



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

FINANCIAL AID

**Household income verification
SASFF Conference 2023**

Make today matter



Content



- **Access to Financial aid.**
- **Why the income verification**
- **How does it work? – Institutional**
- **How does it work? - Supplier**
- **Limitation of the process – Data and IT**
- **Limitation of the process – Student**
- **Compliance in POPI Act**



Access to Financial Aid

remains a challenge for many students...



- **Limited information available.**
- **Various sources of information.**
- **Social capital.**
- **Household income cap. NSFAS, ISFAP**
- **Missing middle and postgraduate.**
- **Stigmatization of Financial aid amongst certain communities**

There is a need for household income verification



In improving access and student success at institutions

- **Rising student debt**
- **Students reluctant to apply for Financial aid in institutions**
- **Parents/ Guardians not willing to share income documents with students**
- **Students living at HEI unable to get the information from parents/guardians**
- **Possible Institutional Reputational risk.**

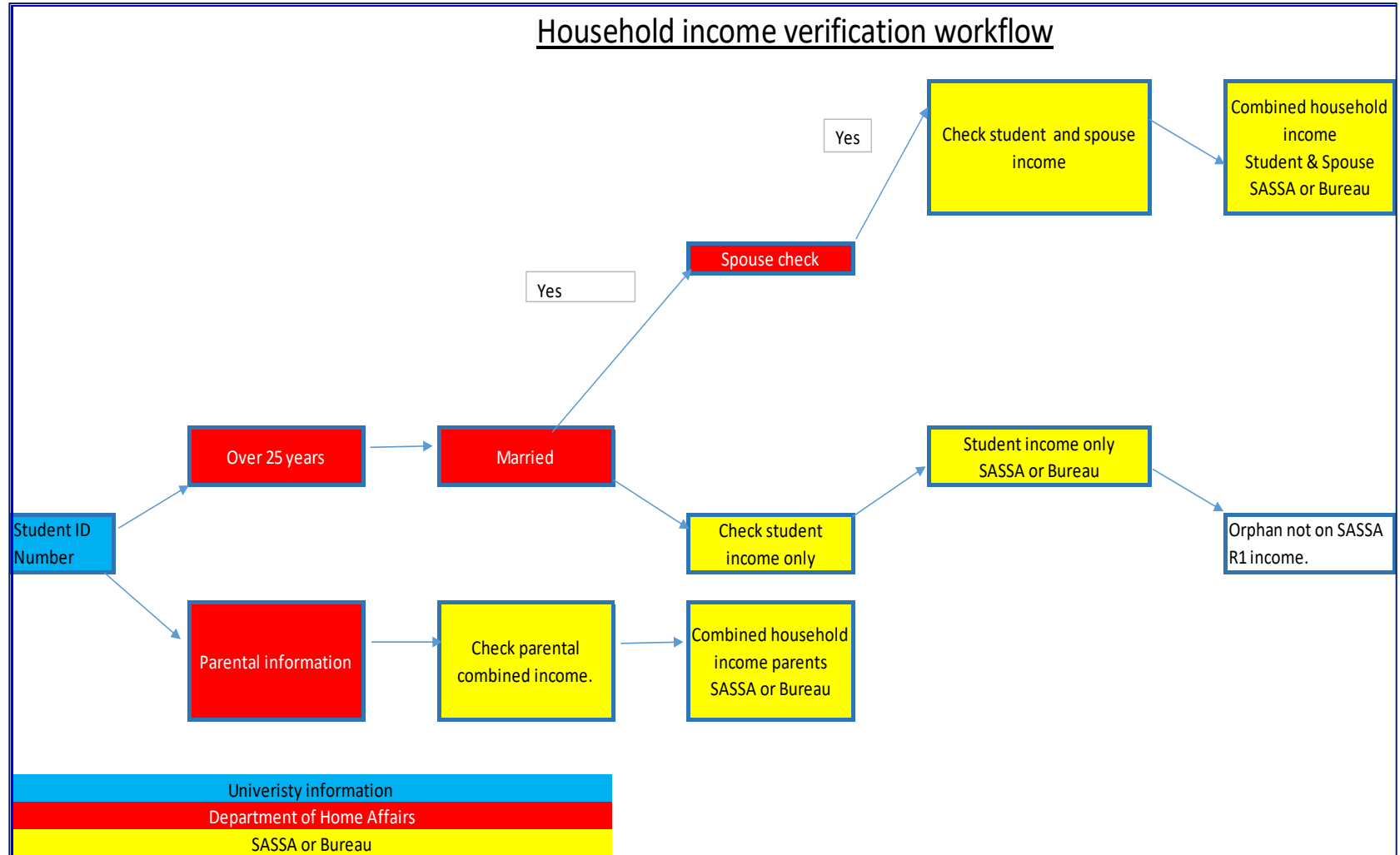
How does it work at an institutional level



- Students need to apply for Financial aid on the UP Portal.
- During the application permission to perform the household verification is obtained from the student.
- It is not consent, but pre-contractual step.
- Student information (ID only) is sent to the supplier.
- We receive one amount for the student.
- Students can only see an income category and not the amount.
- Keep as minimal information as possible.
- Information is kept for numerous years.
- Integration very vital and increases data integrity



How does it work with a service provider



There are some limitations to the process



Particularly IT and data...

- **Major limitations:**
 - Very few sources with up to date information for salary earners and self employed persons.
 - Institutions with the information are currently protected by Income Tax Act, POPI Act, FICA Act and other legislation.
- **Limited parental information.**
- **Significant reliance on students for agreement.**
- **Misconceptions around what Financial aid is (NSFAS and Loans).**
- **Information in credit bureau assumption is the parent is credit active.**
- **Cost to implement. Plug ins, Pay as you use, APP**

POPI Act Compliance remains important



- **Students cannot consent as it is not their information being processed.**
- **Confirmation of household income is vital for most of our funding as the Financial neediness is a criteria.**
- **Financial neediness is always requested as per the University's definition.**
- **We do not keep parental information in our database.**
- **The combined income is assumed to belong to the student.**
- **No footprint left by the checks.**
- **Do not sell to the students based on the household income. (Loans)**

THANK YOU!!!

