

Annual Report 2022



Southern Cross Postgraduate Association (Inc.)



Postgrads helping postgrads
to succeed



Registered Office

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc.
c/- Southern Cross University, Hogbin Dr
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
ABN: 91 233 499 176; INC. No. 1200382

Management Committee

The following committee members held office at 31 December 2022:

Emanuel Cartacai	President
Gurmeet Matharu	Secretary
Tamsin Thomas	Treasurer
Maddison Orpin-Patrick	Vice President
Katie Hotko	Ordinary Member of Committee
Mark Henderson	Ordinary Member of Committee
Rebecca Giani	Ordinary Member of Committee
Carl Hotko	Ordinary Member of Committee
Irani de Alwis	Ordinary Member of Committee
Mahikala Niranga	Ordinary Member of Committee
Ayodhya Wathuge	Ordinary Member of Committee
Teresa Carapeto	Ordinary Member of Committee

Public Officer

Craig Wilson

Staff

Lesley Bennett	Coffs Harbour, NMSC & Administration
Craig Wilson	Lismore, Postgrad HelpLine & Committee Business
Alison Watts	Gold Coast, Advanced Skills Training & Digital Marketing

Bankers

Westpac, Coffs Harbour NSW

Bookkeeper

Cashflow Bookkeeping, Coffs Harbour NSW

Auditors

Barry Hockey Accountants, Coffs Harbour NSW



SCPA Management Committee

31 December 2022



Emanuel Cartacci
President

Emanuel is a Business and Information Technology (IT) leader with 17 years of experience delivering holistic business-critical solutions to private... [Read More](#)



Maddison Orpin-Patrick
Vice President

[Bio to come](#)... [Read More](#)



Gurmeet Matharu
Secretary

I completed a Bachelors of Commerce in 2002, a Masters of Commerce in 2005 and a Post Graduate Diploma in... [Read More](#)



Tamsin Thomas
Treasurer

I'm in the final year of my PhD in music therapy (in investigating how forest therapists help people with... [Read More](#)



Mark Henderson
Ordinary Member

Grateful for the opportunity to research connection and being with each other in the world, here some ways to being... [Read More](#)



Ayodhya Wathuge
Ordinary Member

Ayodhya is a current PhD candidate attached to Faculty of Business, Law and Arts. Her research expertise is in green... [Read More](#)



Teresa Carapeto
Ordinary Member

Teresa Carapeto is a PhD student at Southern Cross University at the Faculty of Education, Australia. She is also employed... [Read More](#)



Katie Hotko
Ordinary member

[Bio to come](#)... [Read More](#)



Mahikala Niranga
Ordinary Member

Mahikala Niranga is a lecturer by profession with nine years of experience where she received Academic Excellence in research and... [Read More](#)



Carl Hotko
Ordinary Member

Carl Hotko is a High School Mathematics teacher with more than 15 years classroom experience. He is 2 years into... [Read More](#)



Iirani De Alwis
Ordinary Member

Iirani is a postgraduate research student in information systems stream at Southern Cross University Gold Coast Campus. Former software engineer... [Read More](#)



Rebecca Giani
Ordinary Member

Mynema is Rebecca, and I'm an international student who first came to Sydney couple of years ago... [Read More](#)

Objects of the Association

The Objects of Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Incorporated are to:-

- (1) Advance and defend the rights and interests of all postgraduate and honours students enrolled at Southern Cross University; and
- (2) Achieve and maintain specific representation of postgraduate and honours students on all official university bodies affecting the community of postgraduate and honours students; and
- (3) Afford members of the association a recognised means of representation and advocacy both within and outside Southern Cross University, and a recognised means of communication between them and the University authorities; and
- (4) Provide a forum for discussion, debate and networking among postgraduate and honours students enrolled at Southern Cross University; and
- (5) Organise professional and social functions for the community of postgraduate and honours students; and
- (6) Provide relevant and appropriate services and facilities to postgraduate and honours students enrolled at Southern Cross University; and
- (7) Carry out research identifying the educational and other needs of postgraduate and honours students and to report such research to members of the association; and
- (8) Publish in print or electronic format specific postgraduate information bulletins and a postgraduate magazine; and
- (9) Advance the reputation of research at Southern Cross University; and
- (10) Represent and advance the rich cultural diversity, and the according equity issues associated with, the postgraduate and honours community of the university.



SCPA Strategic Key Elements 2021-2025

VISION

Postgrads Helping Postgrads to Succeed.

MISSION

Advance and defend the rights and interests of all postgraduate and honours students enrolled at Southern Cross University:

- Afford postgraduate and honours students a means of representation and advocacy, and
- Enrich the quality of the postgraduate student experience at SCU.
- Deliver effective, relevant & accessible services.

CORE VALUES

- Integrity
- Commitment
- Innovation
- Responsiveness
- Teamwork

UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITION

Represent, advance, reflect and celebrate the rich cultural diversity of the community of postgraduate and honours students enrolled at SCU.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide information, advice, referral and advocacy support to postgrad and honours students
- Promote the health & welfare of postgrad & honours students
- Provide advanced skills training for study & research to postgrad & honours students
- Help postgrad & honours students with their financial affairs & financial well-being
- Help postgrad & honours students to obtain employment and advice on careers
- Facilitate legal advice & assistance, particularly for international postgrad & honours students
- Provide an annual research & practice conference for SCU's postgrad & honours students; and support similar initiatives from within the university itself
- Organise social functions for the community of postgraduate and honours students with the intention of creating solidarity, connection & shared learning
- Develop an online community of postgraduate & honours students using relevant and effective social media and other online platforms
- Actively participate as an affiliated member of the national peak body, the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA)
- Carry out research identifying the educational and other needs of postgraduate & honours students and report such research to members of the association & other key stakeholders

UNIVERSITY LINKS & FUNDING

- Use SSAF and other university funding to grow the SCPA's profile and funding base
- Use funding from SCU for student-oriented projects
- Highlight to the university the positive contribution of SCPA to the student community at large; and leverage this fact
- Actively participate as an affiliated member of the national postgraduate peak body, the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA)
- Represent SCU's postgraduate cohort on relevant SCU committees and decision bodies (e.g. SRC, HDRC, Academic Board)

BUSINESS/CORPORATE SUPPORT

- Raise awareness of the SCPA's offerings, friendly environment & a place to ask for assistance
- Provide high quality professional support to the Management Committee.
- Maintain all three campus offices and strong online presence.

MARKETING PROFILE

- Maximise our use of new technologies
- Enhance our media profile and relationships
- Communicate vision and strategic elements to all
- Regular newsletter/magazine for students
- Collateral to be consistent and on-brand
- Advertising program to grow membership
- Social media strategies and enhance website
- Communication strategies and plan
- Member recruitment & engagement strategies



President's Report

A warm welcome to all our valued SCPA members, from right across the SCU footprint.

2022 saw a very productive year for SCPA members, staff and committee. I am pleased to report sustained growth in membership from across all areas of the postgraduate experience – HDR and coursework, on-campus and online learning, domestic and international students, and honours students alike.

2022 saw sustained recovery in service activity with our 1300 Postgrad Helpline service, and also saw continued strong uptake for our program of advanced skills training for postgraduate study and research.

