust

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Throughout our proud history, the Guild has stood alongside students to fight for a better university, society and world.



Dylan Storer
Guild President



I would like to acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people as the traditional owners of the Curtin Bentley campus and pay my respects to elders past and present.

In 2024, the Curtin Student Guild solidified our place as Australia's leading student representative organisation and continued to deliver excellent services, representation and campus culture for the students of Curtin University.

The release of the final Australian Universities Accord paper in February 2024 and the introduction of Federal Government legislation was welcomed by the Curtin Student Guild which was the only student-led organisation that made submissions at every stage of process. The implementation of paid placements, changes to HECS-HELP debt repayments, the introduction of a Duty of Care for students as well as a national guarantee of SSAF funding for student led organisations were recommendations advocated by the Guild.

Another important initiative of the Accord process was the Government's response to gender-based violence in higher education. The Curtin Student Guild submitted a response to the Draft Action Plan in February which included our feedback on the introduction of a National Student Ombudsman.

We provided additional feedback when the Government released a draft National Code setting out rules for universities to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

Throughout our proud history, the Guild has stood alongside students to fight for a better university, society and world. In 1971 students occupied the library to demand extended access hours and in 1972 the Guild provided support and assistance to students dodging the draft of the Vietnam War. This proud history has continued to the present day.

In October 2023, the Guild's Representation Board passed a motion supporting the United Nation's Security Council's view that the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem were illegal and in May 2024 the Guild established a Gaza Solidarity Encampment at Curtin University which lasted for 23 days.

The encampment was closely monitored by the Guild to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and the broader community.

The Guild worked closely with the elected committee of the Curtin Palestinian Society and other pro-Palestine groups to reach an agreement with the University for full disclosure of all university investments and research connections to companies that supported or had ties to Israel, the Australian Defence Force and weapons manufacturing. This included Curtin's ties to Lockheed Martin, Babcock Australasia, BAE Systems, NOVA Systems and Huntington Ingalls Industries.

As a result of the Guild's activism, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Curtin University and the Curtin Student Guild with the University committing to:

- The annual disclosure of organisations with which the university had dealings in relation to Teaching and Research that were weapons manufacturing corporations, defence related organisations or foreign government agencies or authorities
- Publishing an annual list of all sectors of university investment
- Divestment from suppliers that failed to operate in an ethical manner by avoiding, causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts when renewing contracts
- Release of a public position on the war in Palestine by the University.

As part of our opposition to the AUKUS defence agreement, we lodged a submission to the State Government rejecting the proposal to store radioactive waste at Garden Island or host nuclear-powered submarines in Cockburn Sound.

The radioactive waste will initially be from US and UK nuclear powered submarines which will be on rotation at Garden Island from 2027.

In the area of Sustainability and Welfare, the Guild introduced initiatives including mug libraries at Guild outlets for staff and students who forgot their keep cups. A Recycling Hub was commissioned, and we coordinated the first Guild Sustainability Week which highlighted ways for students to be sustainable in their daily lives.

The Guild increased the number of food giveaways for students which went some way to combating the cost-of-living crisis.

We introduced free period products to students, initially from the Women's Department equity space. After successful negotiations with the University, we received the green light for the introduction of vending machines at various locations across campus.

The university agreed to reinstate a second tuition-free week each semester from 2026, following years of student-led advocacy by the Guild, marking a significant victory for students and staff who highlighted the critical impact of the previous changes on mental health, workload, and campus culture.

For the first time in 10 years the annual National Union of Students Education Conference was held at Curtin University.

Changes to club by-law were approved by Guild Council and the number of club events increased to a record breaking 1704 – a jump of 40% from 2023. Congratulations to Club of the Year, the Curtin Computer Science Students Association (ComSSA) and the dual winners of the People's Choice Award, the Curtin Middle Eastern North African (MENA) and the Curtin Hindu Club.

After a break of many years, Curtin Student Guild elections were once again coordinated by the WA Electoral Commission

The start of semester TOGA party, end of semester one Barnyard Bash and the end of semester two Block Party proved extremely popular with students who were eager to participate in on campus events. We estimated that close to 50,000 students attended 94 Guild events in 2024.

