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2012 Cost of ANU Accommodation Survey

Survey of ANU Residential Students,
conducted by ANU InterHall Presidents

Summary Report compiled by
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The Australian National University
2012 Cost of ANU Accommodation Survey
Summary of Results

The 2012 Cost of ANU Accommodation Survey was hosted online by Planning and Statistical Services on behalf of ANU InterHall Presidents during June 2012. ANU residents were invited to participate anonymously in the survey via email invitation(s) from their Hall/College/Lodge Student President.

A total of 703 responses were submitted to the survey, comprising 634 undergraduates, 52 postgraduate coursework students and 16 higher degree research candidates.

Small numbers of respondents from Toad Hall and John XXIII College preclude the display of results for those accommodation sites, however, the responses are included in the totals, as well as domestic/international breakdowns. Small numbers of responses were also received from individual UniLodge sites, and these have been grouped into an overall category for UniLodge. Refer to Table 1 for numbers of respondents per Hall/College/Lodge.

Table 1: Respondents per Hall/College/Lodge

Hall/College/Lodge	Respondents
Bruce Hall	116
Burgmann College	39
Burton and Garran Hall	167
Fenner Hall	213
John XXIII College	7
Toad Hall	5
Ursula Hall	67
Ursula Hall - Laurus Wing	36
UniLodge	52
<i>Davey Lodge</i>	8
<i>Kinloch Lodge</i>	11
<i>Lena Karmel Lodge</i>	18
<i>Warrumbul Lodge</i>	15
(blank)	1
All Respondents	703
Domestic Students	492
International Students	206

(Note: 5 respondents failed to identify their residency status)

Respondents were asked to provide dollar values against a variety of standard income sources, including paid work, Centrelink allowances and subsidies, assistance from parents/spouse/family as well as scholarships (including bursaries and subsidies). Twenty-three respondents (3%) indicated they have additional funds from personal loans and/or savings from a gap year, however, the dollar value of these loans/savings was not collected via the survey.

The various dollar values from income sources were added together post-survey to calculate average weekly incomes for respondents. The following table summarises the average income, and

calculates the percentage of income spent on ANU Accommodation (and meals in some Halls/Colleges). The data indicate that between 45%-52% of student income is spent on accommodation (only) and this increased to between two-thirds (63%) and three-quarters (75%) of income spent on accommodation with inclusive meals. In Australia, 'housing stress' is often measured as 30% of income spent on housing costs¹. Based on that benchmark and the calculated average weekly income of respondents, these figures suggest many ANU residential students are suffering housing stress.

Table 2: Average Weekly income (excluding personal loans and savings)

Hall/College/Lodge	Respondents	Average Weekly Income (\$)	Weekly Tariff (\$)	Tariff as % of income
Bruce Hall	111	429	*318	74%
Burgmann College	38	492	**312	63%
Burton and Garran Hall	158	352	175	50%
Fenner Hall	206	352	175	50%
Ursula Hall	65	482	*318	66%
Ursula Hall - Laurus Wing	35	513	233	45%
UniLodge	49	434	#226	52%
All Respondents	673	400	-	-
Domestic Students	477	405	-	-
International Students	191	386	-	-

* Accommodation Tariff includes meals

** 2011 Tariff, including meals

Median starting tariff of four lodges

Respondents were asked to nominate how much money they have per week after subtracting essential spending. Table 3, below, demonstrates that almost half (45%) of all respondents have less than \$50 per week after deducting essential living costs, such as rent, bills and food.

Table 3: Responses to the question 'How much money do you have per week, after subtracting essential spending (such as rent, bills and food)?'

Hall/College/Lodge	Debt	Nil	1-49	50-99	100-199	200-299	300-399	400+
Bruce Hall	0%	10%	37%	29%	13%	4%	4%	3%
Burgmann College	3%	14%	22%	35%	11%	14%	3%	0%
Burton and Garran Hall	1%	9%	36%	35%	13%	5%	1%	1%
Fenner Hall	0%	11%	37%	29%	16%	6%	1%	0%
Ursula Hall	3%	5%	27%	36%	20%	3%	5%	2%
Ursula Hall - Laurus Wing	0%	9%	20%	26%	37%	6%	3%	0%
UniLodge	4%	14%	42%	18%	14%	2%	4%	2%
All Respondents	1%	10%	34%	31%	16%	5%	2%	1%
Domestic Students	1%	10%	36%	32%	14%	5%	2%	1%
International Students	1%	9%	29%	30%	21%	5%	3%	2%

¹ Explanatory Notes, Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australian Bureau of Statistics

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4130.0Explanatory%20Notes12007-08?OpenDocument>

When asked if they find it difficult to fund essential study items, such as textbooks, 38% of respondents nominated they frequently found it difficult, with international students more likely experience difficulty funding essential study items (47% responding ‘frequently’).

Table 4: Responses to the question ‘Do you find it difficult funding essential study items’?

