

Sustainability Impact Report 2023



SDG 1: No poverty

Financial assistance

- ✓ **1,500+** students supported with more than **\$4.3 million** in scholarships and bursaries. More than 90% have some form of equity hardship element. **One form** is used to apply for most of the 37 equity scholarships and bursaries.
- ✓ **20** regional scholarships and bursaries awarded to more than **115 students**
- ✓ **22 years** of supporting the community with local startup assistance

Startup assistance

- ✓ The Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast, since inception:
 - Assisted **275+** resident members
 - Created over **\$60 million** in economic value
 - **300+ jobs** created



SDG 2: Zero hunger

Student hunger interventions

- ✓ **82,228** food items funded by SSAF
- ✓ UniSC Student Guild foodbank provides all kinds of things including toothbrushes, personal items, feminine products, long life milk, pasta, and other basic meal items

Facilities

- ✓ **70+** student and staff kitchens and tearooms across all UniSC campuses and study sites



SDG 3: Good health and well-being

Physical and mental health

- ✓ UniSC conducts research on **physical and mental health** through its research and teaching centres:
 - Sunshine Coast Health Institute
 - UniSC Thompson Institute
 - Centre for Bioinnovation
 - Centre for Human Factors and Sociotechnical Systems
 - Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research
- ✓ UniSC is part of the **Manna Institute**, a virtual mental health institute, focusing on the mental health of Australia's ageing population
- ✓ Final year students provide dietary advice through the **UniSC Nutrition and Dietetics Clinic**, including:
 - Healthy eating
 - Pregnancy nutrition
 - Disease management nutrition
- ✓ UniSC staff have access to the **Employee Assistance Program**, which provides free and confidential counselling services
- ✓ UniSC Student Services and Engagement team provides students with information needed to access **free sexual and reproductive healthcare services** offered by Queensland Health and regional health clinics
- ✓ UniSC Student Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been **co-designed with students** to support their health and wellbeing needs

- ✓ **UniSC clinical trials** were conducted to test:
 - 3-in-one vaccine (COVID-19, influenza, RSV) trial
 - needle-free influenza trial
 - COVID-19 nasal spray vaccine trial
 - joint blood sample study with Seqirus and the WHO for influenza
 - elevated cholesterol vaccine
 - antimalarial drug trial
 - treatment for the prevention of COVID-19 in immunosuppressed
 - treatment for coeliac disease
 - two trials for a new tablet to treat and prevent migraine attacks
 - novel therapy for neurological diseases associated with dysregulated brain cortisol
 - dipstick test for Nipah virus developed (Centre for Bioinnovation and CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness).



Shared sports facilities

- ✓ UniSC **Free Social Sports program** provides free access to shared sports facilities through a variety of sporting programs for students and staff during semester teaching weeks
- ✓ Multi-functional sports stadium that seats **3,000 spectators**
- ✓ **Four outdoor fields** for community use and university sporting teams
- ✓ **Olympic-standard** swimming pool, home to the UniSC Spartans
- ✓ Home to the national **Para Sports Hub**
- ✓ UniSC Student Guild runs **free yoga classes**
- ✓ UniSC campuses and study sites are **smoke-free**
- ✓ **Nearly 2,000 hours of Parasports events and training** (Wheelchair Rugby, Suncoast Spinners, Spartans Para Swimmers, Canadian Swim Para Team, Special Olympics, Frame Running).
- ✓ **Over 2,300 attendants** across sporting events

Off campus

- ✓ **Final-year placement program** (UniSC and Lutheran Services) for Bachelor of Nursing Science students to gain hands-on-learning of clinical aspects vital to improving quality of life for elderly residents (beyond general nursing). Includes lectures on topics, including dementia, falls prevention, wound management and end-of-life care.
- ✓ **216 healthcare providers** hosted UniSC students for work integrated learning placements



SDG 4: Quality education

Student composition

- ✓ More than **3,000 graduates in 2023**
- ✓ **3.53%** students enrolled at UniSC are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- ✓ **38.89%** students enrolled at UniSC are first in family to attend university
- ✓ **13.94%** students enrolled at UniSC have a disability