Finally, I would like to thank David Luketina who retired as Managing Director. We are excited to have Vernon Thompson join the Guild as Managing Director bringing his extensive background in financial management across multiple industries.



DYLAN STORER
56th Guild President

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Vernon Thompson
Managing Director



Members received discounts of \$430,998 in 2024 at our outlets



In 2024, Curtin Student Guild successfully provided services and representation to students while navigating a changing higher education landscape and challenging environment for our commercial operations.

Negotiation continued with the University to progress the redevelopment of the Guild precinct to deliver enhanced amenities for students and clubs. The project, which commenced in 2023, expanded as the University decided to undertake its own master planning of the Guild precinct including the Agora Courtyard and Café Central.

The Guild proposal would relocate The Tav to the Café Central site creating a contemporary environment for students and staff. This project will be progressed once the Curtin master plan is available. A proposal for a Clubs Hub was agreed with and funded by Curtin and will be open for club activities and events in stages commencing early 2025.

Work progressed on converting The Lab to a student kitchenette offering students greater access to microwaves and other facilities which will be completed early in 2025. This is an important initiative to combat the cost-of-living pressures.

A new source of funding will be available in 2025 through the Universities collection of an international Student Services Amenities Fee (iSSAF) providing much needed additional funding to the Guild for international student services.

A review of the Guild's Record Keeping Management Plan (RKMP) was completed in line with State Records Commission (SRC) requirements.

Negotiation commenced with Curtin to extend our leases at the Bentley campus. The Guild leases buildings for office space, clubs, events and its retail operations.

The lease renewal will be finalised in 2025 as and when current leases expire and or new opportunities arise.

As well, the Guild worked with the University to renew the WASM Kalgoorlie leases. The leases include areas for offices, storage and student facilities. The new lease arrangements are expected to be in place early in 2025.

2024 saw us roll out a refreshed brand to leverage the Guild's profile across digital channels and provide greater recognition for events.

Once again, our elected student representatives worked tirelessly to ensure the student voice was heard on academic, accommodation, campus safety, sustainability and global issues. Their commitment and hard work paid off with a close to 80% satisfaction rating from students in the 2024 student satisfaction survey.

Close to 2,000 Club events were held in 2024 as 16,000 Curtin students engaged with more than 100 academic, special interest, religious, issues-based, international clubs. The Guild coordinated 94 events throughout the year with "Guild O Day" in semester 1 and 2 attracting 19,000 visitors.

Our commercial operations focussed on cost control, value and a streamlined product range. Better scanning capabilities improved customer service. We reviewed our cost of producing food to gauge whether we were competitive with externally purchased products. operations and improved business processes.

The environment for our commercial operations continues to be challenging. Across Australia, food and beverage retailers have noted that rising costs to operate and the resulting cost-of-living crisis continues to place significant pressures on commercial operations and students consumption capacity.

Guild members received \$446,000 in discounts from our outlets in 2024.

Our Student Assist programme provided 3,026 sessions to students with the majority relating to student academic issues.

For the year ended 31 December 2024, the Guild reported an actual overall operating net loss of \$647,135 against a budgeted loss of \$416,012. This was primarily due to lower retail sales than anticipated across our outlets, particularly for the Library café which reopened in semester one, 2024, after a closure of several years during which the library building was remodelled. The Library café recommenced operations in a new location and is taking more time to re-establish itself and grow sales than expected. Key components of the 2024 revenue were \$6,979,489 from trading and operating activities and \$4,406,961 from grants and SSAF. The main costs were \$6,238,994 (TBC) for staffing and \$2,860,269 (TBC) for the cost of sales expenses.

As a result of ongoing losses in the Guild's commercial operations, a review of this area will commence in 2025 to develop a long-term strategy for the financial viability of this essential service. As part of this, a Commercial Advisory Committee will be established comprising internal and external stakeholders.

I would like to thank and give due recognition to the great contribution of outgoing Managing Director, David Luketina to the Curtin Student Guild over 7 years. Working tirelessly with Guild staff, the respective elected student representatives and Guild Councils over that time he progressed many initiatives, maintained our operations and financial viability during COVID, reinvigorated commercial outlets and student spaces, streamlined our and improved business processes.