2022 also saw fruition of exciting new program opportunities to assist postgraduate students with your financial affairs and to help postgraduate students with careers and employability. While it had taken us some time to develop new relationships so pivotal to these new programs, nevertheless we saw strong engagement with these programs from across the SCU footprint throughout 2022.

Our 9th Annual PRAXIS Postgraduate Conference was held at SCU's Gold Coast Campus in June 2022, and proved another great success, with 50 students and staff attending each of the two days to receive 33 formal paper, poster and "thesis slam" presentations.

Happily, 2022 also saw the return of the SCU Psychology Honours conference (after a hiatus of two years due to COVID), for which SCPA contributed a modest sponsorship along with some logistical support.

Despite an emerging governance dispute within our national peak body, SCPA continued our active engagement with the Council of

Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) to ensure that our members' interests are represented effectively at national government and policy level.

December saw us celebrate our 10th birthday as an incorporated association, with 20 current and former staff and committee members joining us in Brisbane to celebrate this wonderful achievement.

The future for 2023 and beyond now looks very promising. A more flexible SSAF allocation process at SCU will see continuation of our advanced skills training, restoration of funds for food and drinks on campus, and continued funding for promoting health & welfare, helping postgrads with employment & careers advice, and helping postgrads with their financial affairs and financial wellbeing.

Enormous thanks to our SCPA staff – Craig Wilson, Lesley Bennett and Alison Watts.

Many thanks, too, to our very special partners Christine Richards (academic writing and editorial support), Liz McLardy (financial wellbeing), Suzie Grissell and Bec Brown (careers and employability).

Finally, I must also thank the outgoing Management Committee – Gurmeet Matharu, Tamsin Thomas, Maddison Orpin-Patrick, Katie Hotko, Mark Henderson, Rebecca Giani, Carl Hotko, Irani de Alwis, Mahikala Niranga, Ayodhya Wathuge and Teresa Carapeto - for your dedication and enthusiasm in your posts.

After two years of service to the SCPA, sadly now I must step down from the Management Committee. I wish the SCPA all the best in continuing to support postgraduate students here at Southern Cross University.

Best regards, too, to all SCPA members across the SCU footprint, and I commend this 2022 Annual Report to all of you at June's Annual General Meeting.

EMANUEL CARTACAI
PRESIDENT

SCPA's Membership

As at 31 December 2021, SCPA's membership stood at a notional total of 786 postgraduate and honours students. During 2022, we welcomed 205 new members, but also deactivated the memberships of another 376 former students; leaving us with total membership of 615 at 31 December 2022.

Figure 1: Notional Membership to December 2022

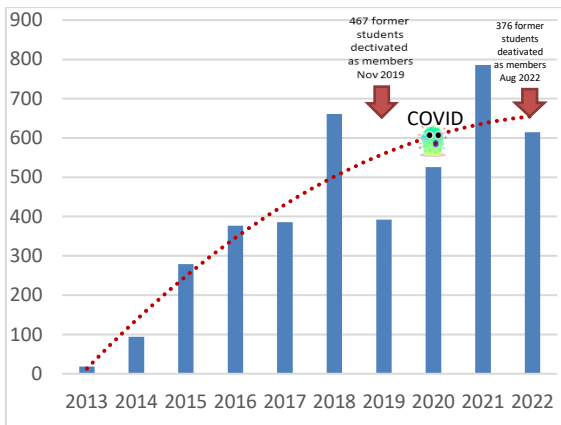
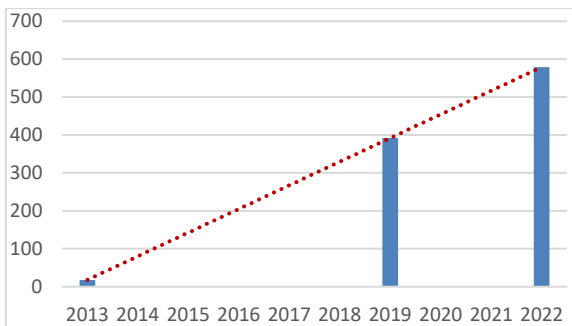


Figure 2: "True" Membership at culling points



Figures 1 and 2 show very strong and sustained real growth over the years. At December 2022, SCPA members accounted for about 15% of all postgrad and honours students enrolled at SCU. Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6 show that SCPA members comprised Postgrad and Honours students from across the entire SCU footprint:-

- Online students were very well represented at 62% of total membership;
- All degree programs were well represented.
- All schools and campuses were well represented, including all smaller metro campuses and The Hotel School.

Figure 3: Membership by mode of study

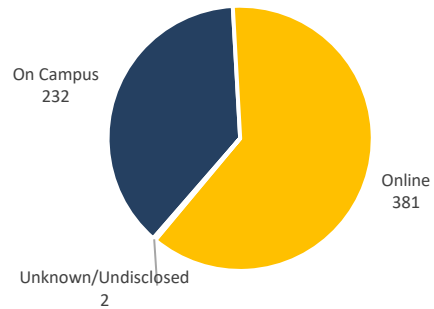


Figure 4: Membership by course of study

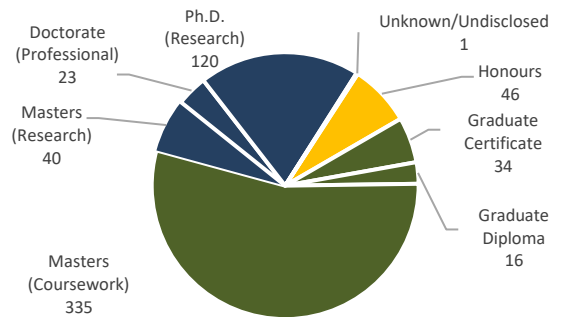


Figure 5: Membership by campus most visited

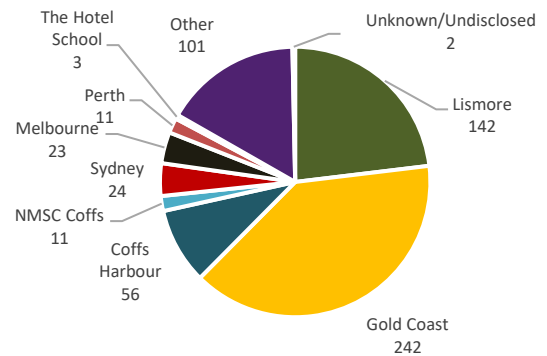
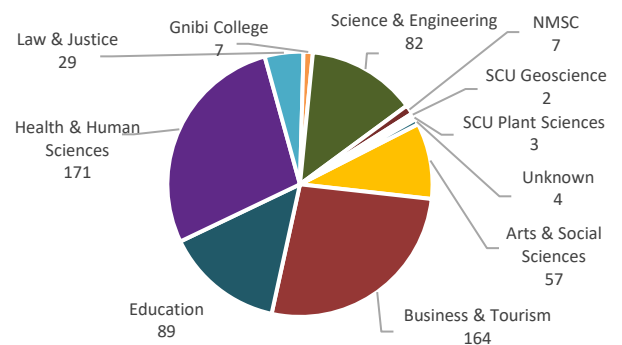


Figure 6: Membership by school



Advanced Skills for Postgraduate Study & Research

Advanced Skills Training Workshops

2022 again saw “Skills for Study” identified by postgrad students as a top 5 priority for SSAF funding. Most workshops were delivered live and online, recorded and posted to SCPA’s YouTube channel for later access by other interested students.