Access assistance

- ✓ UniSC provides **scholarships** across a range of areas including:
 - Asylum seeker scholarship
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarships
 - New Colombo Plan scholarship

Indigenous Services

- ✓ UniSC provides **cultural spaces** for connecting, meeting, studying and learning are located at multiple study sites:
 - UniSC Sunshine Coast: Buranga Centre, Dhu Mur'ang
 - UniSC Fraser Coast: Buallum Jarl-Bah
 - UniSC Caboolture: Buranga Centre
 - UniSC Moreton Bay: MB.A

Community learning

- ✓ **30+ educational events and courses** open to the local community

- Suicide alertness training
- Suicide intervention skill training
- Trauma informed care training
- Indigenous suicide intervention training
- Thinking tools for differentiated learning.
- ✓ UniSC runs programs for **primary and secondary (or high school) school students.**
 - Make, Integrate and Explore workshops on controlling light
 - Game creation.
- ✓ UniSC offers **free support to equip adults with the information, confidence and tools** to select, start and succeed in study through a series of **Equip workshops**
- ✓ UniSC provides **Tertiary Preparation Pathway** courses to give people a chance to experience university life before jumping into a full degree.
- ✓ A free online course featuring global leaders in biodiversity, ecology and climate change is being offered internationally to people wanting to explore human impact on flora and fauna. The four-week short course, **'Life on Land: Ecology, Evolution, Challenges, and Solutions'**, has been developed by UniSC through **FutureLearn**, a global social learning platform that delivers online study from the world's leading universities.



SDG 5: Gender equality



Policies and procedures

- ✓ UniSC is committed to creating a **safe and inclusive** environment for everyone as demonstrated in our policies:
 - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Governing Policy
 - Anti-Discrimination and Freedom from Bullying and Harassment Governing Policy
 - Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment and Respectful Relationships (Students) Governing Policy



Gender balance of students

- ✓ **69.1%** students enrolled are **female**
- ✓ **16** female-specific scholarships and bursaries awarded to 25 students
- ✓ **67%** female staff (FTE)

Principles and guidelines

- ✓ UniSC **gender principles** for achieving gender equity at events
- ✓ UniSC has a **Designing Inclusive Events** guide
- ✓ UniSC **Diversity Pledge**
- ✓ **Gender affirmation** guidelines

Staff advancement

- ✓ **Five** senior female staff members participated in the **Women Attaining Leadership** program

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation



Recycled water

- ✓ **63%** water from recycled sources at UniSC Sunshine Coast
- ✓ **14%** water from recycled sources at UniSC Moreton Bay
- ✓ Over **30,000kL** recycled rainwater used across UniSC

Wise water consumption

- ✓ All UniSC campuses are **Water Refill campuses** providing free drinking water refill stations
- ✓ The University does not sell any single use plastic water bottles either directly or through its vendors
- ✓ Environmentally friendly and non-toxic e-water cleaning solutions are used in the cleaning regime at UniSC to replace the use of commercial cleaning chemicals
- ✓ UniSC Campus Master Plan embeds specific requirements that promote **conscious water usage**:
 - Use drought-tolerant native and endemic plants on campus
 - Integrated water management process to capture and treat wastewater, stormwater and rainwater

Engagement

- ✓ Sustainability tours are conducted for local businesses, schools and the wider community highlighting sustainability initiatives that promote conscious water usage on campus



SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy



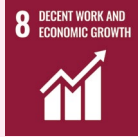
Renewable energy

- ✓ UniSC has approximately **6,500 solar panels** that power a “water battery” used to provide air conditioning across the Sunshine Coast campus
- ✓ Renewable energy produced on-site supplies **29.8% of our energy use** at UniSC Sunshine Coast
- ✓ **3,213,500 kWh** solar energy used at UniSC Sunshine Coast
- ✓ **2,827.91 tonnes CO₂-e** (emissions) avoided through on-site consumption of solar energy

Energy efficiency

- ✓ Carbon Management Plan includes commitment to add solar arrays at UniSC Moreton Bay campus, Thompson Institute and other campuses operated by UniSC.

