

Federal Allowances for Rural and Remote Students

| ALLOWANCE | CRITERIA | YEARS | PAYMENTS | CLOSING DATES | APPLICATION INFORMATION |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) | | | | | |
| If your student is geographically isolated, has no reasonable access to a government school or has a disability or special education needs, you may be eligible for the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boarding Allowance (not means-tested) assists with the cost of boarding school fees | AIC Boarding, Second Home and Distance Education Allowances 1. 56km from nearest Govt School OR 2. 4.5km from transport and 16 km from nearest Govt School OR 3. Adverse roads for 20 days or return journey exceeds 3 hrs OR 4. Special needs category | Primary/Secondary/ (and Post-compulsory schooling in certain circumstances) | \$10338 per student per annum | 31 December of the year of study | Centrelink 132318 www.servicesaustralia.gov.au |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Boarding (means-tested) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Subject to parental income and actual boarding costs | " | \$2965 per student per annum | " | " |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second Home Allowance to maintain a second home so children can attend a local school | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Limited to max of 3 children per family •One application for each child | | \$301.13 per student/fortnight \$7851 per child per annum | " | " |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance Education Allowance helps families with the cost of distance education in the home | | Primary and Secondary | \$5169 per student/annum | " | " |
| Youth Allowance | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent and Independent If you are studying an approved course with an approved education provider (e.g. university, TAFE) or under an Australian Apprenticeship you may be eligible for Dependent or Independent Youth Allowance Further information can be found in the Youth Allowance Overview | | | | | |
| | 16-21 and looking for fulltime work 18 to 24 and studying full time 16 to 24 and doing a full time Australian Apprenticeship 16 to 17 and independent or needing to live away from home to study 16 to 17, studying fulltime and have completed year 12 or equivalent. | Tertiary/Post-compulsory schooling | Payment rates vary | You can claim Youth Allowance up to 13 weeks before you start full time study or an Australian Apprenticeship | Centrelink 132490 www.servicesaustralia.gov.au |
| Relocation Scholarship need to have moved from regional/remote area for higher education study | Eligibility is assessed by Centrelink based on receipt of other payments e.g. Dependent Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY Living Allowance | Tertiary | 1st year \$5,590 2nd and 3 rd year \$2,795 4th and following years \$1396 | | www.servicesaustralia.gov.au |
| Rent Assistance | Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY, Austudy (all subject to special rules) Eligibility assessed by Centrelink as part applications for the above allowances | Tertiary/Post-compulsory schooling | Max \$211.20 per fortnight based on single/no dependent children (2025 figures) | | www.servicesaustralia.gov.au |
| Fares Allowance Helps with travel costs between home and place of tertiary study | Youth Allowance student, ABSTUDY, Austudy | Tertiary | May reimburse public/private transport. Payment rates vary | By 31 March in the calendar year following the year of study | www.servicesaustralia.gov.au |
| Student Start Up Loan a voluntary loan you can get up to twice per year if you are an eligible higher education student | Youth Allowance student, Austudy or ABSTUDY Living Allowance | Tertiary | \$1321 up to twice a year | Throughout the claim period | www.servicesaustralia.gov.au |
| Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) Assists students with the cost of moving from inner regional, outer regional or remote areas for tertiary study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •An inner regional, outer regional or remote student. •Relocating at least 90 mins from family home by public transport to commence a full-time higher-level tertiary education (Certificate IV or above) •Commencing study immediately following completion of year 12 or equivalent | Tertiary/Post-compulsory schooling | \$5000 in 2 instalments (\$5000 for outer regional, remote and very remote students \$3000 for inner regional students) | Students relocating to study at a university, a non-university higher education provider or a vocational education and training (VET) provider apply through Services Australia | www.dese.gov.au www.servicesaustralia.gov.au |
| Commonwealth Living Away from Home Allowance (LAFHA) . An allowance to assist with rental expenses for Australian Apprentices who need to move away from home to access an apprenticeship. <i>(NOTE: This allowance differs from certain State allowances of the same name)</i> | Eligible Apprentices must NOT have lodged a claim or been approved for Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY or Austudy | Post-compulsory schooling | 1st year \$77.17 per week 2nd year \$38.50 per week 3rd year \$25 per week | To apply, obtain an Application form from your Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) provider and submit the completed form to your AASN provider | LAFHA Fact Sheet Apprenticeship Network Provider |
| As an Australian Apprentice you may be eligible for financial assistance from the Australian Government to help with the costs of undertaking an apprenticeship. Financial Support for Australian Apprentices | | | | | |
| ABSTUDY A group of payments for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students or apprentices (includes a Fares Allowance) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Must be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian in an approved course, Australian Apprenticeship or traineeship •Must not be getting another payment to study or train | Primary/Secondary/ Tertiary/ Post-compulsory schooling | Payment rates vary | | 132317 www.servicesaustralia.gov.au |
| Austudy Financial help if you're 25 or older and studying or an Australian Apprentice. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •25 yrs or older •student studying full time or an undertaking a full-time apprenticeship or traineeship •income and asset means-tested | Tertiary/Post-compulsory schooling | Payment rates vary | You can claim up to 13 weeks before you start full time study or an Australian Apprenticeship | www.servicesaustralia.gov.au |
| This information is compiled by ICPA (Aust) and relates to rural and remote students intending to apply for Federal Allowances. It is current as of January 2025. It is a guide only. | | | | | |