Fifteen workshops reached a total of 563 registrants, somewhat down from both 2021 (769) and 2020 (624); and also slightly below our notional target of 600 students.

Formal written evaluation was sought from all participants at most workshops. Overall, student evaluation can be classified as Very Good to Excellent.

The full range of workshops comprised:

- 7 Secrets of Highly Successful Research Students
Presenter: Maria Gardiner (Think Well)
Registrations: 18
- Cognitive Behavioural Coaching for High Performers
Presenter: Maria Gardiner (Think Well)
Registrations: 45
- Creating an Infographic
Presenter: Katie Hotko
Registrations: 57

“This was a super practical and applicable skill to learn with immediate results!”

“This workshop was timely and brilliant, thank you :)”



- Endnote (Introduction)
Presenter: SCU Librarians
Registrations: 39
- Endnote Advanced
Presenter: SCU Librarians
Registrations: 38

“This one was fabulous, thank you. I will go over the video and that of the last EN workshop to update myself on the program's capabilities.”

“Do more often”

- Microsoft Excel (Introduction)
Presenter: Odyssey Training
Registrations: 25

“Michael was knowledgeable and personable, I learned a lot and felt welcome to ask questions. Would happily do another workshop with him.”

“Content and presenter were spot on and very useful for me.”

- Microsoft Excel (Intermediate)
Presenter: Odyssey Training
Registrations: 21
- Microsoft Excel (Advanced)
Presenter: Odyssey Training
Registrations: 19

- Microsoft Word - Templates & Styles
Presenter: Odyssey Training
Registrations: 41

“Very valuable to me. Information I can use to upgrade my writing productivity.”

- Presenting Your Research with Confidence when English is Your Second Language
Presenter: Hugh Kearns (Think Well)
Registrations: 16

“Overall is very good. I like the interactive ways which can encourage participants to speak in the breakout room.”

- Research Impact & the Media
Presenter: Megan Lee
Registrations: 19
- Systematic Searching for Literature Review
Presenter: Megan Lee
Registrations: 44

“This would be good at 'orientation' although maybe I missed it. But still useful now 2 years in! I'm already using this, and have started my own search strategy doc.”

“Thank you for an easy-to-understand framework for systematic literature searching”

- Turbocharge Your Writing
Presenter: Maria Gardiner (Think Well)
Registrations: 24
- Using Powerpoint to Make Videos
Presenter: Katie Hotko
Registrations: 48
- Writing Styles for Postgrads
Presenter: Nici Buirski
Registrations: 114



Online Training Resources

During 2022, we did not create any new online resources.

Nevertheless, all Advanced Skills Training workshops were recorded and then mounted to SCPA's dedicated YouTube channel.

A total of 792 students viewed the various recordings of these workshops.

Coaching & Editing Services

Across 2022, SCPA continued to deliver individualised support to postgrad students who were struggling with formal academic writing, particularly international postgrads. This support took the form of editorial support followed by individualised coaching sessions tailored to meet the students' specific needs.

- Editor/coach: Christine Richards.
12 students assisted (7 international), requiring 65 hours of service.

SCPA Editing and Coaching Service



Eligibility

Any postgraduate student who has failed/or are at risk of failing an assessment/milestone and needs assistance with their academic English.

Service

The student will be paired up with an editor who will edit a piece of their work (an assignment or chapter) and will offer at least one coaching session to support that student through the editing process.

Contact us:

Please contact us with your name, phone number and a short description of your assignment needs

helpline@scpa.net.au



Facilities for Postgrad Students & Study Groups

Postgrad kitchens & precincts

Across 2021, SCPA continued to stock and support the postgrad kitchens and “postgrad precincts” at Coffs Harbour and Gold Coast campuses (approx. 70 regular users).

Complimentary membership with Toastmasters SCU

Across 2022, SCPA continued our successful collaboration with SCU Toastmasters. This provided the opportunity for postgraduate students to take up complimentary membership (paid for by SCPA on the student’s behalf), in turn which enabled them the opportunity for ‘real life’ practice of presentation skills with high quality feedback.



Promoting Health & Welfare

2022 again saw “Promoting Health & Welfare” identified by postgrad students as a top 5 priority for SSAF funding. Most workshops were delivered live and online, recorded and posted to SCPA’s YouTube channel for later access by other interested students.

Three workshops reached a total of 42 registrants, somewhat down from 2021 (68 students across three activities).

Formal written evaluation was sought from all participants at most workshops. Overall, student evaluation can be classified as Very Good to Excellent.

The full range of workshops comprised:

- Navigating Liminal Emotions in HDR Study – PhD, Masters & Honours
Presenter: Nici Buirski
Registrations: 32
- Walk with Me: Nature-Based Observational Drawing
Presenter: Katie Hotko
Registrations: 10
- Staying Well in Your Research Degree
Presenter: Hugh Kearns (Think Well)
Registrations: 14

“Great workshop with lots of useful information. Very well worthwhile, Hugh is very engaging.”

For 2023, we also plan to revive our relationship with the renowned Redfern Legal Centre, to deliver workshops for International students on their legal rights & responsibilities in such areas as accommodation, employment, study and access to health & welfare services.

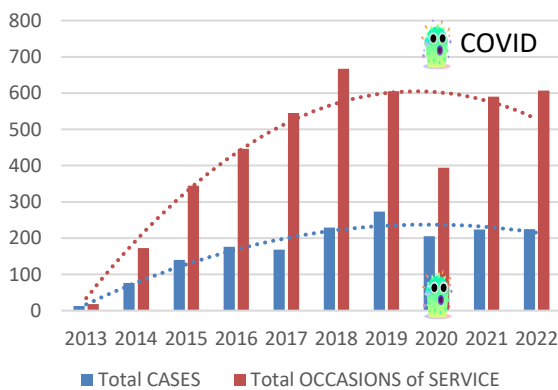
Postgrad HelpLine

Postgrad HelpLine was established in September 2013 to provide free and confidential information, advice, referral and advocacy support to all postgraduate students enrolled at SCU. The service assists students not only with both academic and administrative issues directly relating to their studies, but also in wider social welfare and other matters.



Figure 1 shows growth in service activity since 2013 by both individual cases (a measure of how many students are affected by matters) and occasions of service (a measure of the actual work required to assist those students). During 2022, the HelpLine assisted 225 students requiring 607 occasions of service. This represents substantial sustained recovery in service activity, following the earlier decline due to COVID during 2020.