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth



Policies, agreements and guidelines

- ✓ UniSC has an **Anti-Discrimination and Freedom from Bullying and Harassment** Governing policy
- ✓ University of the Sunshine Coast **Enterprise Agreement (2023)** approved and enacted
- ✓ UniSC has a **flexible working arrangement** and working from home guidelines

Student opportunities

- ✓ UniSC degrees have the opportunity for Work Integrated Learning (internship, placement, practicum and field experience)
 - **6,436** students
 - **9,207** placements
 - over **1,150** partners participated



SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure



Research

- ✓ **\$38.96m** in research income

Infrastructure

- ✓ **Three new buildings** at UniSC Moreton Bay campus built using embodied carbon designs and 665m³ of glue laminated timber (which regrows in 6 minutes) and 1,259m³ of Australian cross laminated timber.

Events

- ✓ At **Forward Fest 2023** UniSC staff presented:
 - Dr Jacqueline Burgess, School of Business and Creative Industries: "Marketing and Strategy – standing out in the crowd"
 - Dr Karen Sutherland, SFHEA Senior Lecturer: Masterclass AI Tools for Small Business
 - Jasmine Vreugdenburg, Innovation Centre: Panel 'Collaboration Lives Here – taking it to the world'
- ✓ UniSC co-hosted the **Techstars Sustainability Startup Weekend** at UniSC Moreton Bay
- ✓ UniSC co-hosted the **2023 International Red Carpet Awards for GovHack** at the UniSC Moreton Bay campus.

SDG 10: Reduced inequalities



Students

- ✓ **38.89%** students enrolled at UniSC are first in family to attend university
- ✓ **13.94%** students enrolled at UniSC have a disability

Scholarships

- ✓ **14** Indigenous-specific scholarships and bursaries awarded to more than **215 students**
- ✓ **Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HDR** scholarship launched

Policies, charters and plans

- ✓ The Admissions, Enrolments and Graduation Academic Policy notes UniSC's commitment to **"enabling participation and to fostering fair and attainable opportunities for applicants from all backgrounds"**
- ✓ UniSC has an **Anti-Discrimination and Freedom from Bullying and Harassment** governing policy
- ✓ UniSC has a governing policy on **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** and developed a Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2021-2023. The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee promote the principles of the governing policy and plan.

- ✓ UniSC is proud of its **Reconciliation Charter** and the Vice-Chancellor and President's Indigenous Advisory Committee. It has created the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Career Development Strategy 2021-2024**.

- ✓ The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2021-2024 demonstrates our ongoing commitment to creating an equitable, accessible, and inclusive environment for all students, staff and the wider university community

Access

- ✓ UniSC's **AccessAbility Services** ensures equal access to all aspects of university life
- ✓ UniSC hosted the inaugural **Sunshine Coast Sports Symposium**, showcasing parasports and efforts to facilitate equitable access to all levels of sports

Events

- ✓ UniSC hosted **Multi-Sport Day** showcasing parasports and efforts to facilitate equitable access to all levels of sport. The High-Performance Student athlete program supports para-athletes in athletics and cycling.



SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities



Community facilities

- ✓ **5 Library locations** open to the community
- ✓ Art Gallery boasting the **largest collection** in the Sunshine Coast Region

Sustainable transportation

- ✓ **Four electric vehicle charging stations** at UniSC Sunshine Coast and **two** at UniSC Moreton Bay
- ✓ **20+** bike storage areas across all campuses
- ✓ **Three free UniSC Express Shuttle services** for staff and students
- ✓ Bus stops in walking distance of every campus
- ✓ Train station and cycleway across the street at UniSC Moreton Bay
- ✓ UniSC has a policy to purchase EV and hybrid fleet vehicles

Events

- ✓ **Sustainability Week** was held across UniSC campuses with a documentary screening, workshops, pop up events and Market Days open to staff, students and the community to provide information on a range of sustainability issues.

