



RMIT University Student Union

First Quarter Report

Reporting Period:
1 January – 31 March 2019

RUSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

President's Report



What a fantastic start to the academic year. The RMIT University Student Union has been busy planning for a huge 2019, and it all started with Orientation Week and the massive Welcome Bash in Alumni Courtyard. This year's party was bigger and better than ever.

We followed it up with Multicultural Week, a new initiative designed to highlight and celebrate the amazing diversity and richness of RMIT University's student body. We have already signed up more than 3700 financial members, a fantastic effort from everyone involved in promoting the benefits of membership to students.

We welcomed more than 230 new students to our ever-expanding and hugely popular volunteer program, with more than half of those completing Responsible Service of Alcohol and/or Food Safety & Handling training.

We're proud to share our fantastic achievements for the first quarter of 2019, and can't wait to continue working through the year to deliver the best experiences and support for all RMIT students.

Ella Gvildys
President,
RMIT University Student Union



Activities & Events



Orientation 2019

RUSU had a huge presence during Orientation 2019. RUSU held stalls at the RMIT-hosted Orientation events, the Global Experience Welcome, and a handful of School-level orientation events. We also handed out Special Initiative Grants totalling \$10,100, supporting 28 clubs to host 'Welcome' activities during the critical start of semester period.

Welcome Bash 2019

1200 attendees

The annual Welcome Bash was held on February 21, with just over 1200 students attending. This fantastic, Carnival themed welcome event was a huge success.

VE Pop-up Pub Welcome

100 attendees

RUSU provided one of our famous 'Pop-up Pub' serving food, drinks and playing some tunes in the Building 57 cafeteria.

Pizza Party

100 attendees

RUSU continued its traditional recovery party following the Welcome Bash, providing free pizza and soft drinks at lunchtime.

Walert House Welcome Toga Party

60 attendees

RUSU welcomed new residents to Walert House with a toga-themed party in the residence recreation room.

Tropical Vibes Boat Cruise

350 attendees

Another popular event on the RUSU calendar, this boat party sold out within one week of tickets going on sale. Attendees enjoyed a balmy evening cruising through Melbourne's dockside precinct.

Brunswick Night Market

250 attendees

A new addition to the orientation calendar, RUSU held a twilight makers market on the grassy forecourt of the Brunswick campus. Attendees enjoyed complimentary cocktails and food trucks while perusing the wares of students and local artisans.

Above: Welcome Bash

Right: Tropical Vibes Boat Cruise





Multicultural Week

City Multicultural Festival

1300 serves of food, 1,500+ attendees

Another new addition to the RUSU calendar, we celebrated the vast diversity of the RMIT student body with a festival on Bowen Street. An exciting array of performers entranced the assembled students whilst they enjoyed complimentary food and drinks. This event was a collaboration between RUSU and RMIT Connect.

- Multicultural Food trucks provided at Bundoora and Brunswick - 1100 serves of food
- Multicultural Festival Night Party - 500 attendees



This week was capped by a 1990s-themed party at a city nightclub. Students donned their best versions of the attire that heady decade was known for and celebrated long into the night.

O-Talks

RUSU student representatives and staff delivered orientation talks across the campuses. The estimated reach of this talks was 6000 students.

Orientation - Student Employment & Volunteering

Fifteen students were employed as casuals assisting RUSU Orientation events. Seventeen RUSU Volunteers supported our annual Welcome Bash, assisting with bar service, welfare and event set-up and pack-down.



Membership



At the end of the first quarter RUSU had 3742 financial members.

Special Members Giveaways included :

RUSU-branded memberships tote bags containing a RUSU water bottle, highlighter/pen, free food magnet and yearly planner.

During Orientation events new members had the chance to spin the RUSU Wheel to win prizes including bucket hats, bottle opener/USB, phone wallets, stickers and notebooks.

We also ran a competition to new members to win an iPad, UE Boom and Google Home Mini.

On the RUSU Facebook page we ran competitions for new members to win one of 10 double passes to see Pet Sematary as well as a week-long Melbourne International Comedy Festival ticket giveaway.

Volunteers



Volunteer Training

There have been 361 student participants in the RUSU Volunteer training program in the first quarter of 2019. The RUSU Volunteer Program hit the ground running in 2019, with 237 students inducted into the program in the first quarter. RUSU also ran:

- two 'administration and customer service' training sessions for Front Counter volunteers (40+ students)
- events training for our Chill 'n' Grill volunteers (14 students).
- training session on group facilitation for our English Conversation Workshop volunteers (16 students).

Volunteer Contribution

RUSU Volunteers have contributed a total of 1327 volunteer hours to RUSU programs and events so far in 2019.

Volunteer Training: Number of participants

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Year Total
Program induction	237				237
Responsible Service of Alcohol	49				49
Safe Food Handling	75				74
Youth Mental Health First Aid	0				0
TOTAL	361				361

Volunteer hours worked: City campus

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Year Total
Activities & Events	356				356
Realfoods	245				245
Front Counters	222				222
Compass	61				61
Healthy Breakfasts	67				67
English Language Workshops	114				114
Student Appeals	76				76
TOTAL	1141				1141

Volunteer hours worked: Bundoora campus

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Year Total
Activities & Events	31				31
Breakfasts	23				23
Realfoods	101				101
Front Counters	31				31
TOTAL	186				186

Across Campuses



city

Chill N Grill Kick Off 2019

The first quarter saw the first intake of volunteers for Semester 1. The Building 12 front counter had a total of 14 volunteers assisting from Monday to Friday. They assisted with a number of tasks including; data entry, posterage, answer phone calls and providing directions and basic information to students.

During the 1st Quarter the front counter experienced a high number of student queries regarding directions, information about RUSU and RMIT as well as membership sign ups.

There were 67 individual bookings for the Large Activity Space in room 10.3.59 during the quarter. During the first month most of the bookings were for Orientation preparation, staff training sessions, as well as student media meetings and workshops. From February onwards most of the bookings were for club or student-run events.

City Chill 'n' Grill

The weekly Chill 'n' Grill barbecue in Alumni Courtyard provides approximately 1000 serves of free food per week. This quarter there were two Chill 'n' Grill events and a special Week 4 Multicultural Festival on Bowen Street. The total number of serves of food at Chill 'n' Grill year to date is 2000, with a further 1300+ serves at the Multicultural festival. Chill 'n' Grill caters to our diverse student population, including halal and vegan options.