VERNON THOMPSON
Managing Director

2024 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Executive



Jasmyne Tweed
PRESIDENT



Mitch Craig
SECRETARY



Veronika Gobba
VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION



Jacquie Bicanic
**VICE PRESIDENT WELFARE &
SUSTAINABILITY**



Max Zhang
VICE PRESIDENT ACTIVITIES

Guild Council Members

Jacquie Bicanic
Dylan Storer
Ryan Kirby
Ben Burgess
Ella Marchionda
Tahni Rowe

Noor Fellah
Sarina Pun
Texa Rose Robin
Jasmyne Tweed
Mitchell Craig
Max Zhang

Aleena Shaji
Shiura Yoosuf
Veronika Gobba
Rey Nairn
Callum Baxter

Representation Board Members

Veronika Gobba
Jasmyne Tweed
Jacquie Bicanic
Hannah Northey
Thane Roberts

Nini Siddiqua
Imari Morris
Bustanul Arifin
Zavier Wileman
Chloë Maslen

Filiz Keles
Sarina Pun
Cadence Grant
sarina Pun

Faculty Representatives



Hannah Northey
BUSINESS & LAW



Nini Siddiqua
HEALTH SCIENCES



Thane Roberts
SCIENCE & ENGINEERING



Imari Morris
HUMANITIES

Committee Presidents



Bustanul Arifin
POSTGRADUATE STUDENT
COMMITTEE PRESIDENT



Kim Pinto
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
COMMITTEE PRESIDENT



Sarina Pun
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
COMMITTEE PRESIDENT