Figure 1: Total service activity 2013-2022

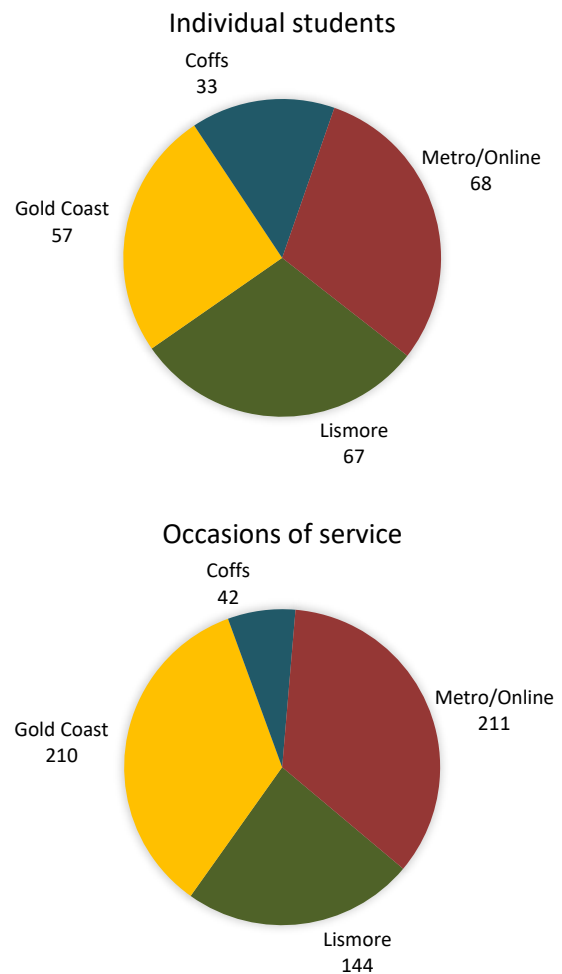


Location of campus served

Figure 2 breaks down service activity by campus of enrolment for both individual students and occasions of service. Gold Coast and Metro/Online student matters required relatively greater workloads to resolve/assist.

The charts also show that the service continued to reach and engage across the entire SCU footprint. Metro and Online students were particularly well represented, accounting for around one-third both of individual cases and of actual workload. This indicates very strong continued improvement in our reach to, and engagement with, those students, when compared to previous years.

Figure 2: Location of campus served



International postgraduate students

Figure 3 breaks down service activity by domestic v. international enrolment, for both individual students and occasions of service.

International students accounted for one-quarter of all cases, requiring almost one-third of total workload as measured by occasions of service. Bearing in mind that international students accounted for around only one-in-five postgraduate students enrolled at SCU in 2022, then the charts demonstrate that international students during 2022 enjoyed very good access to, and engagement with, the service, relative to the entire student cohort.

Type of matter

Figure 4 breaks down service activity by broad type of issue, for both individual students and occasions of service. Academic matters include misconduct & appeals, grade disputes, supervision & teaching quality, skills training, etc. Administrative matters include enrolment, advanced standing, transcripts, etc. Behavioural & equity issues include bullying & harassment, access & inclusion, etc. “External/Other” issues include a broad range of financial and social welfare matters in the wider world outside university itself. The charts show that “external/other” matters accounted for most Helpline activity during 2022.

Figure 3: International v. domestic students

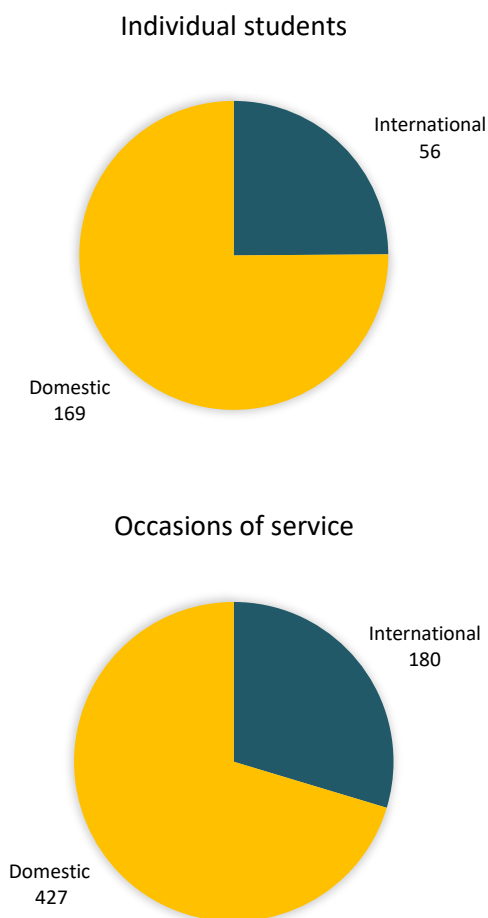
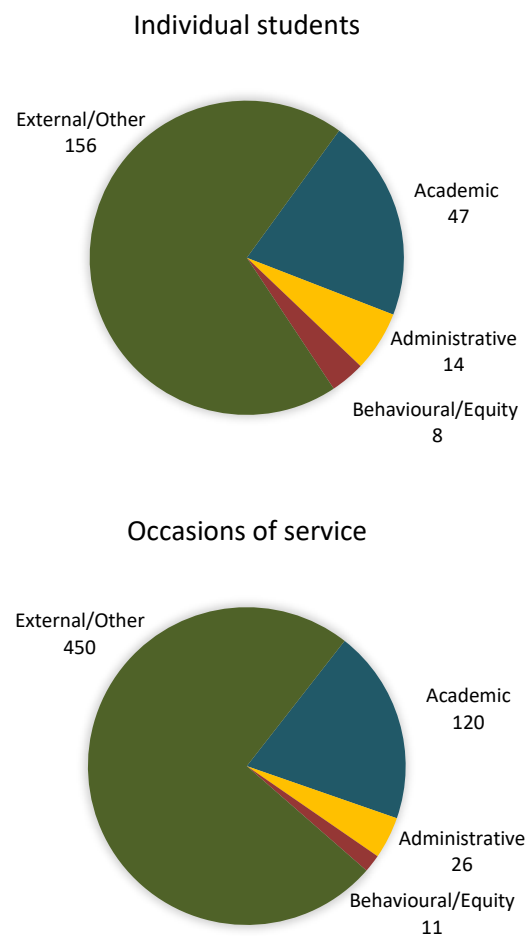


Figure 4: Type of matter

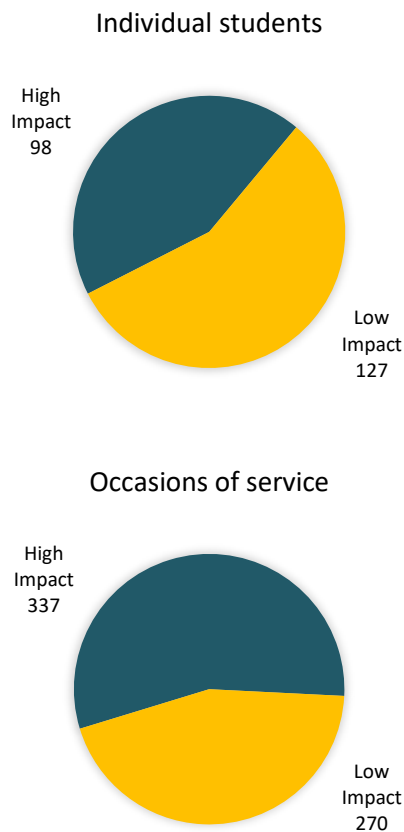


Likely impact of matter

Figure 5 breaks down the likely impacts of matters upon the student’s ability to progress and/or to succeed (and hence their relative importance), for both individual students and occasions of service. Some matters can be only fairly minor and simple in nature (and so easily remedied), whereas other matters can be highly disruptive, highly complicated, highly distressing and/or deeply protracted in nature. Ideally, of course, most of our workload will have been directed at these higher-impact matters.