Members' Bar

Each week, around 250 students have free drinks (soft-drinks, beer or cider) and entertainment inside the RUSU member's bar area. This quarter 750+ students have participated in the member's tent events.

- **Week 2, Chill 'n' Grill: BBQ sausages and vegan patties**
- **Week 3, Chill 'n' Grill: BBQ beef burgers and vegan patties**
- **Week 4, Multicultural festival - Bowen Street: Food trucks (tacos, curry, gozleme)**



Carlton

Enjoying the sunshine in Alumni

The Carlton office welcomed a new team of student administration volunteers in March. RUSU has ramped up our admin volunteers induction and training including; discussion about the types of issues and enquiries that may come up, student rights information, membership sales, and telephony skills. After attending a group welcome lunch in Week 1, these students were provided with further on-the-job training and put on the front line.

Twelve administration volunteers assisted the operation of the Carlton front desk by answering phone calls, responding to student enquiries, and performing various office duties.

There were 119 bookings made for the Building 57 Multipurpose Room during the first three months of the year. This represents a significant increase over the previous quarter. Volunteer training and induction sessions and club affiliation meetings made up many of these bookings, but clubs were also active. There were nine bookings made for club equipment during the quarter.



Brunswick

Brunswick Night Markets

RUSU Brunswick held its very first Student Night Markets this past quarter on March 19, 2019. This event featured more than 20 stalls by RMIT students who were able to sell their designs, crafts, and products. The event was open to both RMIT students and the general public, and included food trucks, music, and beverages. It was the first event of its kind and the overall feedback from both stallholders and attendees was very positive.

The weekly free lunch event provides approximately 450 serves of free food per week. This quarter there were four Brunswick free lunch events, serving 1800 serves of food. RUSU free lunches cater to our diverse student population, including halal and vegan options.

Brunswick Special Lunch Events

Students enjoyed BBQs in Weeks 1 and 2, with a special free pizza day in Week 3 and multicultural week food trucks in Week 4.

Point Cook

RUSU holds regular fortnightly lunches at Point Cook on the odd-numbered weeks. This year there has been one free pizza lunch with 100 serves of pizza.

Bundoora East & West

The Bundoora West office reopened on February 4. Student representatives and staff delivered Orientation talks at various Orientation events from early February through to mid-March. The overall feedback was very positive and school staff and students approached the RUSU office with student rights, volunteer, and club enquiries as a result.

The Bundoora Front counter volunteer program continues to be popular and 10 new administration volunteers were inducted in the first quarter. The volunteers assisted with the management of the front counter. The volunteers also contributed to the cataloging of student magazines available in the RUSU archives.

The Bundoora East office reopened on March 4 and was staffed by student casuals on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (a total of 15 hours/week).

Bundoora Events

The Walert House Welcome Party

The welcome party was held on February 14 and was attended by approximately 60 residents. This is a recurring event and RUSU has been able to support Walert house every semester in delivering the event successfully.

Bundoora West Chill 'n' Grill

The weekly free lunch event provides approximately 650 serves of free food per week. This quarter there were four Bundoora West free lunch events, serving 2600 serves of food.

Bundoora East Chill 'n' Grill

The weekly free lunch event provides approximately 130 serves of free food per week. This quarter there were four Bundoora East free lunch events, serving 520 serves of food.

RUSU free lunches cater to our diverse student population, including halal and vegan options.

Bundoora Special Events

- **Week 2, Bundoora East Lunch: Yo India food truck**
- **Week 4, Bundoora West & East (multicultural week) Food Trucks: Ghost Kitchen Taiwanese food truck**



Brunswick Night Markets

RUSU Departments

Queer

The Queer department hit the ground running in 2019. The department assisted RMIT with running a stall at the Midsumma Festival at the Alexandra Gardens which was attended by an estimated 100,000+ patrons. The department also marched in the Midsumma pride parade alongside RMIT staff and students.

The Queer Officers were particularly active during Orientation Week and they were keenly focused on spreading information about the department and events such as the Rooftop Queer Mixer, which was held on March 21. The mixer had an amazing turnout of 80-100 students and people were able to mingle, make new friends, eat pizza and just generally enjoy themselves.

In the policy and programs space, the department met with RMIT's Diverse Genders, Sexes and Sexualities (DGSS) committee, Drummond Street Services and the Assistant Director, Diversity and Inclusion to explore potential collaborations. The department also sent out calls for expressions of interest to attend the Queer Collaborations student conference. As a result, there are eight delegates who will attend the conference in June 2019 - including a mix of new and experienced conference attendees.

Postgraduate

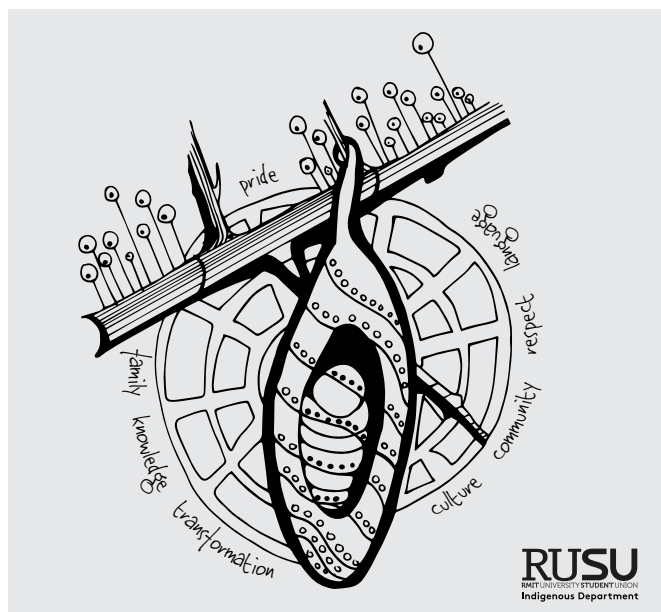
The Postgraduate Department undertook outreach during Orientation Week. This consisted of running a stall distributing postgraduate specific merchandise and information. The HDR Student Rights Officer participated in six separate HDR Orientation events across four different schools. In addition to this, they presented at a large HDR Orientation event hosted by the School of Graduate Research. The Officer also attended and spoke at two postgraduate-specific orientation events with How2RMIT. They also attended and distributed RUSU and Student Rights information at an event hosted by the Research Integrity team.