Hall/College/Lodge	Not at all	Sometimes	Frequently
Bruce Hall	21%	43%	37%
Burgmann College	23%	46%	31%
Burton and Garran Hall	20%	42%	38%
Fenner Hall	15%	42%	43%
Ursula Hall	22%	54%	24%
Ursula Hall - Laurus Wing	19%	44%	36%
UniLodge	15%	37%	48%
All Respondents	18%	43%	38%
Domestic Students	20%	46%	34%
International Students	16%	37%	47%

Almost all respondents (97%) indicate they worry about money, with 58% frequently worrying about money. Another 39% sometimes worry about money (refer Table 5).

Table 5: Responses to the question ‘Do you worry about money’?

Hall/College/Lodge	Not at all	Sometimes	Frequently
Bruce Hall	5%	40%	55%
Burgmann College	0%	38%	62%
Burton and Garran Hall	2%	39%	59%
Fenner Hall	1%	41%	58%
Ursula Hall	9%	42%	49%
Ursula Hall - Laurus Wing	6%	44%	50%
UniLodge	4%	25%	71%
All Respondents	3%	39%	58%
Domestic Students	3%	40%	57%
International Students	3%	36%	60%

Respondents were asked to identify if they were in receipt of some form of financial assistance from their family (specified as parents, spouse or family). Two-thirds (67%) of respondents (472 of 703) indicated they receive assistance from their family. When asked if they felt comfortable receiving that financial assistance, almost half (46%) responded in the negative. Only one-third (33%) of respondents are comfortable receiving financial help from their family (refer Table 6 over page).

Table 6: Responses to the statement 'I am comfortable about receiving financial assistance from my parents/spouse/family'.

(results displayed for respondents indicating receipt of that financial assistance)

Hall/College/Lodge	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Number
Bruce Hall	13%	30%	20%	29%	8%	86
Burgmann College	13%	28%	22%	25%	13%	32
Burton and Garran Hall	11%	37%	22%	23%	8%	104
Fenner Hall	19%	29%	27%	20%	5%	131
Ursula Hall	5%	35%	15%	35%	11%	55
Ursula Hall - Laurus Wing	21%	21%	14%	14%	29%	14
UniLodge	16%	28%	28%	16%	12%	43
All Respondents	14%	32%	22%	24%	9%	472
Domestic Students	14%	33%	19%	25%	9%	317
International Students	14%	29%	29%	22%	7%	153

Residents were asked to respond to the item 'ANU Accommodation is value for money' (refer table 7 below). When grouped into 'disagreement', 'neutral' and 'agreement' categories, all respondents were split *roughly* into thirds (38%, 29% and 34% respectively), with higher agreement rates for domestic students (38% agreement), and higher disagreement rates for international students (47% disagreement). The percentages varied between accommodation sites, with the highest agreement rating (41%) for Burton and Garran Hall (\$175 weekly tariff) and the highest disagreement rating (68%) at UniLodge (~\$226 weekly tariff).

Table 7: Responses to the statement 'ANU Accommodation is value for money'

Hall/College/Lodge	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Bruce Hall	10%	33%	31%	22%	3%
Burgmann College	11%	32%	32%	26%	0%
Burton and Garran Hall	8%	22%	28%	32%	9%
Fenner Hall	7%	27%	28%	33%	6%
Ursula Hall	7%	30%	27%	31%	4%
Ursula Hall - Laurus Wing	14%	17%	42%	25%	3%
UniLodge	35%	33%	21%	6%	6%
All Respondents	11%	27%	29%	28%	6%
Domestic Students	9%	25%	28%	32%	6%
International Students	14%	33%	30%	19%	5%

Respondents were asked to nominate from range of price points, the highest weekly tariff increase they would be willing to pay for their ANU accommodation. The overwhelming majority of respondents (63%) indicated they were not willing to pay for any increase to weekly tariffs (refer Table 8 over page).

Table 8: Highest weekly tariff increase respondent is willing to pay for ANU Accommodation

Hall/College/Lodge	Nil	\$10	\$20	\$40	\$60	\$80	\$100
Bruce Hall	72%	18%	8%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Burgmann College	66%	21%	8%	0%	5%	0%	0%
Burton and Garran Hall	61%	25%	11%	3%	1%	0%	0%
Fenner Hall	61%	27%	8%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Ursula Hall	46%	25%	22%	2%	2%	0%	5%
Ursula Hall - Laurus Wing	75%	19%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%
UniLodge	69%	22%	4%	4%	2%	0%	0%
All Respondents	63%	23%	10%	3%	1%	0%	1%
Domestic Students	56%	27%	12%	3%	1%	0%	1%
International Students	79%	15%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Respondents were provided with an open-ended question to explain their selection of a price point for a tariff increase. Of those who selected 'Nil' increase, some of the reasons include:

