

# ALTC LSES Environmental Scan

## 1. Institution

University of Western Sydney

## 2. Contact Person (and contact details)

Jennifer Kensey – Manager, Student Welfare Service  
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## 3. Name of Program/Initiative

Financial assistance scheme

**3.1 URL:** N/A

**3.2 Start Date/Duration:** Offered throughout academic year

## 4. Brief outline of program

Financial assistance for UWS students whose studies are at risk due to financial hardship/extenuating circumstances

## 5. Purpose/Aims

The Financial Assistance Scheme offered by the Student Welfare Service is in recognition of the financial hardships that students at UWS from Low SES backgrounds experience, and is designed to:

- a) Provide students who are financially disadvantaged with information and resources to inform them about the various services and supports available in the community
- b) value add to community services available to support individuals experiencing financial hardship
- c) provide support to current students who are able to benefit from a university education but who are financially disadvantaged, and whose needs cannot be addressed by other external agencies/supports

## 6. Breadth of program (is it in a particular subject, program, school, faculty, across the institution, campus, with a particular cohort, etc)

Financial assistance is offered to Undergraduate/domestic students

## 7. Category (please select all that apply and provide explanation where necessary)

Category	Y?	Explanation
Policy	Y	
Curriculum		

Program	Y	
Other (please specify)		

**8. Resources (optional – we are trying to determine what sort of resourcing is necessary to make the initiative work)**

**8.1 Start up budget:**

**8.2 Ongoing budget:** \$200,000

**9. Outcomes**

**9.1 Uptake:**

- 142 students assisted in 2011
- 134 students assisted in 2010

**9.2 Evaluation(s) conducted to date - Informal or formal) – and details of findings:** Evaluation undertaking at the completion of each session and at the end of each year

**9.3 Evidence of success:** Retention rates of students who received financial assistance are generally higher than those that did not (91% instead 81% in 2010)

**9.4 Evaluation(s) planned (and dates for this/these):** Evaluation undertaking at the completion of each session and at the end of each year

**9.5 Major challenges:**

- Managing expectations for students requesting repeated financial assistance
- Offering financial assistance for International and post graduate students (not HEPP funding eligible)

**9.6 Other (Please specify):**

**10. Publications/Reports (including links to those publically available)**