The postgraduate department held a very successful 'Speed-friending' networking and social event which was attended by 40 students.

In terms of casework and policy advocacy, the postgraduate team worked across City, Bundoora and Brunswick. We have provided student support, casework, and also policy observations. We have distributed merchandise and promoted our services to the student cohort. The HDR Student Rights Officer has been meeting and working with key HDR contacts across numerous schools as well as SGR.



Brunswick Sustainability Workshop



Indigenous Department Tote Bag Design

Indigenous

The Indigenous Department produced and design tote bags which were distributed during Orientation.

VE

The Vocational Education Department has been busy running our VE Chill event every second Monday. Lunches have included baked potatoes, pizza, gozleme and a Thai chicken salad food truck. In Semester 2, the VE Lunches served 200-250 students per week with four regular fortnightly lunches held in the quarter.

Women's

In the first quarter, the Women's Department was active across all campuses, visiting the women's lounges and refreshing kitchen equipment and books. Our Women's Officer played a very active role during O-Week, presenting talks and chatting with students to get their feedback about the portfolio.

A key focus in this first quarter was the preparation of the International Women's Day event. The department hosted a garden party, with food from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. The theme of the event was #BetterforBalance with a focus on fair opportunities and recognising and combating biases.

In addition, with support from the President and General Secretary, the Women's Department met with RMIT Safer Communities team to discuss the development of training module on sexual consent.



International Women's Day

Sustainability

The Sustainability Officer attended RMIT's Sustainability Committee and met with key RMIT sustainability contacts to share ideas for the year ahead. One of these meetings resulted in further work to map RUSU's initiatives against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

RMIT has recently launched their SDG project website. As a result of this collaborative work with RMIT, it is expected that this website will soon include some information about RUSU initiatives that align with the SDGs.

In the first quarter of 2019, the Sustainability Department also ran a number of hands-on sustainability workshops, where participants could learn new skills such as macrame planter making.

Mini Edible Garden's Working Bees were held at both the City and Bundoora campuses.

International

In the first quarter of 2019, our International Officer attended O-Week and Clubs Day, getting out to meet and greet students and talk about their experiences. They represented RUSU and assisted with distributing RUSU information and merchandise.

Our International Officer helped plan and participated in the RUSU's English Conversation Workshop.

English Language Workshops

Testament to its enduring appeal, 160 students registered for the five-week English Conversation Workshop program, which was run between Weeks 3 and 7 on the Bundoora and City campuses. The first two weeks of the program fell in the first quarter. The workshops provided a free lunch or dinner for all participating students, resulting in 128 free meals for students in the first quarter.

The total number of workshops we ran in Quarter 1 was 12, with a further 18 remaining for Quarter 2. Twenty-one students volunteered to facilitate small group conversations and support the program facilitator. These volunteers contributed a total of 114 hours to the program in Quarter 1.



Bundoora Sustainability Workshop



Free Healthy Breakfast

Education & Welfare

Our Education Officer attended O-Week, helping to staff the RUSU membership table and assisting students with membership enquiries. During the semester, our Education Officer helped make linkages between students and our Student Rights Officers and represented RUSU at a School of Science postgraduate induction event.

Healthy Breakfast Program

The Healthy Breakfast Program has been really well received by students this semester! We have provided a range of free breakfast foods including yoghurt cups, vegan cake slices, fresh fruit, fruit salad cups, hummus and veggies, across the City, Carlton, Bundoora West and East and Brunswick campuses. Total estimated number of weekly serves this quarter was 2800.

Realfoods

City & Bundoora

The Realfoods City and Bundoora Cafes resumed trading ready for Semester 1, providing delicious healthy vegan food.

Realfoods ran a very successful \$1 coffee and \$5 lunch promotion in our City store during Week 1.

Realfoods participated in Sustainability Week giving 50 cents off coffees for customers bringing their keep cups.



Realfoods Coffee Promotion

Clubs & Societies



RMIT Sri Lankan Association at Clubs Welcome Day

RUSU Club Grants

RUSU Clubs & Societies accessed \$28,134.00 of Clubs Grants funding during the first quarter of 2019 consisting of:

\$16,034.00 of Annual Administration and Annual Program Reimbursement Grants (regular grants)

\$10,100 of Orientation/Welcome Events Special Initiative Grants – funding for Semester 1 (SSAF Orientation Projects funded)

\$2000.00 of Special Program and Event Grants (SSAF funded – new and/or significant initiatives)

RUSU Clubs Activity

Affiliation

As at the end of the 1st Quarter 2019, RUSU has 104 fully-affiliated student clubs and societies. The distribution of clubs across our different categories breakdown is as follows:

• Spiritual Clubs	7
• Social Clubs	22
• Political Clubs	3
• Cultural Clubs	22
• Academic Clubs	50

Brand New Clubs

RUSU welcomes the following fully affiliated new club:

ASEAN Students At RMIT University

Achievements in the Spotlight

RUSU Clubs participation in Semester 1 University Orientation Events

Seventy-five clubs participated in the University delivered orientation events staffing over 109 tables across the four events open to them. All RUSU clubs who apply for a table at City Clubs Day received a place. However, as space and event resources are limited at the other campuses and smaller city events, the demand for places by RUSU Clubs always exceeds capacity.

Welcome Events

With the support of additional SSAF Orientation funding, RUSU was again able to offer its clubs a Special Initiative Grant to assist them with the cost of club welcome events at the start of Semester 1. This year, SIG was available to all clubs that had completed (or booked in to complete) their affiliation/re-affiliation with 28 clubs taking up the offer.

Allocations were based on each club's 2018 club size (\$200 for small clubs [two clubs], \$300 medium clubs [12 clubs], \$400 large clubs [nine clubs] and \$500 for very large clubs [five clubs]). Of the 28 clubs that accessed the grant, 19 were academic clubs, one was a social/general interest club, five were cultural (nationality based) clubs and three were spiritual clubs.

The events delivered included on campus barbecues and pizza nights, local pub- and restaurant-based welcome socials, trivia nights, club introduction sessions [with food!], a pre-departure orientation session in Malaysia, a camp, a boat cruise, an exhibition and debate, social sports activities and dumplings!

The new Garden Building Terrace and RMIT Building 80 Rooftop were once again the favourite on-campus venues.

