



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)	\$10,555 per student/ annum	31 December of the year of study	Centrelink 132318 www.servicessaustralia.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 	"	\$3027 per student/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 	"	\$307.46 per student/fortnight	"	"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance Education Allowance helps families with the cost of distance education in the home 		Primary and Secondary	\$5278 per student/annum	"	"
Youth Allowance	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				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent and Independent 	Further information can be found in the Youth Allowance Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18-24 yrs studying full-time 16-17 yrs studying full-time and completed Yr 12 or considered independent for Youth Allowance or needing to live away from home to study 16-24 yrs undertaking full-time Australian Apprenticeship 	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.servicessaustralia.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 \$5707 2nd year \$2854 3rd and following years \$1425		www.servicessaustralia.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 \$219.40 per fortnight based on single/no dependent children (2026 figures)		www.servicessaustralia.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.servicessaustralia.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	\$1349 up to twice a year	Throughout the claim period	www.servicessaustralia.gov.au
Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) Assists first time 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) first time tertiary student up to the age of 22 	Tertiary/Post-compulsory schooling	Up to \$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.servicessaustralia.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 \$120 per week 2nd year \$90 per week 3rd year \$45 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.servicessaustralia.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.servicessaustralia.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 May 2026. It is a guide only.