These charts indicate that most individual matters were fairly low in impact. However, higher-impact matters required relatively greater workload to resolve and/or assist these successfully.

Figure 5: Likely impact of matter



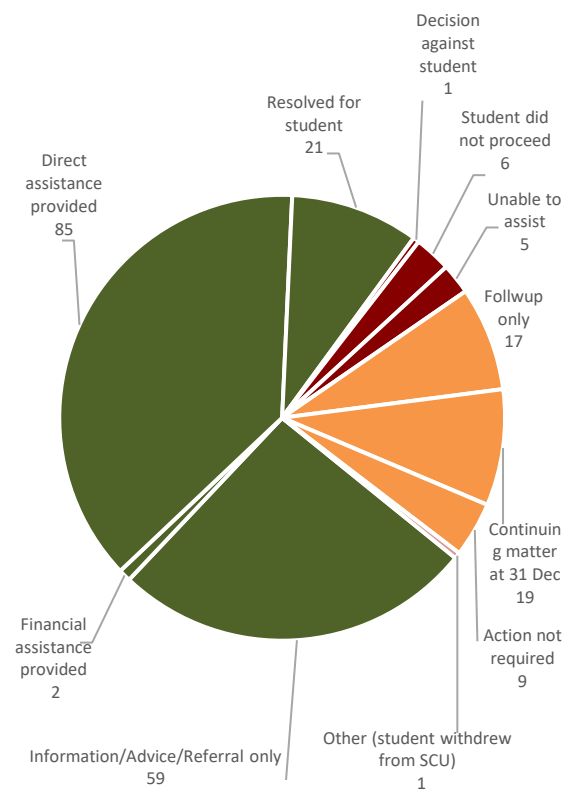
HelpLine Service outcomes

Figure 6 breaks down service outcomes at the conclusion of each case. The figures indicate generally favourable/useful outcomes for students. Almost one-half of all matters either were resolved or otherwise were directly assisted for the student. Another one in four matters merely required information or active referral to the right people to assist.

Unfavourable outcomes or inability to assist the student accounted for only 13 matters (i.e. 6% of caseload).

19 matters (8%) remained pending/unresolved at 31 December 2022, while 9 matters (4%) required no action at all. No outcomes remained unknown.

Figure 6: HelpLine service outcomes



Assisting Students with your Financial Affairs

Assisting students with their financial affairs has emerged as a top 5 priority for SSAF funding for postgraduates at SCU. Following our initial pilot in December 2021, the 2022 teaching year saw us complete our first full roll-out of workshops in financial wellbeing, supplemented by individual consultations as required, and delivered by finance lecturer and financial counsellor, Liz McLardy.

Our financial wellbeing program showed strong reach, engagement and customer satisfaction to a diverse range of students from across the entire SCU postgrad student footprint.

Financial Wellbeing Workshops

Thirteen workshops reached a total of 218 registrants.

All workshops were delivered live and online, recorded and posted to SCPA's YouTube channel for later access by other interested students.

Formal written evaluation was sought from all participants at most workshops. Overall, student evaluation can be classified as Very Good to Excellent.

The full range of workshops comprised:

- Financial Independence
12 Registrants. Feedback: Excellent
- Financial Wellbeing Part 1: Where Are You Now?
36 Registrants. Feedback: Excellent

- Financial Wellbeing Part 2: Where Do You Want to Be?
26 Registrants. Feedback: Excellent
- Financial Wellbeing Part 3: How Are You Going to Get There?
12 Registrants. Feedback: Excellent
- Financial Wellbeing: Debt Management Strategies
11 Registrants. Feedback: Excellent
- Financial Wellbeing: Investing
22 Registrants. Feedback: Excellent
- Financial Wellbeing: Tax Time Tips
75 Registrants. Feedback: Excellent
- Financial Wellbeing: What's Your Money Personality?
24 Registrants. Feedback: Excellent

A total of 183 students viewed the various YouTube recordings of these workshops.

Individual consultations in managing financial wellbeing

- Individual consultations in managing financial well-being:
15 students for 60 hours of service

Financial Wellbeing: TAX Time Tips

FREE SCPA WORKSHOP with Financial Wellbeing Trainer Liz McLardy

In her own words: "As a Financial Wellbeing Practitioner, finance writer and university accounting lecturer with a big drive to empower, educate and support students across the world to have a healthy and harmonious relationship with money."

Tax time tips you don't want to miss:

- ✔ What you can claim as a uni student
- ✔ What you can't claim as a uni student
- ✔ 3 things to do before 30th June

Tuesday 21st June
10:30AM - 11:30 AM AEST
Online
[Register HERE](#)

Liz McLardy
Trainer

SSAF Southern Cross Postgraduate Association

Help with Employment & Careers

Helping students with their employability and careers also has emerged as a top 5 priority for SSAF funding for postgraduates at SCU.

Following our initial pilot in December 2021, the 2022 teaching year saw us complete our first full roll-out of workshops in careers and employability, supplemented by individual consultations as required, and delivered by our partners from SCU Careers Hub, Suzie Grissell and Bec Brown.

Our careers and employability program showed good reach, engagement and customer satisfaction to a diverse range of students from across the entire SCU postgrad student footprint.

Careers & Employability Workshops

Thirteen workshops reached a total of 225 registrants.

All workshops were delivered live and online, recorded and with participating students receiving a link to that recorded session.

Formal written evaluation was sought from all participants at each workshop. Overall, student evaluation can be classified as Extremely Useful.

The full range of workshops comprised:

- Part-Time Work & Graduate Positions
23 Registrants. Feedback: Extremely Useful

“Very helpful as I need to find part time job.”

PostGrad MasterClass
Interview Skills

Top Tips for Success!
Join SCPA & Careers and Employability for this Free Workshop. Have you been for interviews only to lose out and never really understand why? Or just want to brush up on your interview skills?

- ✓ Prepare appropriately for an interview to nail the job
- ✓ Respond to different types of questions to 'wow' the recruiter
- ✓ To ask the right questions at the end of the interview
- ✓ Correctly follow-up after an interview has taken place

Friday 11 November
ONLINE
8am-10am QLD & 9am-11am NSW

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association
SSAF
Careers & Employability

- Create a winning cover letter & selection criteria
24 Registrants. Feedback: Extremely Useful

“Introduced me to lots of new ideas I had never thought of before.”

- Resumes & LinkedIn Profile
24 Registrants. Feedback: Extremely Useful

“I am definitely creating a LinkedIn profile after this.”

- Standout Interview Skills
18 Registrants. Feedback: Extremely Useful

“Wow I needed to know all of this information. So helpful.”

- Networking & Personal Brand
27 Registrants. Feedback: Extremely Useful

“An area I am not confident in. Thank you for your expertise.”

- Networking & Personal Brand Part 2
9 Registrants. Feedback: Extremely Useful

- Building Your Australian Network (for International postgraduate students)
7 Registrants. Feedback: Extremely Useful

“Very good. Thank you.”

- Finding Casual Work: Guest Panel
14 Registrants. Feedback: Extremely Useful

"An interesting range of presenters."

- HDR & PhD Career Panel
16 Registrants. Feedback: Extremely Useful

"Good support and great ideas."