- Already expensive
- Already struggling with money
- Cannot afford it, would have to work more hours
- Fixed income levels (eg. Scholarship or Centrelink)
- For similar amount of money could share a house with better facilities
- Have to cut down on basic necessities like food to be able to afford paying rent here
- Very poor international student, already paying a lot for tuition and accommodation
- Tariff increase would impact my parents
- I would have to move off campus, which would be a shame
- For the facilities I receive the rent is fair
- I think that present rent (which was already increased) is fine
- Improve services first
- VERY expensive already. And the food sucks fairly often
- Reason for being in college accommodation is convenience + facilities; however an increase would mean moving out
- Just increased rent in the last semester, should not increase again so quickly
- Unless adjusting for inflation, I see no need to increase
- High value of Australian currency and exchange rates that are not favourable

This summary has been prepared as an initial investigation into the results of the 2012 Cost of ANU Accommodation survey. As previously agreed, data collected from the survey will be provided to the InterHall Presidents for more detailed analyses and reporting.

Summary report prepared by:

Evaluations Team, Planning and Statistical Services, ANU

July 2012



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Cost of ANU Accommodation (Resident Survey)

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Section 1. About You

Q1. What is the level of your current ANU program?

Undergraduate Postgraduate Higher degree by research

Q2. Are you a domestic or international student?

Domestic student International student

Q3. Are you Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Yes No

Q4. Are you a full-time or part-time student?

Full-time student Part-time student

Q5. Which residential community do you live at?

Q6. How many years have you been enrolled at ANU?

Q7. How many years have you lived in ANU accommodation?

Q8. Which country, or Australian state, did you live in before coming to ANU?

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Section 2. Income

The questions about income and spending in this survey are measured on a **weekly** basis. Please calculate weekly rates for all dollar values (for example, dividing an annual figure by 52, or a fortnightly figure by 2).

Q9. How much money do you have per week, after subtracting essential spending (such as rent, bills and food)?

Q10. Which of the following sources does your income come from? *Select all that apply*

- Paid work
- Centrelink
- Parents/spouse/family
- Scholarship
- Other _____

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Section 3. Paid work

Complete this section if you have any kind of paid work.

[Otherwise please skip to Section 4.](#)

Q11. Do you undertake paid work?

Yes No (skip to section 4)

Q12. How many jobs do you have?

Q13. Which of the following describes your type of work? *(If you have more than one job, please refer to your main job.)*

Permanent Temporary or fixed term Casual

Q14. In a normal week, how many hours do you work in paid employment?

Less than 5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25 26-30 31-34 35 or more

Q15. Do you feel that the amount of paid work you do, negatively impacts your studies?

Severely Moderately Not at all

Q16. How much do you earn (after tax) from paid work in a normal week? *(If you are unsure, please provide an estimate.)*

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Section 4. Centrelink

Complete this section if you receive any form of Centrelink payment.

[Otherwise please skip to Section 5.](#)

Q17. Do you receive Centrelink payments?

Yes No (skip to section 5)

Q18. Which forms of Centrelink payments do you receive?

Youth Allowance

Abstudy

Rent Assistance

Austudy

Other

Q19. More often than not, would you say you receive the maximum benefit?

Yes No

Q20. Approximately, what is the dollar value of this assistance per week?

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Section 5. Support from family

Complete this section if you receive financial support from your parents/spouse/family.

[Otherwise please skip to Section 6.](#)

Q21. Do you receive financial assistance from your parents/spouse/family?

Yes No (skip to section 6)

Q22. What form of financial assistance to you receive from your parents/spouse/family?

Full rental subsidy

Partial rental subsidy

Weekly allowance

Bills assistance

Other _____

Q23. Approximately, what is the dollar value of this assistance per week?

Q24. I am comfortable about receiving financial assistance from my parents/spouse/family.

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

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Cost of ANU Accommodation (Resident Survey)



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Section 6. Scholarships

Complete this section if you receive income from scholarships, bursaries or ANU residential subsidies

[Otherwise please skip to Section 7.](#)

Q25. Do you receive a scholarship (*this can be an annual lump sum, bursary, residential scholarship or remuneration for work on your residents' committee or study body*)?

Yes No (skip to section 7)

Q26. What type of scholarship do you receive? *Select all that apply*

Residential scholarship

ResComm/ Student Body remuneration

Academic scholarship

Bursary

Industry scholarship

Other

Q27. What is the weekly amount you receive from scholarships?
Please round to the nearest dollar

|

Q28. Will you be receiving the same scholarship next year?

Yes No

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Section 7. Cost of living

Q29. Do you worry about money?

Frequently Sometimes Not at all

Q30. Do you find it difficult funding essential study items (*such as textbooks*)?

Frequently Sometimes Not at all

Q31. ANU campus accommodation is good value for money.

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Q32. Please select the highest increase in weekly rental tariffs which you would be willing to pay for your current accommodation.

Nil \$10 \$20 \$40 \$60 \$80 \$100

Q33. Please indicate the reason for the above selection.

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