Research

- ✓ **Bioclimatic and Sociotechnical Cities (BASC) Lab** is focussed on urban design, planning, heat, urban vegetation, health and other issues to create sustainable communities and cities



SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production



Circular economy

- ✓ Over **93.5 tonnes** of waste recycled
- ✓ **43% waste diverted from landfill** through composting and recycling streams:
 - Paper/Cardboard
 - Comingled recycling
 - eWaste
 - Polystyrene
 - Metal
 - Clear soft plastics
 - Batteries
 - Lighting
- ✓ **Nearly 6,500 containers** recycled with 100% of funds earned donated to charity
- ✓ **100% Carbon neutral** A3 and A4 paper supplied for all departmental and School printing

Policies and plans

- ✓ UniSC has a **Sustainability Operational Policy** and an **Operational Waste Management Plan** to develop circular economy principles and guide the measurement of waste sent to landfill, recycled and composted

SDG 13: Climate action



Emissions avoided

- ✓ **2,109.37 tonnes CO₂-e** (emissions) avoided through the use of on-site solar energy and chilled water at UniSC Sunshine Coast represented **29.8% energy savings**

Planning

- ✓ UniSC's **Carbon Management Plan (CMP)** finalised and released

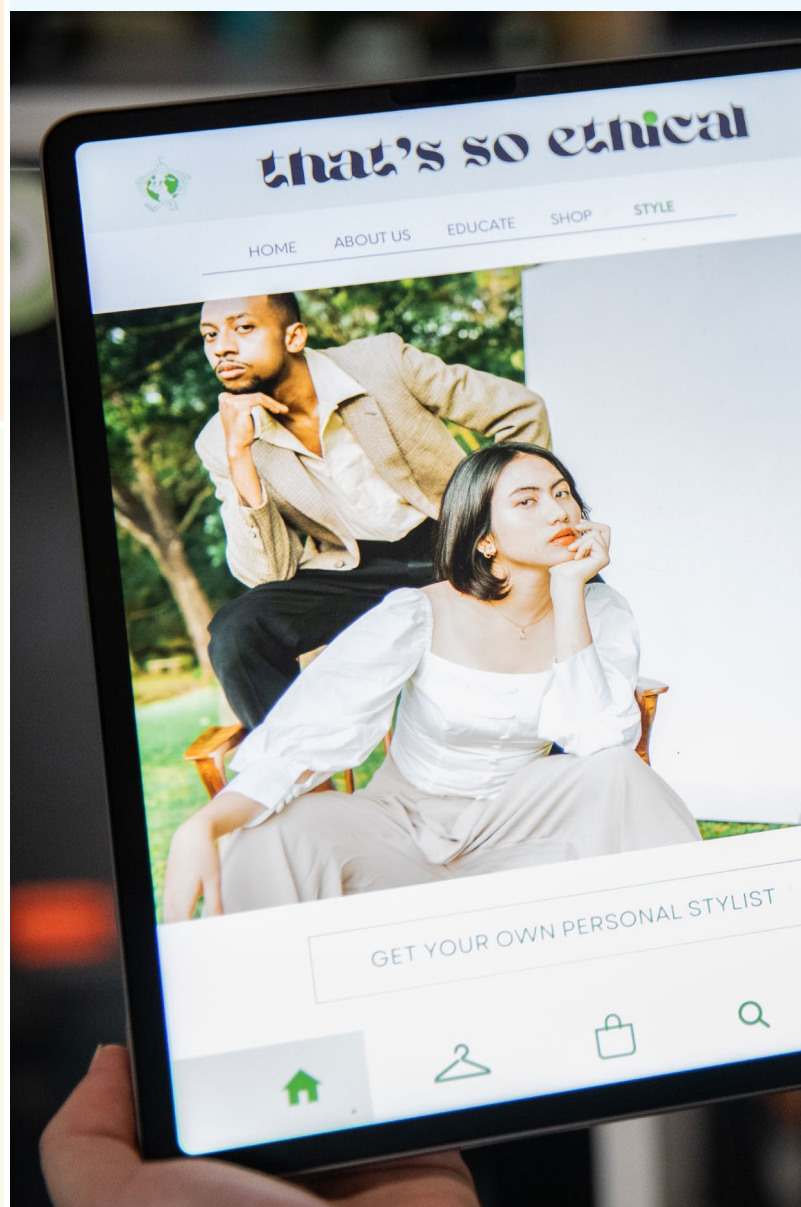
Engagement

- ✓ UniSC researchers study whether the science on coastal climate change risks, impacts, adaptation and impact reduction should be paused so action can be taken; findings have been promoted:
 - News articles
 - Podcasts
 - Radio
 - Online
 - WION Climate Summit presentation
- ✓ Active member of **Noosa Biosphere, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**

SDG 14: Life below water



- ✓ More than **1,900 people** enrolled in the UniSC Life Below Water conservation short course
- ✓ A team of Design Futures students were selected as finalists for the **Biodesign Challenge Summit** in New York City. Their proposed 'That's so Ethical' idea was a recyclable seaweed fabric which could be used to fight fashion waste.
- ✓ The **Campus Master Plan (CMP)** has been updated to expand the University's commitment to harvesting rain, storm and waste water, enhancing irrigation systems managing floods and protecting existing drains across campus
- ✓ UniSC, as part of its **Water Refill Initiative** that flows from the CMP, is committed to reducing plastic waste on its campuses by banning the sale of single-use plastic water bottles