The primary feedback received from clubs this year was that the key value of this additional funding is it assists them to organise higher quality activities at the start of semester without then having to reduce the quality or quantity of later events due to budget limitations. These early events also assist the students to begin becoming a part of their clubs, their peer groups and RMIT in a social and relaxed environment.



RMIT Japan Club at Clubs Welcome Day

1st Quarter Club Activities & Events

Academic Clubs

RMIT Accounting Students Association (ASA) 'Meet The Big 4' @ RMIT 8. (Megaflex 3)

RMIT Aerospace Engineering Student Association (AESA) 'The Birdman Social' @ Father's Office

RMIT Autonomous Systems Society (RASS) 'AGM' @ RUSU Multipurpose Space 57.4

RMIT Association of Chemical Engineering Students (ACES) 'AGM & Welcome BBQ' @ RMIT Garden Building Terrace

RMIT Association of Chemical Engineering Students (ACES) 'Welcome to Chem Eng at RMIT' @ Little Jax, 1/401 Swanston Street

Management and International Business Student Association (MIBSA) 'City Explorer' @ The Millhouse

RMIT Civil Engineering Student Association (CESA) 'Industry Night' @ Storey Hall Auditorium

RMIT Civil Engineering Student Association (CESA) 'Rooftop Party' @ 10.07.89 Garden Building Terrace

RMIT CSIT Society 'Python Beginners Course' @ RMIT Building 91

RMIT CSIT Society 'Midsummer Meetup' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student (EFMSA) 'O-Week Trivia Night' @ Building 80 Rooftop

RMIT Electric Racing and RMIT Racing (petrol) 'Meetup at Grand Prix' @ Albert Park

RMIT Exercise and Sport Science Society (ESS) 'Volleyball' @ BNASC Court 4

RMIT Food Science Club 'Club Event' @ RUS Activity Space 10.3

RMIT Geospatial Science Students Association (GSSA) 'Semester 1 Kick Off' @ Kicks, 450 Elizabeth St, Carlton

RMIT Human Resources Association (HRA) and Funkadelics 'Annual Pancake Day' @ Building 80 Rooftop

RMIT International Student Association (ISA) 'Welcome Back Drinks' @ The Curtin, Carlton

RMIT Law Students Society (LSS) 'LSS Dinner' @ The Shaw Davey Slum, Carlton

RMIT Law Students Society (LSS) 'General Meeting' @ RUSU Multipurpose Space 57.4

RMIT Law Students Society (LSS) and MBA Student Association 'Welcome Back Drinks' @ Father's Office, 249 Little Lonsdale St

RMIT Property Society 'Property Society Club Event' @ RUSU Multipurpose Space 57.4

RMIT Association of Pharmacy Students (RAPS) 'Welcome Back BBQ' @ Library Courtyard Bundoora Campus

RMIT Association of Pharmacy Students (RAPS) 'AGM' @ RMIT 202.03.029

RMIT Entrepreneurs and Start-Up Association (RESA) 'Meet and Greet/AGM' @ Building 98 Level 2

Student Landscape Architecture Body (SLAB) 'Mapping: An Exhibition' @ 178 Johnston St, Collingwood

Cultural Clubs

RMIT Afghan Student Society 'Club Event' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

ASEAN Students of RMIT 'Meet and Greet' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

RMIT Hong Kong Student Association (HKSA) 'Orientation Party' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

RMIT Hong Kong Student Association (HKSA) 'Joint Uni Camp' @ Don Bosco Camp

RMIT Indian Club 'Freshers Party' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

RMIT Indian Club 'Club Meeting' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

RMIT Indian Club 'Holi Paint & Glow Party' @ Room 680, Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

RMIT Indian Club 'Women's Day Ramp Walk' @ RMIT Building 98. 2

RMIT Indonesian Students Association (PPIA) 'PPIA Club Event' @ RUSU Multipurpose Space 57.4

RMIT Indonesian Students Association (PPIA) 'Club Event' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

RMIT Japan Club 'Super Smash Bros Tournament' @ 94.01.06

RMIT Japan Club 'Japan Club Welcome Bash' @ RMIT Garden Building

RMIT University Macedonian Students Society (RUMSS) 'AGM' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

RMIT Singapore Student Association (SSA) 'Combined Welcome Night' @ CQ, City

RMIT Thai Student Association (RTSA) 'Dinner & House Party' @ Fulton Lane, City

RMIT Thai Student Association (RTSA) 'First Meet' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) 'RUMA Brunch' @ Project 281, Brunswick

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) 'RUMA Brunch' @ Sir Charles Hotel, Fitzroy

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) 'Freshie Tour' @ RMIT Building 80

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) 'Welcoming Party' @ RMIT Storey Hall

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) 'RUMA Club Event' @ RUSU Multipurpose Space 57.4

RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) 'RUMA Club Meetings' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

Vietnamese International Students at RMIT (VISAR) 'Induction Day' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

Vietnamese International Students at RMIT (VISAR) 'Welcome Party' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

Social/Special Interest Clubs

RMIT Asian Association (RAA) 'RAA Meeting' @ RMIT Building 57.4.14

RMIT Blockchain Club 'Blockchain Club Event' @ RUSU Multipurpose Space 57.4

RMIT Chinese Debating Club (CDG) 'CDG Club Welcome Party' @ 10.03.59

RMIT Chinese Debating Club (CDG) debating practice x 2 @ RUSU Multipurpose Space

RMIT Digital Media Club (DMC) 'Burger Meet-Up' @ Royal Stacks, 470 Collins Street

RMIT Film Club 'Club Meeting' @ RUSU Multipurpose Space 57.4

Fossil Free RMIT 'Info Night' @ RMIT 80.06.05

RMIT Games Manga and Anime Society (GMAS) 'BBQ Meet & Greet' @ Building 80 Rooftop

RMIT Games Manga and Anime Society (GMAS) 'Beach Event with SAMA' @ South Melbourne Beach – Volleyball Courts

Greening RMIT 'Introduction to Edible Weeds' @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard

Greening RMIT and Fossil Free RMIT 'Sustainability in the Pub' @ The Curtin Hotel, Carlton

Greening RMIT 'Garden back in Session' @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard

RMIT IAESTE 'Paid International Internship' Info Session' @ RMIT Building

RMIT Mechatronics Society (MSoc) 'First Meeting of the Year' @ Building 57 Level 4 Cafeteria

