

UNRAVELLING ABSTUDY FOR PARENTS

ABSTUDY Eligibility and Payments: A Guide for Day and Boarding Families

Day Students:

- Payments are made every term based on how many days the student attends school.
- These payments are means tested — based on the guardian's income.

Boarding Students:

If you live more than 'reasonable travelling time or distance' from the local high school:

- You can only receive ABSTUDY if you have a scholarship from the Boarding School or a Third Party Provider.
- Without a scholarship, you may not qualify.
- The ABSTUDY Fare Allowance is not means tested and allows for travel to and from school.
- Other fees are means tested.

If you live less than 'reasonable travelling time or distance' from the local high school:

- You can access ABSTUDY **regardless of having a scholarship**.
- The ABSTUDY Fare Allowance remains **not means tested**.
- Other allowances **are means tested**.
- You may bypass the local high school if it is a 'limited program School' that does not offer specific programs (e.g., music, agriculture).
- Boarding School scholarships provided directly by the school must be the higher value of either **\$6,096 or 25% of the fees**.

Applying for ABSTUDY:

What you need:



- Guardian's Centrelink Number (CRN).
- Proof of Aboriginality for the student from your Land Council.
- Tax File Number (TFN) for children over 16 (Call 13 10 30, Aboriginal Hotline, and request form NAT1589).

More info [HERE](#)

What to do/who to contact:

Apply for ABSTUDY using one of the below options.



- **Phone:** 1800 132 317.
- **Online:** myGov which is linked to Centrelink.
- **Forms:** Paper forms available (e.g., SYO19). You can get that [HERE](#)

Request a **Letter of Estimate** outlining what you may receive — it is recommended to wait for this before accepting a school placement, as there could be a financial gap.

Orientation Visit Travel: This is for students to visit the school with a family member.

- Available **before** acceptance at a school.
- Can be used for interviews or selection processes.
- Not available once the student is enrolled.



Parent's Entitlements

Special Purpose Visit (up to 3 per year for one family member):

Can be used for:

- At risk of expulsion
- Serious adjustment issues
- Graduation
- Parent/Teacher interviews
- Events like sports, NAIDOC, assemblies, etc.
- Includes:
 - Flight to/from Perth.
 - Accommodation (approx. 2 nights).
 - Meals if included in the accommodation bill.

Student's Entitlements

- Transport from home to school at the start of each term (4 times/year).
- Transport from school to home at the end of each term (4 times/year).
- Supervisor may be required (case-by-case basis).
 - Can be a parent/family/community member.
 - Includes flight, accommodation (approx. 2 nights), and meals if included.
- ABSTUDY **DOES NOT** cover mid-term break flights (3 per year).
- Compassionate Travel (up to 2 per year):
 - For student: travel due to critical illness, injury, funeral, kinship business, or personal illness.
 - For a family member: to visit if the student is seriously ill or injured.
- Weekend travel possible with a supervisor.

Key Points:

- Accessing and maximising these flights from Year 7 through to Year 12 supports parent involvement and critical conversations (e.g., subject selection, learning support, career pathways).
- Dedicated school strategies help build strong, two-way relationships between families and educators, supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students' success.

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