

## PORTFOLIO REPORTS - STATE COUNCIL

### ALLOWANCES REPORT

#### **Chandra Ridley – Portfolio Holder, March 2023**

At the 2022 State Conference, allowance motions A1, A2 and A3 were raised regarding increasing the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA).

A letter was sent to the Minister for Education, Hon. Sue Ellery. The Minister responded on 30<sup>th</sup> June stating that the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) will be increased by \$30 in 2023 in line with the Consumer Price Index to \$1350 per annum.

In 2021 the Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) commenced, this is a one-off, means-tested payment of up to \$5000 to assist eligible students with the cost of relocating to undertake tertiary study for school leavers from inner regional, outer regional, remote and very remote areas who relocate more than 90 minutes by public transport from their family home, undertake a full-time, eligible higher level tertiary education course (Certificate IV or above) in the year following Year 12 or equivalent and the parental income is below \$250 000.

Changes to the eligibility and payment structure occurred in response to the evaluation of the program in late 2021 (which ICPA (Aust) provided feedback to) commenced in 2022 including:

- Eligibility extended to inner regional students
- Eligible students from outer regional, remote, and remote areas, will continue to receive up to \$5,000 in two payments, and students from inner regional areas will receive a single payment of \$3,000
- Application and payment process for **all** TAP applicants will be administered solely through Services Australia

Federal Council will continue to seek further adjustments to the TAP including:

- The alignment of the TAP to the Relocation Scholarship payment rates, thus an annual and ongoing payment to recognise the costs not just being borne in the first year of the student's course.
- Non-means tested and therefore does not jeopardise the eligibility of payments including Youth Allowance (YA) and ABSTUDY.
- Extended to students who do not go straight to university or onto a VET course – for gap year students, acknowledging they still have the high cost of relocation.
  - Ideally, the removal of the \$250,000 parent income threshold criteria.
  - Means testing - the choice of one-of-three-year provision for Independent Youth Allowance (IYA) should be applied here also to allow for fluctuating incomes brought about by drought, sales etc.
  - Apprentices - Inclusion of rural and remote Australian Apprentices who fulfil the criteria.

From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024, apprentices training in Priority Occupations including Aged or Disabled Carer and Metal Fabricator can receive assistance of up to \$5000 (\$1250 paid every six months for their first two years), to ensure they are supported to complete their training.

From 1 July 2024, the Australian Apprentice Training Support Payment will continue to target areas of skills needed with apprentices training in Priority Occupations able to receive assistance of up to \$3000 (\$750 paid every six months for their first two years). The full Australian Apprenticeship Priority List can be found at [dewr.gov.au](http://dewr.gov.au)

The Assistance for Isolated Children, Distance Education Allowance has increased from \$4,428 per child per year in 2022 to \$4,698 in 2023. The Basic Boarding Allowance has increased to \$9,396 from \$8,856 in 2022 and the Additional Allowance has increased to \$2,695 from \$2,540.

**BOARDING**

**Table of BAHA Rates 2013 – 2023:**

2013	\$2,105
2014	\$2,105
2015	\$2,105
2016	\$2,105
2017	\$2,105
2018	\$1,948
2019	\$1,791
2020	\$1,634
2021	\$1,477
2022	\$1,320
2023	\$1,350

**Table of Applications 2014 – 2022:**

School Year	Total Applications
2014	1247
2015	1397
2016	1503
2017	1453
2018	1244
2019	1375
2020	1338
2021	1279
2022	1167*

\*Applications still being accepted and paid