Equity Departments



Filiz Keles
ACCESSIBILITY OFFICER



Xavier Wileman
QUEER OFFICER



Chloë Maslen
WOMEN'S OFFICER



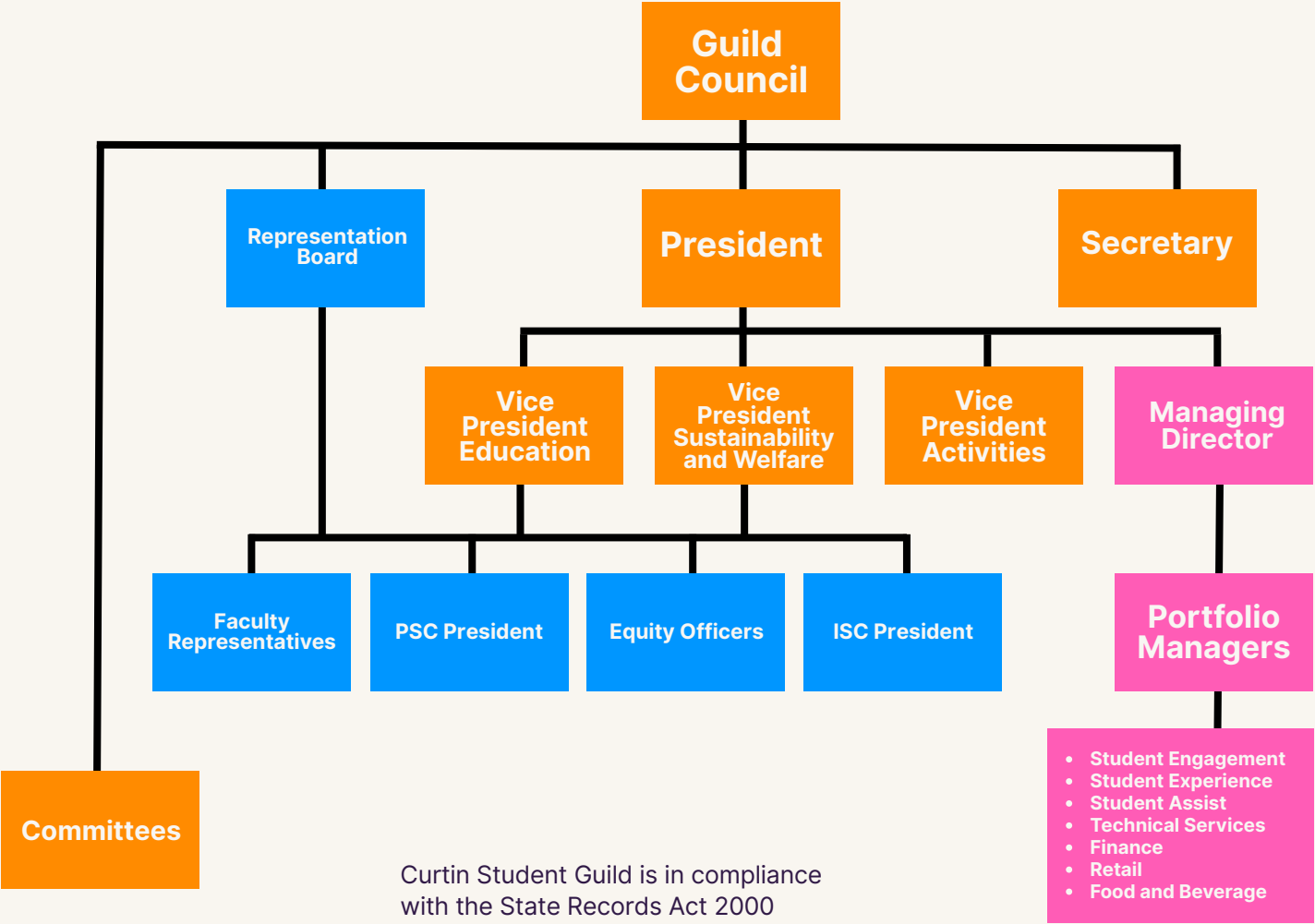
Cadence Grant
WOMEN'S OFFICER






Vacant
FIRST NATIONS OFFICER

ORGANISATIONAL CHART

The Guild Council is the governing body of the Curtin Student Guild and its powers are set out in Curtin University of Technology Act 1966 - Statute No.4 - Student Guild.



Curtin Student Guild is in compliance with the State Records Act 2000

-  Officers reporting to the Guild Council.
-  Staff report through the managing director.
-  Officers reporting to the Representation Board.

EDUCATION AND REPRESENTATION ACTIVITIES

Guild representatives contribute to university boards, committees, working groups, student discipline panels as well as the Student as Partners agreement.

- Academic Board
- Learning and Student Experience Committee (LSEC)
- University Health and Safety Committee
- Global Positioning Committee
- Student Discipline Panels
- Students as Partners
- FBL Strategic Review Board
- Deadnaming Working Group
- Curtin Medical School Diversity Inclusion & Belonging Working Party
- Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Committee
- Student Experience Program Steering Committee
- Student Voice Australasia Operational Group
- Student Services and Amenities Expenditure Advisory Committee
- Respect at Curtin Advisory Group
- Courses Committee
- Universal Design Working Group

- University Admissions Committee
- Faculty of Science and Engineering Learning and Teaching Council
- Faculty of Business and Law Learning and Teaching Committee
- Faculty of Business and Law Courses Committee
- Faculty of Science and Engineering Faculty Executive
- Engineering Board
- Faculty of Health Sciences Courses Committee
- Faculty of Humanities Courses Committee
- Research Committee
- Faculty of Business and Law Strategic Review Board
- Science Board
- Faculty of Health Sciences Academic Board
- Faculty of Health Sciences Learning and Teaching Committee
- Faculty of Humanities Learning and Teaching Committee

EDUCATION AND REPRESENTATION ACTIVITIES

INVASION DAY CAMPAIGN

Guild representatives took part in the Invasion Day Rally in recognition of 26 January as a day of mourning for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

RETURN OF TUITION FREE WEEKS

After years of campaigning by the Guild, the University announced the reinstatement of two tuition free weeks from 2026. In 2021, Curtin University transitioned to a single tuition-free week for each of its two semesters. The change attracted criticism from students, staff and clubs who reported that it had an adverse impact on learning, teaching and campus culture.

ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK CAMPAIGN

The Guild coordinated an assessment feedback campaign, which included focus groups and information about common policy breaches to highlight areas of student concern and recommendations for improvements to the University.

FBL DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE - PHYGITAL

The Faculty of Business and Law decided to move many units across their three schools to a flipped model of learning (flipped lectures and in person tutorials) from 2025-2027. The reason for the change was that many students worked part-time or full-time and therefore they would find this model of learning more flexible. The Guild was concerned about the lack of clarity around the extent of the project and soon became aware of student and staff concerns. The Guild coordinated student focus groups which reinforced a preference for in-person learning. Although some concessions were made to address student concerns, this issue remains unresolved.



PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

As a result of work by the Queer Officer, peer support sessions were successfully introduced in 2024.

STUDENT CHARTER

The Guild commenced negotiations with the University to update the Student Charter which was created in 2008 by the University and the Guild.

HIDDEN DISABILITIES SUNFLOWER SCHEME

The Accessibility Officer launched the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program at Curtin. The global initiative is designed to help individuals with non-visible disabilities discreetly signal that they may need extra assistance, understanding or support by wearing a sunflower lanyard or product.

CONTENT WARNINGS

This project came a long way in 2024 with Curtin's Learning Innovation & Teaching Excellence Centre's (LITEC) commitment to take charge of the project going forward and to drive the rollout to more units. LITEC will work with the Curriculum Management/Transformation team to integrate content warnings into Comprehensive Course Reviews. The Content Warning Guide is now linked to several sections in the Curtin staff portal and the Gender Equity and Inclusion page of the University's website.



ESSENTIAL TEXTBOOK CAMPAIGN

The Business and Law Faculty Representative worked with faculty and library staff to ensure clearer information for students around essential textbooks. This includes earlier communication between library and faculty staff about textbooks required prior to the start of semester to allow for a better access, updates to reading list developments in terms of when a textbook is considered essential and information around good practice for staff when it comes to essential textbooks in a unit.

STUDENT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The revised Students as Partners (SAP) agreement was signed by the Guild and the University and agreement was reached about how the program would be communicated and implemented throughout the University.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

The Excellence in Teaching Awards were established 24 years ago by the Guild to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Curtin academics. Students nominate their teachers and the award winners are chosen by Guild faculty representatives. The Guild received 426 nominations in 2024.

GAZA SOLIDARITY ENCAMPMENT

The Guild led WA's only encampment against the genocide in Palestine. Over 23 days, students and community members occupied the Chancellory lawn, holding daily protests and actions. The encampment secured a landmark MoU with Curtin—the strongest agreement of any Australian encampment—including commitments on weapons investment disclosure, ethical divestment, and the most direct university statement on Palestine in the country.

SELF-CERTIFICATION

The Guild continued to advocate for the continued practice of self-certification which allows students to apply for an extension without a medical certificate.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Federal Government legislation requires higher education providers to have a “support for students” policy ensuring support is available and students are aware of them. The Guild provided extensive feedback to assist Curtin to develop its policy.

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

The Guild continued to work with Make Renting Fair WA to put a case to the State Government to have student accommodation included in the WA Tenancy Act as no regulatory body can intervene on behalf of students. Additionally, Curtin Student Guild highlighted to the university and the media the extreme heat that students in older accommodation blocks had to endure over summer as their apartments were not airconditioned and no portable cooling units were allowed. The Guild advocated for financial support for students in Curtin accommodation and pushed to have the On-Campus Accommodation Equity Bursary applications available for an extended period of time.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES ACCORD

The Guild continued to be active in the Australian Universities Accord process with two submissions to the Federal Government's response to gender-based violence in higher education.

UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION SANCTIONS

The Guild campaigned for a fairer approach to applying academic sanctions when students fall into arrears with university accommodation fees.

CHANGES TO STATUE NO. 10 – STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND RULES

The Guild supported a definition change of poor academic practice to allow student discipline cases to be processed faster. We did not support a penalty above a 40% mark reduction. The Guild awaits the completion of the Review of Academic Misconduct Statue and Rules, expected in the first half of 2025.



STUDENT ASSIST

The Guild's
independent
support service
Student Assist
provided 3326
sessions to
students in 2024.

2728

Academic / University
Related Issues

598

Non-Academic Sessions



**LIFE SKILLS AND
VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

1031

Participants

108

Course
Sessions



80

Laptop Program Loans

90 GRANTS

received by 76 students

- Hardship
- Emergency Aid
- Childcare Assistance
- Food
- Accommodation
- Text books
- Bills

*Grants totalled \$27,589.58

COMMERCIAL SERVICES

The Guild's Commercial operations prioritised cost control, a streamlined range of food and improved scanning capabilities to enhance customer service

!!
In 2024, The Guild sold an estimated 1,237,600 lollies from the iconic G-Mart Lolly Wall!