- Career Development: Top Tips for Success!
15 Registrants. Feedback: Extremely Useful

"I got a lot out of today. Excellent presentation, Bec."

- Winning Cover Letter & Selection Criteria (repeat)
28 Registrants. Feedback: Extremely Useful

"Now I know why I have not been getting an interview, lots of work to do."

- Resume & LinkedIn Profile for Success
26 Registrants. Feedback: Extremely Useful

"Excellent resources. Interesting presentation."

- Interview Skills
25 Registrants. Feedback: Extremely Useful

"I will be using this information in future. Wonderful presentation."

A total of 637 students viewed the various YouTube recordings of these workshops, with 454 viewing our casual employment workshop alone.

**Career Chat:
Finding Casual Work - Guest Panel**

Join SCPA and SCU Careers
Would you like to find a casual job to support yourself during your postgraduate study? Hear from other students about finding casual work. Join us in a safe and inclusive online session as we share our top tips!

Come along to this workshop to:

- ✓ Discover your options for finding "hot" jobs in the current labour market
- ✓ Gain the tools and receive the resources required to find casual work
- ✓ Hear top tips from other students and ask all your career questions

Friday 16 September
9:00AM-11:00 AM AEST
Online

REGISTER HERE:

SSAF | Careers & Employability | Southern Cross Postgraduate Association

Individual consultations in Careers & Employability

Across 2022, SCPA launched a new program of individualised support, specifically targeted to postgraduate students, in improving their skills when seeking careers and employment. This support took the form of individual appointments with Bec Brown, our partner from SCU Careers Hub.

Our initial results were that 16 postgraduate students booked appointments for 20 individual consultation sessions. Of these, only four students failed to show for their appointments.

Of the 12 postgraduate students who attended their appointments, seven achieved successful careers/employment outcomes shortly thereafter, comprising:

- Secured a new position as Sector Development Coordinator;
- Secured a new position as a fulltime Lecture at another university;
- Secured an internal Business Management promotion in Germany;
- Secured casual teaching of indigenous tertiary students;
- Secured a new role in HR;
- Secured a new role as Exercise Physiologist;
- Secured a new position as a Private Practitioner in Mental Health.

One student already had secured a promotion at work, but just "wanted some coaching". Another three students either were waiting for reply following their application, or else had specific plans for applications in early 2023. One student's testimonial: *"Hi Bec, I'd thought I'd let you know that I was successful for the position of lecturer in ... at ... - the one position that I have written off from the beginning. I had to do a seminar presentation and interview ... Thank you so much for all your help and the amazing workshops!"*

Postgraduate Research & Practice Conferences

PRAXIS 2022

PRAXIS 2022 was SCPA's 9th Annual Postgraduate Research and Practice Conference. For the first time in three years, PRAXIS 2022 was delivered as a live, in person event at SCU's Gold Coast campus 23-24 June. Furthermore, access via Zoom was offered to those presenters and participants who were unable to attend in person.

50 participants attended to receive 33 formal presentations and other events comprising:

- Welcome to Yugambah Country by Uncle Ted Williams
- 27 x research papers
- 4 x study slam presentations
- 2 x animated poster presentations
- SCPA AGM 23 June
- Conference Dinner at Rydges Gold Coast Function Centre

Students attended from across the entire SCU footprint. There was good engagement not only with HDR students, but also with both honours and coursework students. Similarly, there was good engagement with online & metro students.



PRAXIS 2022

9th Annual Postgrad
Research & Practice
Hybrid Conference

23-24 June
Gold Coast Campus
& Zoom Online



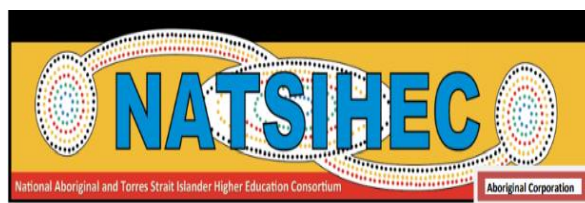
Annual Psychology Honours Conference

Since 2015, SCPA has remained a proud financial sponsor of the Annual Psychology Honours Conference at SCU's Coffs Harbour campus. Due to COVID restrictions, however, the 2020 and 2021 Conferences had not proceeded.

The 2022 conference was delivered in person, simultaneously from SCU's Coffs Harbour and Gold Coast campuses over 29-30 September. About 60 staff, students, family and friends attended each day to receive 24 formal paper presentations. SCPA sponsored catering and also provided some logistical support.

NATSIPA/NATSHEC National Conference

2022 saw SCPA contribute a Bronze Sponsorship to the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate Association's (NATSIPA) National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Conference (NATSHEC). NATSHEC 2022 was hosted by the Moondani Toombadool Centre at Swinburne University over 22-23 November.





Social, Professional & Orientation Events

The gradual winding back of COVID restrictions early 2022 saw SCPA slowly resume a normal program of social, professional and orientation events, although the devastating monster flood in Lismore 28 February hampered our ability there until much later in the year.

During March, we held “Welcome Back to Campus” morning teas at Gold Coast, Coffs Harbour and NMSC with a combined total of 29 participants. A similar morning tea planned for Lismore, unfortunately, was cancelled due to flood impact.

In December, we held “Happy 10th Birthday” lunches at Gold Coast, Coffs Harbour and Lismore campuses, with a combined total of 64 participants.

Also in December, we held a “10th Birthday Big Bash” celebration in Brisbane, with 20 current and former staff and committee members participating.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY



I want to acknowledge and pay respect to the people of thenation whose land I'm on today. I pay respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and the Country that each of us lives on and is sustained by. I am mindful that within and outside the buildings, the Country always was and always will be Aboriginal land.



Representing Postgrads



SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEES

Education and Other Legislation Amendment (Abolishing Indexation and Raising the Minimum Repayment Income for Education and Training Loans) Bill 2022

December 2022

Dear Senators

Please accept our formal submission regarding the *Education and Other Legislation Amendment (Abolishing Indexation and Raising the Minimum Repayment Income for Education and Training Loans) Bill 2022*.

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association (SCPA) represents and provides services to some 5,000 or so postgraduate and honours students enrolled at Southern Cross University (SCU), a small regional university based on the North Coast of NSW. As former undergraduate students ourselves, we also understand and can speak to the needs of some 15,000 members of that cohort as well.

As a regional university, SCU has many students from backgrounds of low socio-economic standing and other entrenched disadvantage. Many of our students are single parents, or the children of single parents. Many of our students are the first person in their entire family ever to enter university. Many of our students never completed high school, let alone achieved a high Tertiary Education Ranking. Many of our students are Indigenous Australians. Around half or more of our students are mature age students investing in the professional skills to transform our lives and to better contribute to our regional communities. Most of our students graduate with fairly modest careers in areas such as nursing, teaching, social work, allied health services, science and engineering. Not all of our students will find a well-paying job immediately upon graduation into a regional community.