RMIT Motorcycle Club 'Week 1 Pub Night' @ Captain Melville

RMIT Motorcycle Club 'January Weekday Ride' @ BP, Warburton Hwy 87-89, Lilydale

RMIT Motorcycle Club 'January Weekend Ride' @ 1 Down Street, Port Melbourne

RMIT Programming Club 'Programming Club Event' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

Regional Students Association 'Club Meeting' @ RUSU Multipurpose Space 57.4

RMIT Science Fiction & Gaming Association (SFGA) twice weekly gaming sessions @ RMIT Building 57 RUSU Multipurpose Room and the B57 Cafeteria

Students for Sensible Drug Policy RMIT (SSDP RMIT)
'BeHeardNotHarmed Party' @ The Gasometer Hotel, Collingwood

RMIT Vegan Club 'Food and Drinks' @ ABC

RMIT Vegan Club 'AGM' @ RUSU Activity Space 10.3

RMIT Vegan Club 'Welcome Dinner' @
Loving Hut, West Melbourne

Spiritual Clubs

RMIT Christian Union Weekly Bible Talk @ RMIT Building 47

RMIT Christian Tuesday Nights @ Lygon Christian Chapel, Carlton

RMIT Christian Union 'CU Club Meeting' x 2 @
RUSU Activity Space 10.3

RMIT Islamic Society Weekly Board meetings @
RUSU Multipurpose Space 57.4

RMIT Overseas Christian Fellowship 'Social Meeting' @
RUSU Activity Space 10.3

Planet Uni 'PU Club Event' @ RUSU Multipurpose Space 57.4

Planet Uni Club Welcome BBQ – RMIT Garden Building Terrace

RMIT University Jewish Student Society 'Purim on Campus' @
Building 12 Level 4

RMIT University Jewish Student Society 'TBT: Puzza '19' @
Pawn & Co, Prahran

Political Clubs

RMIT Socialist Alternative Club 'Banner Painting for Women's Day'
@ RMIT Building 8

RMIT Socialist Alternative Club 'Socialist Discussion Groups every
day at 2pm' @ Outside Building 8

RMIT Labor Club (ALP) 'Welcome Event' @
RUSU Multipurpose Space 57.4

RMIT Liberal Club 'New Members Drinks' @ Queensberry Hotel
RMIT Liberal Club 'Drinks with La Trobe Liberal Club' @
The Imperial Hotel, City

RMIT Liberal Club 'Pub Politics' @ Queensberry Hotel



RMIT Christian Union



RMIT Electric Racing

INFORMATION TO RUSU CLUBS:

Updates to a range of Club Information Sheets and Templates including: On-Campus Space Booking, "Does your club need a liquor licence?", Guide to Club Bank Accounts and Templates for Budgets and Executive Meetings, Guide to Club promotions etc (all available on the clubs Resources Page of the RUSU website)

Club Events Photography Disclaimer proforma released

NEW DEVELOPMENTS & SUPPORT TO RUSU CLUBS:

Centralised "All RMIT clubs" Clubs Development Program launched with initial sessions including Responsible Service of Alcohol, Food Safety Handler, Level 1 First Aid, Party Safe First Aid, Event Management, Risk Management and Leadership/ Wellbeing as a Leader.

All club emails (finally) transferred from Gmail to Outlook and information sheet about how to access them on iPhones co-developed with RUSU Tech Clubs

Feedback from Clubs about the value of this additional funding included:

- " Civil Engineering Student Association (CESA) Garden Building BBQ: The RUSU Grant was mainly used for catering as food encourages more students to attend. We had a good mix across all year levels, so students could socialise across their own year levels and the program in a casual environment.
- " International Studies Association (ISA) Icebreaker following the Program O-Session and after-school drinks: Feedback received was that, [unlike the Program and general Orientation events], our event gave students a chance to talk to those in our course and make friends. It also allowed them to ask questions they may not have felt as comfortable asking in front of the academic staff. The first-years who attended also created a Facebook Messenger group, so they can stay in contact and help each other in the coming weeks.
- " Association of Chemical Engineering Students (ACES) Social Games Night: It was a great success as we were able to make the event free and accessible to all students. The smiles on the faces of the president and treasurer holding the full sign-up sheet are testament to the event's success in building awareness of the club amongst the chemical engineering community.
- " Vietnamese International Students at RMIT (VISAR) Welcome BBQ and Orientation session: We only planned for 40 students to attend but 67 arrived, so we had to buy more food. Thanks to the Welcome Grant, we had enough budget to organize both events successfully.
- " The RMIT Technology Coalition - incorporating RMIT IEEE, Society of Women in Information TecCHnology (SWITCH), Computer Science & Info Tech Society (CSIT), The Programming Club (TPC) and the RMIT Information Security Collective (RISC) Trivia Night: With the funding, we bought gifts and food to students. It's attractive to provide catering for students during the events, especially if they've just come from class and are hungry. Having prizes are incentives for students to be more engaged, and having a little competition helps with making new friends.
- " Chiropractic Students Association (CSA) Orientation Camp: The funding helped us to provide much healthier food options and to fund a guest speaker Chiropractor during Saturday lunch, RMIT Alumni Dr Matthew Caratellia. Dr. Caratelli answered questions and spoke about his experiences owning a practice and this helped the students feel like they were really part of the profession and excited about their futures.
- " RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) Pre-departure Orientation Session: The funding meant we could assist students coming to RMIT from Malaysia to find out about important RMIT dates, locations and procedures and more practical information about the weather and public transport. We also talked about how Melbourne views inclusivity very importantly and their culture is to care about other people's culture especially Indigenous culture.

Student Media

Catalyst

The 2019 Catalyst team is Emily Cork, Lekihika Jain and Rana El-Mahmoud. Catalyst spent much of the first quarter setting into the new Media Collective space, building their 2019 team of contributors and creating edition one of Catalyst, which hit the stands ready for Orientation Week. The theme of edition one was Journey, focussing on travels through the world and through our lives.

Catalyst also published a range of student articles and reviews on their website.



Catalyst Editorial Team 2019 (L-R): Rana El Mahmoud, Emily Cork and Lekhika Jain



Catalyst Issue 1 2019: Journey

RMITV

RMITV has had a great start to 2019.

Current Number of Financial Members: 528 (a 5% increase from last quarter)

Facebook Following 2456

Flagship Productions

RMITV Presents - an RMITV project that hears pitches for web-based content begun its fourth season. RMITV Alumni Kiralee Greenhalgh selected as Series Producer, with three RMIT students and alumni making up the selection panel. Two pitches were successful (both RMIT students/alumni).