TOP SELLERS AT A GLANCE



305,113

HOT BEVERAGES

SMART RIDER TOP-UPS



16,963

HALAL SNACK PACKS



13,367



31,952

SUSHI

BUTTER CHICKEN



8,455

CLUBS, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES



103

Registered
Guild clubs



16,000

student club members

1,704

club events

CLUB AWARDS

CLUB OF THE YEAR

Curtin Computer
Science Students
Association (ComSSA)

MOST IMPROVED CLUB

Curtin Engineers
Without Borders

BEST NEW CLUB

Vietnamese Students
Association at Curtin

Curtin Middle Eastern
North African (MENA)
Club

BEST CLUB EVENT

Curtin Mechanical
Society

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Curtin Middle Eastern
North African (MENA)
Club

Curtin Hindu Club



94

**Guild
Events**

11

Major Guild events

48,500

event attendees

HIGHLIGHTS

Inaugural “Block Party” end-of-year event

19,000 students attended Guild O-Days in semesters 1 and 2

Love, Sex and Consent Week focused on consent and sexual safety

Introduction of Guild Sustainability Week

Increased free food giveaways

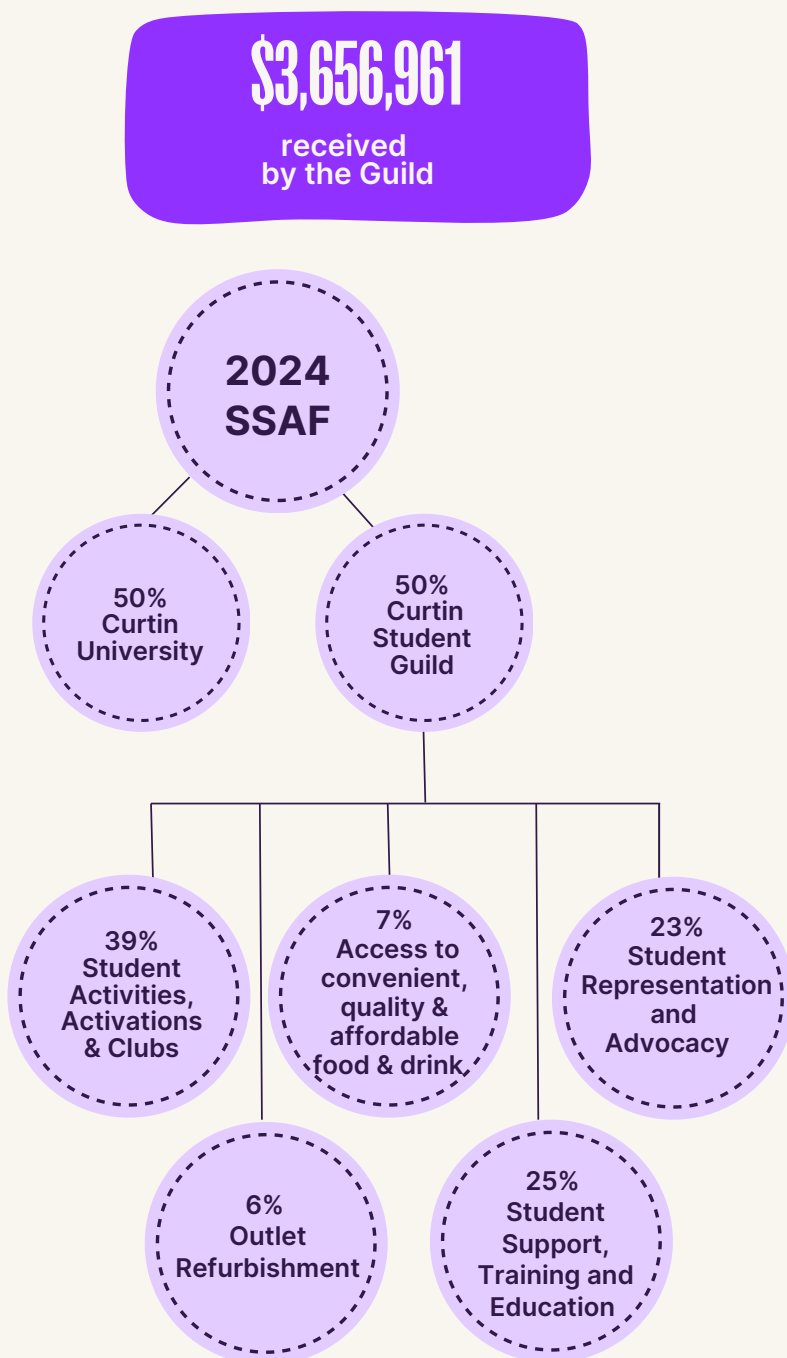
Development of additional club spaces in conjunction with the University.



