



PORTFOLIO REPORTS - STATE COUNCIL

ALLOWANCES REPORT

Chandra Ridley – Portfolio Holder, March 2024

At the 2023 State Conference, allowance motions A1, A2 and A3 were raised regarding increases to the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA).

A letter was sent to the Minister for Education, Hon. Dr Tony Buti and Premier Hon. Roger Cook. The Minister responded on 2nd October 2023, stating that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate used to increase the BAHA each year will be aligned to the rate used to index the annual boarding fees at the Department's Residential Colleges and Western Australian Colleges of Agriculture. The 2024 BAHA will increase by \$39 to \$1,389 per annum.

In April 2023, the McGowan Government announced a \$5.4 million investment in the 2023-24 State Budget including practical measures to support students in regional Western Australia.

Minister for Training and Workforce Hon. Simone McGurk and Minister for Health Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson unveiled a new package providing weekly work placement and travel allowance for regional nursing students. The \$2.9 million investment commences in January 2024 and will provide eligible Diploma of Nursing students with financial support to undertake up to 400 hours of practical placement required as part of their training. The allowance will be \$350 per week with a travel allowance of \$1,000 per training block for the Pilbara and Kimberley and \$500 per block for other regions except Peel, which will be an allowance of \$350 per week.

Also, the travel and accommodation allowance for WA apprentices, trainees, cadets and interns who are required to travel long distances off-the-job for their training will increase. The per-kilometre rate will double from 20 cents to 40 cents. The accommodation allowance rate will also be boosted by up to 43 per cent.

The \$2.5 million initiative will address the increased gap in out-of-pocket expenses for regional students for a two-year period from July 2023.

Assistance for Isolated Children Distance Education Allowance has increased from \$4,698 in 2023 to \$4,980, the Boarding Allowance has also increased from \$9,396 in 2023 to \$9,960 in 2024. As mentioned previously, BAHA has increased by \$39 in line with CPI to \$1,389 per annum. ICPA is still actively lobbying for a substantial increase in the BAHA.

BOARDING

Table of BAHA Rates 2013 – 2024:

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

Table of Applications 2014 – 2023:

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



2022	\$1,320
2023	\$1,350
2024	\$1,389

2022	1190
2023	1046*

*Applications still being accepted and paid