Offbeat - RMITV's Training program began its seventh season, with Diploma student Caitlin Bobby selected as Producer. The first of six episodes was broadcast to C31 and live streamed to Facebook and YouTube, with a crew of 15 highly involved members.

In Review - Eight articles published on an array of theatre, books and films.

Other Productions			
07/03 (Start date)	In Pit Lane Season	In Pit Lane returned with Brett Ramsey talking all things motorsports.	20 (3 RMIT students, 3 RMIT alumni)
01/02 - 14/02	Dr. Duck	Comedy: Location and studio-based sketches	10 (5 RMIT students)
13/04	Fairy Bread Comedy	Pre-pro throughout March. Comedy: An array of colourful comedy served up at the RMIT City Campus featuring Aurelia St Clair, Pat McCaffrie, Phil Andrews, Woah, Alyssa, Ciaran Lyons and Lauren Bok	12 (7 RMIT students, 1 alumni)
18/02 - 25/03	Mainland Tonight Season 1	Comedy: A live half hour late night TV comedy show hosted by May Jasper, supported by her completely, eerily silent mime sidekick, Banjo.	33 (15 RMIT students, 8 RMIT alumni)

Training

- 2 x after-hours camera training sessions held at RMIT's television studios, with a total of 35 in attendance.
- Training workshop: 'Film Directing with Craig Monahan' (of Point Blank Pictures, award winner of Best Picture at Cannes Cinephile 2015). 24 in attendance, 1hr in total.
- Training workshop: 'Performance with Gregg Saunders'. 17 in attendance. 1.5hrs.

Events

- New Members Drinks at Prudence Bar. 10 in attendance.
- Stalls at RMIT Orientation Festival Days.

New Equipment

- 3 x Mini Vision Arms
- 3 x Rode Reporter Mic
- 1 x LightPro Pro 5 Flag Kit 76 x 91cm
- 1 x LightPro 76 x 90cm 5 in 1 flag
- 6 x Sennheiser Headphones



RMITV's Mainland Tonight

Social Media & Publications

Social Media

RUSU is increasingly using social media in a collaborative manner with the university. We are advertising more RMIT events, and RUSU events are now featured on the RMIT website and on the UniSign digital screens on campus.

Facebook

We now have 22,289 likes (up 1449 from this time last year). Facebook still serves as our number one social media engagement tool, and our presence on the platform continues to grow. Facebook is our main tool for event advertising, and our organic reach remains very strong. As an organisation, we are becoming more focussed on presenting (curated) offers and competitions to users, in a bid to drive engagement further.

Website

RUSU's website had a huge jump in users this quarter, up to 21,000 (from 8000 last quarter). This large increase is impressive, and is probably due to Orientation, and so will likely taper off as the year progresses. The website makes it as simple as possible for students to locate up to date information on our upcoming events, student support and student rights.

Newsletter

Our newsletter is now sent weekly, and continues to be a great source of quick bites of information delivered directly to students inboxes, with simple and direct messaging to help students know all that is on offer at RUSU. With 4169 current subscribers and an open rate of 50% (almost double the industry standard), the newsletter serves as an excellent engagement tool for our members.

Instagram

Instagram has seen impressive growth for us this quarter, after we took aim at growing the platform in Q4 of 2018. We have almost doubled our Instagram user base this quarter to 2114 followers, up from 1236 at the end of Q4 2018. We continue to grow our share in Instagram by doing more regular instagram posts, using Instagram stories to live cast followers from our events, and by sharing our Instagram content to our Facebook page to raise awareness of our Instagram activity to our Facebook users.

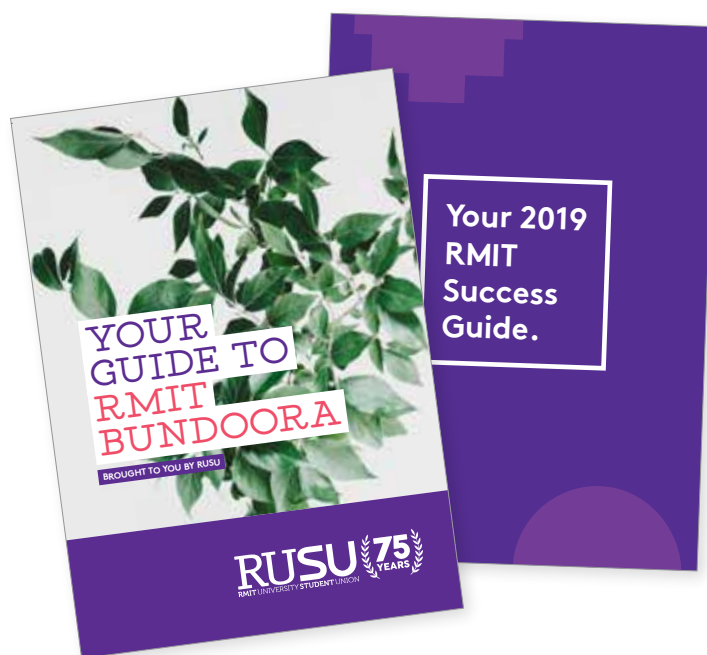
Other social media

Heading into 2019, we have decided to park all other social media platforms. Rather than spreading ourselves too thinly, we're concentrating on building the social channels that work for us. This is a growing corporate trend that is more considerate to the end user.

Orientation Handbooks Return to RMIT

RUSU and RMIT Connect collaborated to produce a 2019 Orientation Handbook. Five thousand copies were produced, with specific funding from RMIT Connect and distributed across the campuses. The project was designed to work alongside RMIT Connect's How2RMIT sessions, aimed at helping new students navigate their way around uni.

A special Bundoora campus specific Orientation Handbook was also created and distributed to students at Bundoora, recognising the different needs of the RMIT Bundoora community. More than 1000 copies were distributed.



Above: Orientation Handbooks 2019

Below: Artwork for the Post-Welcome Bash Pizza Party 2019





Promotional Material

Join RUSU

Part of our annual Membership drive, incorporating the classic RUSU colours and showing images of the RUSU community at its best. This year, RUSU moved to a new online payment system called JoinIt, which we're having a good deal of success with.

2019 RUSU Wall Planner

Three thousand of the 2019 RUSU wall planners were produced and distributed, highlighting key RMIT dates and RUSU free food and special events for 2019.