**95% of guild
run events
were free to
students in
2024.**

STUDENT SERVICES AND AMENITIES FEE (SSAF) EXPENDITURE IN 2024

The Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) is used to provide a wide range of services and amenities to students and to support student-focussed initiatives such as sporting and recreational activities, employment and career advice, advocacy and support, financial issues and food services.



FINANCIAL REPORTS

Grant Expenditure in 2024

Curtin University
provides a grant of
\$750,000 to Curtin
Student Guild

ACTIVITY OR SERVICE	PORTFOLIO	2024	2023
Student Welfare	Student Assist	130,434	111,369
Student Societies	Student Experience (clubs)	83,977	76,879
Student Publications	Student Engagement	174,974	230,779
Social Activities	Student Experience (events)	120,845	120,247
Student Representation & Advocacy	Student Representation	119,770	90,726
SSAF Admin Costs **		120,000	120,000
Total		750,000	750,000

* Includes support costs

** Paid to Curtin university



FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Performance*

	2024	2023
Revenue		
Sale of Goods	6,726,389	6,818,404
Rendering of Services	179,967	182,618
Rental Income	21,392	21,392
Finance Income	51,741	49,088
Other Income	4,567,863	4,124,756
	11,547,352	11,196,258
Expenses		
Cost of Sales	(2,875,779)	(2,990,507)
Employee Benefits Expense	(6,310,780)	(5,929,991)
Depreciation	(704,463)	(661,933)
Interest Expense on Lease	(2,660)	(8,245)
Liability Occupancy Expenses	(516,208)	(532,928)
Administrative Expenses	(368,279)	(438,885)
Finance Costs	(67,332)	(65,989)
Other Expenses	(1,348,986)	(1,205,535)
	(12,194,487)	(11,834,013)
Operating Loss from Operations	(647,135)	(637,755)

*The Guild's financial year is from 1 January to 31 December

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Cash Flow Summary

	2024	2023
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Receipts from Students/Customers	7,862,966	7,751,872
Receipts from SSAF	3,656,961	3,205,305
Interest Paid	(2,659)	(8,245)
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	(11,709,862)	(10,946,464)
Interest Received	51,741	49,088
Net Cash (used in)/provided by Operating Activities	(140,853)	51,556
Cash Flows used in Investing Activities	(178,191)	(597,611)
Cash Flows used in Financing Activities	(92,408)	(84,711)
Net (Decrease) in Cash Held	(411,452)	(630,766)
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year	3,060,875	3,691,641
Cash at End of Financial Year	2,649,423	3,060,875

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Position

	2024	2023
Current Assets	3,156,323	3,693,087
Non-Current Assets	1,246,956	1,833,892
Total Current Assets	4,403,279	5,526,979
Total Liabilities	(1,308,485)	(1,785,050)
Net Available Assets	3,094,794	3,741,929

Loss from Operations has been derived from the following:

	2024	2023
Administration	(27,568)	122,016
Representation Services	(2,358)	(29,134)
Student Services	91,514	88,974
Commercial	(708,723)	(819,611)
Operating Loss from Operations	(647,135)	(637,755)

CURTIN STUDENT GUILD

Whadjuk Country
Building 106F, Curtin University
Kent Street WA 6102

hello@guild.curtin.edu.au
(08) 9266 2900



@ CURTINGUILD
GUILD.CURTIN.EDU.AU