- ✓ The **Waste Management Technical Operations Guideline** and **Hazardous Waste Disposal Process** are designed to prevent hazardous waste and pollutants from entering the environment at University campuses and study sites and sets out guidance for management of spills



SDG 15: Life on land



Campus setting

- ✓ **Over 70 nest boxes** across UniSC Sunshine Coast providing homes for possums, gliders and a range of birds
- ✓ **350 trees planted**
- ✓ UniSC Sunshine Coast campus is a **Land for Wildlife** member with its flora and fauna reserve and works directly to maintain and extend existing ecosystems and the biodiversity of flora and fauna that ecosystem supports

Policy

- ✓ UniSC has a **Catering Operational Policy** that preferences food that is sustainably sourced, farmed or caught

Research and collaboration

- ✓ Sunshine Coast Council and UniSC have joined forces to create a **“world-first” ecosystem function mapping resource** that anyone can use, as part of the joint *Valuing the Sunshine Coast’s Natural Assets* research project. The **Ecosystem Function Mapping and Reporting Tool** shows the different ecosystem services for every location across the region and highlights “hot spots” that provide multiple services.
- ✓ Ceva Wildlife Research Fund committed **\$175,000** to support turning a UniSC Centre for Bioinnovation vaccine to protect koalas from chlamydia into an industry-grade registered version
- ✓ The Master Plan aims to develop the Sippy Downs area so as to maintain shared land ecosystems and built infrastructure



SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions



Representation

- ✓ Representation on the **University Council** from students, academic and professional staff
- ✓ A **Student Ombudsman** is in place to ensure students receive fair and equitable treatment across all aspects of the student experience, particularly regarding the resolution of grievances and complaints

Policy and reporting

- ✓ UniSC has a **Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom** governing policy
- ✓ UniSC publishes an **annual report** with financial data

Engagement

- ✓ UniSC representatives have been serving on the **Sunshine Coast 2032** community lead group to provide advice to local, regional and state government and **2032 Olympic** organisers regarding shared land and facilities that can be used for the Brisbane Olympic Games
- ✓ UniSC academics and researchers released **articles in The Conversation** around a range of issues:
 - the national digital ID scheme
 - Google Chrome ad tracking
 - uncapping university places for Indigenous students
 - the Five Eyes alliance
 - videos of child assaults
 - spy balloons.