The purpose of this submission is to make an argument in favour of the proposed *Education and Other Legislation Amendment (Abolishing Indexation and Raising the Minimum Repayment Income for Education and Training Loans) Bill 2022* on the following grounds:

1. The current repayment threshold provisions place unreasonable and undue hardship on all graduates who, for whatever reason, find ourselves on sub-average incomes, whereas this Bill will relieve that hardship; and
2. The retrospective application of the current arrangements in regard to repayment income thresholds for HECS-HELP and FEE-HELP was unfair to most graduates who had enrolled prior to 2018, because they never had agreed to such terms and conditions in the first place upon entering into those loan agreements; and

SRC

Since 2020, SCPA no longer had enjoyed automatic representation on SCU's Student Representation Committee (SRC). In August 2022, SCPA Vice President was elected as Postgraduate Student Representative to SRC.

SCU have indicated their intention to resume representation of student associations at SRC (including SCPA) commencing 2023.

Academic Board & Higher Degrees by Research Committee HDRC)

Shae Brown (President) attended all meetings of HDRC for early 2022. Since July 2022, SCPA had not been represented at HDRC and has been unable to engage with the newly appointed HDR student member.

SCPA Secretary, Gurmeet Matharu, attended most meetings of SCU Academic Board in her capacity as International Student Representative. However, SCPA had not been able to establish engagement with the elected HDR Representative to Academic Board.

Reports & Submissions

In December 2022, SCPA completed a formal written submission to the Senate Education & Employment Committee, advocating our full support for all provisions of the *Education and Other Legislation Amendment (Abolishing Indexation and Raising the Minimum Repayment Income for Education and Training Loans) Bill 2022*. If successfully legislated, this would abolish indexation of HECS/HELP debts and also raise the minimum income threshold for repayment of those student debts.

Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA)

SCPA maintained our affiliation with, and active participation in, the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA), the recognised national peak body for postgraduate students. SCPA's affiliation fees remained fully paid.

Small SCPA delegations attended all CAPA Council Meetings and other meetings including:

- Resumed 2021 Annual Council Meeting in January 2022 and subsequent governance dispute meetings across January through March 2022 (all conducted via Zoom);
- Meeting with newly-appointed Commissioner for Regional Education, Fiona Nash, in April.
- 2022 Annual Council Meeting in December 2022 (conducted via Zoom).

SCPA remains committed to our active engagement in a strong and effective National peak body through CAPA.



Treasurer's Report

Including Audited Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2022

During 2022, SCPA received total income of \$225,255.00, entirely as SSAF grant funding from Southern Cross University (SCU).

Total expenditure notionally amounted to \$302,118.47 for the year, resulting in a notional operating deficit for the year of \$76,863.47.

However, some \$61,214.00 of this notional expenditure actually comprised a reimbursement to SCU of unexpended SSAF funding from the previous year, 2021. Taking this aside, real expenditure during 2022 amounted to \$240,864.47, resulting in a real operating deficit for the year of \$15,649.47 and a subsequent retained surplus of \$34,612.24.

The balance sheet shows SCPA to remain in a strong financial position at 31 December 2022. Total assets of \$78,852.44 were offset by total liabilities of just \$44,240.20, largely in the form of accrued staff leave entitlements. This left the association with net assets and total members' equity of \$34,612.24 at 31 December 2022, and so we remain in a very healthy position to continue trading solvently.

SCPA Committee remains mindful of our budget overrun for the year, and we remain committed to both trimming expenditures as appropriate, while also advocating to SCU for an increase in SSAF funding in line with Consumer Price Index and other inflationary pressures.

SCPA Management Committee herewith commends the Auditor's Report and Financial Statements to 31 December 2022 to the members at the 11th Annual General Meeting, to be convened in June 2023.

TAMSIN THOMAS
TREASURER



**Southern Cross Postgraduate
Association Inc**

ABN 91 233 499 176

**Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

Barry Hockey FIPA

Suite 2, 29-33 Orlando Street
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

Phone: (02) 6651 9655 Fax: (02) 6651 9855

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc
ABN 91 233 499 176

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Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc
ABN 91 233 499 176
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Income		
SSAF Funding: Staffing & Administration	155,000.00	159,276.68
SSAF Funding: Programs & Priorities	70,255.00	94,184.00
PRAXIS Conference		10,000.00
Other income		1.52
Total income	<u>225,255.00</u>	<u>263,462.20</u>
Expenses		
Advertising & promotion	311.33	149.99
Bookkeeping	3,425.00	3,110.00
Committee Expenses	158.18	
Computer & Peripherals	1,584.96	1,187.72
Conference/Seminar costs	22,442.96	7,527.15
Employees	127,672.75	123,943.78
Employees Skill Development	5,602.94	4,835.01
Insurance	6,895.29	6,467.74
Legal & Accounting	1,002.89	997.00
Networking & Peak Body Affiliation		9,396.64
Office Supplies	819.94	686.36
Postage	115.66	40.27
Postgraduate facilities	2,849.63	1,523.30
Printing & stationery	504.67	
Software	3,210.86	2,430.59
SSAF Reimbursement	61,214.00	
Sundry expenses	316.10	
Telephone	1,137.24	1,123.42
Travel	10,556.55	661.65
Website development		266.92
Workshops & Programs	52,297.52	35,424.77
Total expenses	<u>302,118.47</u>	<u>199,772.31</u>
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax	<u>(76,863.47)</u>	<u>63,689.89</u>
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	<u>(76,863.47)</u>	<u>63,689.89</u>
Total changes in equity of the association	<u>(76,863.47)</u>	<u>63,689.89</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc
ABN 91 233 499 176
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Opening retained profits	111,475.71	47,785.82
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	<u>(76,863.47)</u>	<u>63,689.89</u>
Closing retained profits	<u><u>34,612.24</u></u>	<u><u>111,475.71</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc
ABN 91 233 499 176
Profit and Loss Statement
For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Operating profit (deficit) before income tax	(76,863.47)	63,689.89
Income tax (credit) attributable to operating profit (loss)		
Operating profit (deficit) after income tax	<u>(76,863.47)</u>	<u>63,689.89</u>
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	111,475.71	47,785.82
Total available for appropriation	34,612.24	111,475.71
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	<u><u>34,612.24</u></u>	<u><u>111,475.71</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc
ABN 91 233 499 176
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current Assets			
Cash Assets			
Westpac cheque account		74,148.91	151,742.58
Westpac debit card account		2,099.11	1,934.39
Petty Cash		13.10	13.10
		<u>76,261.12</u>	<u>153,690.07</u>
Current Tax Assets			
GST clearing		2,591.32	2,250.86
		<u>2,591.32</u>	<u>2,250.86</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>78,852.44</u>	<u>155,940.93</u>
Total Assets		<u>78,852.44</u>	<u>155,940.93</u>
Current Liabilities			
Current Tax Liabilities			
Amounts withheld from salary & wages		3,390.13	3,504.00
Superannuation Payable		2,982.21	2,824.16
		<u>6,372.34</u>	<u>6,328.16</u>
Other			
Employee Leave Accruals		37,867.86	38,137.06
		<u>37,867.86</u>	<u>38,137.06</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>44,240.20</u>	<u>44,465.22</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>44,240.20</u>	<u>44,465.22</u>
Net Assets		<u>34,612.24</u>	<u>111,475.71</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc
ABN 91 233 499 176
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Members' Funds			
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		34,612.24	111,475.71
Total Members' Funds		34,612.24	111,475.71

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc

ABN 91 233 499 176

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act of New South Wales. In the opinion of the committee the association is not a reporting entity because it is not reasonable to expect the existence of users who rely on the association's general purpose financial statements for information useful to them for making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of resources.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the Associations Incorporations Act of New South Wales, the basis of accounting specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107: Cash Flow Statements, AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, AASB 1031: Materiality and AASB 1054: Australian Additional Disclosures.