Welcome Bash

Welcome Bash is RUSU's flagship event for O-Week. For 2019, we had a strong, carnival theme. This fantastic welcome event as a huge success.

Boat Cruise

Week 2 of semester saw RUSU hosting our annual Boat Cruise. This year's event had a 'Tropical Vibes' theme, and sold out in a matter of hours.

Multicultural Week & Festival

Our annual Week four event, RUSH Week/ Re-O has been replaced with the Multicultural Week & Festival for 2019. In collaboration with RMIT Connect, this event featured performers from our many international clubs, and delicious food from far flung places.

'90s Party

Our final event for Q1 was our Week 4 party. This year we chose a totally grouse '90s theme. Held at La Di Da, the event was a smash hit with students.

Representation & Advocacy



Compass

The Compass Drop In Service operates:

- **City Campus: Monday - Thursday**
- **Brunswick Campu: Monday and Tuesday**
- **Bundoora: Wednesday and Thursday**

Bundoora and Brunswick centres reopened for 2019 in early February.

In addition to the Drop In Centre, Compass offers the Compass Cupboard Food bank and outreach events. At Bundoora (on campus and at Walert House) and Brunswick campuses, Compass also provided free yoga classes for students in semester one.

Location	Activity	Q1	YTD
City	Drop-ins	130	130
City	Outreach Orientation/ Service Promotion	500+	500+
Bundoora	Drop-ins	24	24
Bundoora	Outreach Orientation/ Service Promotion	400+	400+
Brunswick	Drop-ins	14	14
Brunswick	Outreach Orientation/ Service Promotion	300+	300+
Various	Exam Calm Zone	N/A	N/A





Representation

RUSU Top 20 Campaign Priorities

The RUSU Team developed and launched the Top 20 Campaign Priorities for RUSU for 2019. These were presented to; the RUSU Student Union Council, the RUSU staff team, a meeting of senior staff from across RMIT, and provided to and discussed with the RMIT Vice Chancellor.

These Top 20 Priorities were designed to:

- Represent the interests of RMIT's diverse student cohort
- Take strategic advantage of our relationships with different areas of RMIT to achieve positive outcomes for students
- Focus on delivering a blend of initiatives to improve the student experience at RMIT

RUSU has hit the ground running with these priorities in the first quarter of 2019.

One of the RUSU 2019 Priorities has already been achieved - Improved Access to Sai Global



Examples of RUSU 2019 Campaign Priorities are:

Medical Centre on Campus: provision of a medical centre on campus to ensure students can access affordable and safe healthcare when they need it

RUSU Little Libraries/ food cupboards: spaces for students to reuse/recycle/swap books and provide essential welfare supplies

Prayer Rooms: on all campuses that meet the specific needs of the faiths represented at RMIT

24 hour and extended hours study spaces: Increased library and design space opening hours from week 10 onwards on all campuses

Gaming Pod Lounges

Fee support for International Students: Including Payment plans for international students that allow them a semester to pay their fees, Academic merit based scholarships for international students that can be applied for at any point during their degree

Support for students experiencing extreme hardship

VE Equity: Recording all VE Lectures and SLAMs/ Mentoring or equivalent for VE students

Improvements to placements and WIL experiences

Changes to Inherent Requirements: review of current policy to reflect a position of supporting students to complete degrees rather than excluding them prior to enrolment

LGBTQ+ Student support: Includes Inclusive forms: (All RMIT forms and systems to be bought in line with the Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender)

Refugee Support: Including - Special Orientation activities for refugee students

Student Voice

RUSU's elected student representatives provided a student voice on a wide range of RMIT committees and meetings during this quarter. This included:

- Sustainability Committee
- Academic Board
- VC Respect Now Always Advisory Committee
- Reconciliation Implementation Committee
- Student Mental Wellbeing Advisory Group
- Quarterly RUSU/ Wellbeing and Inclusion Meetings

National Union of Students Annual Presidents' Summit

The RUSU President attended the National Union of Students Annual Presidents' Summit. This summit is a valuable leadership development and networking opportunity for student organisations in Australia. Presidents' Summit aims to equip presidents of student organisations with a range of skills, inform them of pressing issues in higher education and NUS's plans for the year, provide a forum for debate and discussion of issues facing campuses in 2019, and facilitate media training, networking and information-sharing.

RUSU Internal Meetings

Elected student representatives have been supported and resourced to manage RUSU as a student-controlled organisation, including:

- 3 Student Union Council meetings
- 5 Secretariat meetings
- Student representatives gaining governance experience on internal Student Union Committees, such as Staffing Committee, Finance Standing Committee and OH&S Committee.
- Elected student councillors supported and mentored to work as governors and managers.

Attendance at the monthly meeting of the Student Union Council is a core responsibility of RUSU elected student representatives. The live attendance record at SUC meetings can be viewed at: <https://www.rusu.rmit.edu.au/sucattendance>

Appeal Committees Reps

Hearing Type	Q1 Student Reps	Q1 Hearings	YTD Student Reps	YTD Hearings
University Appeals Committee	2	4	2	4
Student Conduct Board	9	13	9	13
College Appeals Committee	5	6	5	6
GUSS show cause panels	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	16	23	16	23



Student Rights

The first quarter is a busy period where direct support is provided to students submitting show-cause letters, appeal against assessment and exclusion appeals. The support is provided through both group sessions and individual casework support. Student Rights Officers (SROs) were also engaged in service promotion during orientation week, undertaking outreach to students informing them of their rights as students and the support that is available to them when needed.

SROs were given the opportunity to provide feedback on an academic board paper on Inherent Requirements in February. They made suggestions for improvements to the IR Commitment Statement and supporting processes. They commented on ways that students can be protected through additional amendments to the proposal.

SROs also reviewed and provided feedback on academic related policies and processes that were updated in February by RMIT. The policies reviewed included the Admission and Credit policy, Assessment and Assessment Flexibility policy, Complaints Resolution Policy, Conferral and Graduation Policy, Enrolment policy and the Student Conduct policy.



Some Student Feedback to the Student Rights Team

- " Thank you very much. This wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for you and the entire RUSU Student Rights Committee. Once again a big thank-you and a big shout out to you and this amazing RUSU team."
- " I first want to give you a massive thank you for helping me out, as my late course withdrawal was just approved. Thanks again."
- " Thanks for your assistance, I got an email back from the school granting me more time, and I could not help but notice you were cc in on it, as a consequence I believe your assistance was invaluable in the outcome. Thanks so much for everything."
- " Thank you for helping me to do the show cause which effect their discussion and decided not to exclude me. Thank you."
- " My appeal was successful. Thank you very much for your help - I don't think the appeal would have gone through without it."

