

EDUCATION ALLOWANCES



POLICY:

Payment of an allowance for living away from home equal to the cost of gaining access to a continuing primary, secondary or tertiary education

OBJECTIVES:

1. The payment by the Commonwealth Government of a non-means tested allowance equal to the average cost of maintaining a child in a boarding school, private board or hostel, for forty weeks of the year less the average cost of maintaining that child at home.
2. An amount to assist with the cost of educating a child at home by Distance Education which continues to the completion of Secondary Schooling.
3. State living away from home allowances to make up for the short fall in the amount paid by the Commonwealth Government.
4. The payment of an additional allowance which gives recognition to the hardship imposed on low income families who have no choice but to educate their children in boarding schools or board their children away from home.
5. The means tested allowance to be subject to a sibling concessional abatement rate applicable to all dependent children in the family, including those attending full time tertiary study.
6. The allowance may be paid directly to the hostel or the place of board and where this is not the case, paid directly to the person responsible for meeting the boarding fees.
7. Parents who establish a second home specifically to provide their children with daily access to an appropriate school to qualify for an amount equivalent to the basic boarding allowance.
8. The above allowances to be indexed annually in line with the price movements for the maintenance of children at home and the average cost of boarding.
9. Reciprocity between state allowances to apply to children who attend school across state borders.
10. Assistance to be provided for access to tertiary studies by students from rural and remote areas.
11. All allowances to be non taxable.
12. State and Federal Governments to recognise that the allowances for access to school give the isolated child the same entitlements as other children in Australia to receive an appropriate education.

[Ratified 2008]