The association has concluded that the requirements set out in AASB 10 and AASB 128 are not applicable as the initial assessment on its interests in other entities indicated that it does not have any subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. Hence, the financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

The association has not assessed whether these special purpose financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(a) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(b) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

The association has applied AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) and AASB 1058: Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) using the cumulative effective method of initially applying AASB 15 and AASB 1058 as an adjustment to the opening balance of equity at 1 July 2019. Therefore, the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be presented under AASB 118: Revenue and AASB 1004: Contributions.

In the current year

Contributed Assets

The association receives assets from the government and other parties for nil or nominal consideration in order to further its objectives. These assets are recognised in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (eg. AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138).

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc

ABN 91 233 499 176

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

On initial recognition of an asset, the association recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer).

The association recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

Operating Grants, Donations and Bequests

When the association receives operating grant revenue, donations or bequests, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the association:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the association:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (eg. AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138)
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer)
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the association recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

Capital Grant

When the association receives a capital grant, it recognises a liability for the excess of the initial carrying amount of the financial asset received over any related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer) recognised under other Australian Accounting Standards.

The association recognises income in profit or loss when or as the association satisfies its obligations under the terms of the grant.

Interest Income

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

Dividend Income

The association recognises dividends in profit or loss only when the right to receive payment of the dividend is established.

Income from Sale of Goods

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc

ABN 91 233 499 176

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

The association publishes and sells books and magazines publications to the general public. Revenue is recognised when control of the products has transferred to the customer. For such transactions, this is when the products are delivered to the customers. Volume discounts could be provided with the sale of these items, depending on the volume of aggregate sales made to eligible customers over every six-month period. Revenue from these sales is based on the price stipulated in the contract, net of the estimated volume discounts. The volume discounts are estimated using historical experience and applying the expected value method. Revenue is then only recognised to the extent that there is a high probability that a significant reversal of revenue will not occur. Where there is expected volume discounts payable to the customers for sales made until the end of the reporting period, a contract liability is recognised.

A receivable will be recognised when the goods are delivered. The association's right to consideration is deemed unconditional at this time as only the passage of time is required before payment of that consideration is due. There is no significant financing component because sales (which include those with volume discounts) are made within a credit term of 30 to 45 days.

Customers have a right to return products within 60 days as stipulated in the current contract terms. At the point of sale, a refund liability is recognised based on an estimate of the products expected to be returned, with a corresponding adjustment to revenue for these products.

Consistent with the recognition of the refund liability, the association further has a right to recover the product when customers exercise their right of return so consequently the company recognises a right to returned goods asset and a corresponding adjustment is made to cost of sales.

Historical experience of product returns is used to estimate of the number of returns on a portfolio level, using the expected value method. It is considered highly probable that significant reversal in the cumulative revenue will not occur given the consistency in the rate of return presented in the historical information.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

In the comparative period

Non-reciprocal grant revenue was recognised in profit or loss when the association obtained control of the grant and it was probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant would flow to the entity and the amount of the grant could be measured reliably.

If conditions were attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the association was eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue was deferred until those conditions were satisfied.

When grant revenue was received whereby the association incurred an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this was considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue was recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service had been delivered to the contributor; otherwise the grant was recognised as income on receipt.

The association received non-reciprocal contributions of assets from the government and other parties for no or nominal value.

These assets were recognised at fair value on the date of acquisition in the statement of financial position, with a corresponding amount of income recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Donations and bequests were recognised as revenue when received.

Interest revenue was recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Dividend revenue was recognised when the right to receive a dividend had been established.

Rental income from operating leases was recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the relevant leases.

Revenue from the rendering of a service was recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customer.

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc

ABN 91 233 499 176

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

(c) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

(d) Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc

ABN 91 233 499 176

Statement by Members of the Committee

For the year ended 31 December 2022

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc as at 31 December 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



CRAIG WILSON
PUBLIC OFFICER
21 March 2023



Tamsin Thomas
Treasurer
22 March 2023

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc

ABN 91 233 499 176

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 31 December 2022 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Act 2009. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc

ABN 91 233 499 176

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Signed on :

9/3/23



Barry Hockey, FIPA, Tax Agent
Barry Hockey Accountants
2/29 Orlando Street Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

SCPA permanent staff

31 December 2022

COFFS HARBOUR CAMPUS



Lesley Bennett

Postgraduate Association Officer
Office Hours: Mon & Tues 9am - 5pm
(Currently Working from Home)
M.G.26 Coffs Harbour Education Campus
Hogbin Drive, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
Tel: (02) 6659 3900
Email: admin@scpa.net.au

LISMORE CAMPUS



Craig Wilson

Postgraduate Association & Helpline Officer
Shop 11C Goodman Plaza, Lismore Campus
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 3pm
Tel: 0401 108 056 | 1300 654 830
Email: helpline@scpa.net.au

GOLD COAST CAMPUS



Alison Watts

Postgraduate Association Officer
Gold Coast Office: B6.47
(Currently working from home)
Tel: 0413 326 504
Email: skills@scpa.net.au

SOUTHERN CROSS POSTGRADUATE ASSOCIATION INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Membership is free to all postgraduate and honours students who are currently enrolled at Southern Cross University.

The SCPA constitution is available on request and also is available for viewing and downloading from the SCPA website www.scpa.net.au

APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Last Name:	First:	Date
Street Address		
City	State	Post Code
Phone No.	E-mail Address (SCU address only)	
Student No.	School	
Are you currently enrolled in a postgraduate or honours course of study at Southern Cross University? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name of Degree		
PhD (Research) <input type="checkbox"/> , PhD (Professional) <input type="checkbox"/> , Masters (Research) <input type="checkbox"/> , Masters (Course work) <input type="checkbox"/>		
Graduate Diploma <input type="checkbox"/> , Graduate Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> , Honours <input type="checkbox"/>		
Type of enrolment: Full-time <input type="checkbox"/> , part-time <input type="checkbox"/>		
Distance <input type="checkbox"/> or On campus <input type="checkbox"/>		
Campus most visited/associated with: Coffs Harbour <input type="checkbox"/> , Lismore <input type="checkbox"/> , Gold Coast <input type="checkbox"/> , Hotel School <input type="checkbox"/> , Overseas <input type="checkbox"/> , Other		
Closest main city:		

I hereby affirm and declare that I am currently enrolled in a postgraduate and/or honours course of study at Southern Cross University and that the above information is correct. I hereby apply for membership of SCPA Inc. and I agree to abide by the rules of the association.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

COMMITTEE NOMINATION AND APPROVAL (OFFICE USE ONLY)	
Confirmed by SCPA Inc Committee: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Date:
Member #1	Member #2
REGISTER OF MEMBERS PROCESSING	
Added to Register of Members: YES <input type="checkbox"/> Date:	

Return completed form to Southern Cross Postgraduate Association Inc, Hogbin Drive Coffs Harbour
scpa-admin@scu.edu.au | www.scpa.net.au