

## Federal Allowances for Rural and Remote Students

| ALLOWANCE  | CRITERIA   | YEARS  | PAYMENTS  | CLOSING DATES   | APPLICATION INFORMATION  |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC)</b>  |  |  |   |   |  |
| 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"> <li><b>Boarding Allowance (not means-tested)</b> assists with the cost of boarding school fees</li> </ul>   | <b>AIC Boarding, Second Home and Distance Education Allowances</b><br>1. 56km from nearest Govt School OR<br>2. 4.5km from transport and 16 km from nearest Govt School OR<br>3. Adverse roads for 20 days or return journey exceeds 3 hrs OR<br>4. Special needs category   | Primary/Secondary/<br>(and Post-compulsory schooling in certain circumstances) | \$10338 per student per annum   | 31 December of the year of study  | Centrelink<br><br>132318<br><a href="http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au">www.servicesaustralia.gov.au</a>                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Additional Boarding (means-tested)</b></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subject to parental income and actual boarding costs</li> </ul>   | "  | \$2965 per student per annum  | "   | "  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Second Home Allowance</b> to maintain a second home so children can attend a local school</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited to max of 3 children per family</li> </ul>  |  | \$301.13 per student/fortnight<br>\$7851 per child per annum  | "   | "  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Distance Education Allowance</b> helps families with the cost of distance education in the home</li> </ul>   |  | Primary and Secondary  | \$5169 per student/annum  | "   | "  |
| <b>Youth Allowance</b>   |  |  |   |   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Dependent and Independent</b></li> </ul> 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<br>Further information can be found in the <a href="#">Youth Allowance Overview</a> |  |  |   |   |  |
|  | 16-21 and looking for fulltime work<br>18 to 24 and studying full time<br>16 to 24 and doing a full time Australian Apprenticeship<br>16 to 17 and independent or needing to live away from home to study<br>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<br>132490<br><br><a href="http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au">www.servicesaustralia.gov.au</a>                                 |
| <b>Relocation Scholarship</b> 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<br>2nd and 3 <sup>rd</sup> year \$2,795<br>4th and following years \$1396  |   | <a href="http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au">www.servicesaustralia.gov.au</a>   |
| <b>Rent Assistance</b>   | Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY, Austudy (all subject to special rules)<br>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)   |   | <a href="http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au">www.servicesaustralia.gov.au</a>   |
| <b>Fares Allowance</b> 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  | <a href="http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au">www.servicesaustralia.gov.au</a>   |
| <b>Student Start Up Loan</b> 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   | <a href="http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au">www.servicesaustralia.gov.au</a>   |
| <b>Tertiary Access Payment (TAP)</b> Assists students with the cost of moving from inner regional, outer regional or remote areas for tertiary study   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An inner regional, outer regional or remote student.</li> <li>Relocating at least 90 mins from family home by public transport to commence a full-time higher-level tertiary education (Certificate IV or above)</li> <li>Commencing study immediately following completion of year 12 or equivalent</li> </ul> | Tertiary/Post-compulsory schooling   | \$5000 in 2 instalments<br><br>(\$5000 for outer regional, remote and very remote students<br>\$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 | <a href="http://www.dese.gov.au">www.dese.gov.au</a><br><br><a href="http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au">www.servicesaustralia.gov.au</a> |
| <b>Commonwealth Living Away from Home Allowance (LAFHA).</b> An allowance to assist with rental expenses for Australian Apprentices who need to move away from home to access an apprenticeship.<br><i>(NOTE: This allowance differs from certain State allowances of the same name)</i>   | Eligible Apprentices must <b>NOT</b> have lodged a claim or been approved for Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY or Austudy  | Post-compulsory schooling  | 1st year \$77.17 per week<br>2nd year \$38.50 per week<br>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                    | <a href="#">LAFHA Fact Sheet</a><br><br><a href="#">Apprenticeship Network Provider</a>  |
| As an Australian Apprentice you may be eligible for financial assistance from the Australian Government to help with the costs of undertaking an apprenticeship. <a href="#">Financial Support for Australian Apprentices</a>  |  |  |   |   |  |
| <b>ABSTUDY</b> A group of payments for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students or apprentices (includes a Fares Allowance)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian in an approved course, Australian Apprenticeship or traineeship</li> <li>Must not be getting another payment to study or train</li> </ul>  | Primary/Secondary/ Tertiary/ Post-compulsory schooling                         | Payment rates vary  |   | 132317<br><br><a href="http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au">www.servicesaustralia.gov.au</a>   |
| <b>Austudy</b> Financial help if you're 25 or older and studying or an Australian Apprentice.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 yrs or older</li> <li>student studying full time or an undertaking a full-time apprenticeship or traineeship</li> <li>income and asset means-tested</li> </ul>   | Tertiary/Post-compulsory schooling   | Payment rates vary  | You can claim up to 13 weeks before you start full time study or an Australian Apprenticeship   | <a href="http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au">www.servicesaustralia.gov.au</a>   |

**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.**