Issues	
HDR Issues	
Candidate Action and Support Plan	1
Facilities Issue	1
HDR At Risk Issue	2
HDR submission/ Examination Issue	1
Milestone Review Issue	2
Research Candidate Progress Committee	1
Supervisor Issue	5
Discipline (University Level)	
Academic (Plagiarism) Misconduct	1
General Misconduct	1

Complaint	
School Level	12
University Level	5
Victoria Ombudsman	3
Discipline (School Level)	
Academic (Plagiarism) Misconduct	5
General Misconduct	2
Uncategorised	
Admin Issue	23
Admission Issue	14
Appeal Against Assessment	26
Assessment Issues (Other)	8
At Risk	5
Bullying	2

Disability	11
Enrolment Issue	11
Equitable Assessment Arrangements (EAA)	7
Exclusion	35
Fees Issue	21
Leave of Absence (LOA)	9
Mental Health Issues	6
Other Issues	50
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	5
Remission of Debt	15
Show Cause	10
Special Consideration	24
Supplementary Exam Request (Pass By Compensation)	1

Outcomes	
Appeal Against Exclusion University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	5
Appeal Upheld	1
Exclusion Withdrawn by School before the hearing	5
Fee Remission	
Fee Remission Approved	2
Special Consideration Granted	
Deferred Exam	1
Late withdrawal without Academic Penalty	3
Special Consideration Not Granted	1
Supplementary Exam	1
Appeal Against Special Consideration University Appeal Committee	
Appeal Upheld	1
Complaint Outcome	
School level Complaint Dismissed	1
Vic Ombuds Complaint Dismissed	1
Vic Ombuds Complaint Resolved	1
Late Enrolment Outcome	
Late Enrolment achieved	2
Referral - Internal	
Compass	1
Counselling Service	1
Disability Liaison Unit	1
Student Well Being	1

Contacted School Issue Resolved	
Contacted Academic Administrator	8
Contacted Course Coordinator	1
Contacted Head of School	3
Contact Program Manager	7
Other	
Advice given - Student able to proceed with the case themselves	71
Attended group session	5
Group Work Issue Resolved	1
Other Outcomes	22
Student doesn't want to pursue with the case	5
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Other Penalty	2
Student was given a fail for all or any part of any assessment	1
Leave of Absence (LOA)	
LOA Granted	2
Discipline Board Hearing Academic Misconduct	
Case Dismissed in favour of Student	1
Fail recorded in an assessment session	1
Student was asked to repeat an assessment session	1

Appeal Against Assessment CAC Decision University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Upheld	1
Appeal Against Assessment (AAA) College Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	4
Appeal Upheld	3
Informal Review of Assessment Resolution	4
Discipline Board Hearing General Misconduct	
Other Penalty	2
Show Cause Outcome	
Show Cause approved by SPC	8
Show Cause Rejected by SPC	1

Cases	
Total number of cases opened	227
Total number of cases closed	157
Issues created	325
Outcomes achieved	183

RUSU Governance, Administration & Services



RUSU's operations are supported by the Governance, Administration and Finance staff.

Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC)

RUSU commenced the process of formally registering as a not-for-profit with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC). Registering with ACNC has advantages for RUSU and also provides for more external accountability, increased credibility and transparency.

RUSU Financial Investment Strategy 2019

RUSU has a range of carefully managed financial investments, which enable it to draw an independent financial revenue stream. RUSU engages independent professional financial advisors, Advisersure to assist manage these funds in accordance with the RUSU Financial Strategy. Advisersure and RUSU Financial Consultant, CM Consulting, presented to the January Student Union Council meeting which then approved the updated RUSU Financial Investment Strategy 2019.

Financial Overview

RUSU SSAF Funding 2018

RUSU funding from RMIT for 2019 is made up of the following:

Base grant	\$2,870,346
SSAF Committee Grants	\$911,500
2019 TOTAL GRANT	\$3,781,846
2019 GRANT RECEIVED TO DATE	\$ 3,781,846

In addition to the above \$3,781,846 grant, the DVCE allowed RUSU to retain \$5,493 remaining from 2018 SSAF Competitive grants to enable us to allocate it to the RUSU Indigenous department activities in 2019.

REVISED TOTAL FUNDING 2019	\$3,787,339
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The 2019 grant was received as a lump sum payment in February, 2019. This upfront payment enables RUSU to generate additional income to supplement the grant.

For 2019 RUSU received \$911,500 in SSAF Committee approved competitive grants, plus \$5,493 which we were allowed to roll over from 2018. The total SSAF Competitive grants funding for 2019 is \$916,993.

Table 1 reports on the specific grants approved by the SSAF Committee.

**Table 1: RUSU Year to Date SSAF Competitive Grant Spending
2019 SSAF Committee Grant Financial Report
1 Jan –31 March 2019**

Program Title	Grant Amount	Expenditure 1 Jan - 31 March	% YTD Expenditure
RUSU Volunteer Program (includes training)	\$188,000	\$33,661	17.90%
RMITV flagship production and RMITV training	\$55,000	\$5,803	10.55%
RUSU International Student Support - conversation classes and mixer events	\$25,000	\$4,942	19.77%
Bundoora East Student Rights, Info Counter & Campus Boost	\$56,000	\$7,632	13.51%
RUSU Orientation Package	\$100,000	\$51,120	51.12%
RUSU Free Healthy Breakfasts	\$65,000	\$4,485	7.05%
Postgrad Support Program (inc SRO)	\$40,000	\$3,364	8.41%
RUSU Campus Life (City, Point Cook, Brunswick & Bundoora West)	\$150,000	\$19,168	12.78%
RUSU VE Awareness & Support	\$40,000	\$7,398	18.50%
Compass Bundoora & Brunswick	\$121,000	\$23,483	19.41%
RUSU Clubs Grants	\$30,000	\$2,000	6.67%
RUSU Student Voices (SSCC Support & Student Life Awards)	\$30,000	\$0	0%
RUSU Indigenous Grant	\$16,493	\$3,596	21.80%
TOTAL	\$916,993	\$166,752	18.18%

