

NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ACCESS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ISOLATED STUDENTS (ASIS)

2007 INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORM

Access Scholarships for Isolated Students are to assist students in Years 9 to 12 from rural areas who are disadvantaged by a low family income and geographic isolation, and:

- who wish to attend a NSW government specialist secondary school in order to pursue a special talent or need and would need to board away from home to do so;

OR

- who must board at a school term hostel to access a government secondary school.

General Conditions of Eligibility

Students must

1. qualify for the NSW Living Away From Home Allowance (LAFHA) (*see information on page 2*)
2. be attending a government secondary school
3. be in Year 9, 10, 11 or 12
4. have a special talent or need that requires them to attend a specialist government secondary school, and needs to board away from home to do so

OR

be in circumstances where they have to board at a school term hostel to access a government secondary school.

The Scholarship Committee will consider all applications and determine priority order.

Up to forty scholarships are provided annually, including continuing scholarships, with a value of \$1,560.

Applications

Additional application forms and information relating to the scholarships are available from

The Allowances Officer
Rural & Distance Education
PO Box 717
BATHURST NSW 2795
PHONE: 02 6334 8075

- Completed applications should be sent to the same address.
- Applicants must submit an application form by the due date and supply all necessary supporting documents
- Applications will close on 23rd March 2007.

Renewal of Application

Applications need only be renewed if there is a change of circumstances. It is the responsibility of the scholarship holder to notify the Rural and Distance Education Unit of any change in circumstances.

Continuing recipients will be required to complete an Income Review Form to check current eligibility.

The income test:

As stated in LAFHA, adjusted family income level must not exceed \$48,537 for the year ending 30 June 2006 (for an example see 'Calculating Adjusted Family Income' on p9). We will ask you to verify your income for each year that you are in receipt of a scholarship.

OTHER SCHEMES PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR BOARDING STUDENTS

There are other government schemes which provide financial assistance to students living away from home to attend a secondary school.

SECONDARY STUDENTS LIVING AWAY FROM HOME ALLOWANCE (LAFHA)

This scheme is administered by the NSW Department of Education and Training. The value of the allowance is reviewed annually. For 2007 it is \$1,166 per annum with an additional \$274 for Year 11-12 students if they are geographically isolated.

This allowance is subject to a means test. The adjusted Family Taxable Income for the year ending 30 June 2006 must not exceed \$48,537. The distance between the student's home and his or her nearest government school or school of preferred religious denomination must be in excess of 48 kms.

Information about LAFHA and application forms can be obtained from the Allowances Officer, Rural and Distance Education, PO Box 717, BATHURST 2795. Ph: 02 6334 8075

ASSISTANCE FOR ISOLATED CHILDREN SCHEME (AIC)

AIC is a Commonwealth government scheme that targets students who are geographically isolated and who do not have reasonable daily access to an appropriate government school.

Information regarding this scheme may be obtained by calling Centrelink on 13 2318.

In addition, students may be able to obtain assistance from **Youth Allowance** (Ph. 13 2490) or **ABSTUDY** (Ph. 13 2317), both of which are administered by the Commonwealth.

ASIS APPLICATION FORM 2007

This application is for an Access scholarship to assist the student (tick one):

board away from home to attend a specialist government secondary school

OR

board at a school term hostel to attend a government secondary school

ABOUT THE APPLICANT

Name of student _____

Surname

Given Name(s)

Student's date of birth _____ Male/Female _____

School the student attended in 2006: _____

School the student is attending in 2007: _____

School Year in 2007: 9 10 11 12 (*circle one*)

Parent/Guardian name(s) _____

Home address: _____ Postcode: _____

Postal address (if different from above): _____

Contact numbers: Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Name and location of nearest government secondary school to the student's home

Distance from the student's home to this school _____

Please outline the main reason why the student needs to board away from home to access the nominated school in 2007.

ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY

To be considered, applicants must provide evidence of disadvantage because of a combination of **low family income** and **geographic isolation**. Eligibility for the NSW Secondary Students Living Away from Home Allowance (LAFHA) can provide this evidence.

Enquiries concerning eligibility for the LAFHA should be directed to the officer administering the allowance (see p2).

	YES	NO
Have you been notified by us that you will be eligible for LAFHA in 2007?		

	YES	NO
Do you believe that you satisfy the income criteria for the NSW LAFHA in 2007?		

	YES	NO
Do you believe that you satisfy the distance criteria for the NSW LAFHA in 2007?		

	YES	NO
Do you expect to qualify for NSW LAFHA in 2007 for any other reason?		
If Yes, please specify the reason		

If you have already established your eligibility for LAFHA you will not need to complete Section A. Please complete Sections B, C and D.

If you are unsure about your eligibility for LAFHA please complete all sections.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To assist the committee in determining the priority of your application, please provide further information. Sections A and B explore additional information you may wish to provide in relation to income and isolation. In addition you may wish us to consider other factors, such as those in sections C and D.

Section A: Family Income

To assist us, will you please tick the boxes to indicate any of the circumstances that are relevant to you, then attach any supporting documentation to your application before sending it to us.

Circumstance	Applies to you?	
	YES	NO
A1: Adjusted family income for 2005/2006 is between \$48,536 and \$38,538;		
A2: Adjusted family income for 2005/2006 is between \$35,537 and \$28,538;		
A3: Adjusted family income for 2005/2006 is between \$28,537 and \$18,538;		
A4: Adjusted family income is \$18,537 or less.		

Examples of the sort of evidence that could be used to support your application.

Circumstance	Evidence
A1, A2, A3, A4	Statement from tax agent or equivalent documentary evidence showing income from all sources less any allowable deductions for spouse and dependant children. Please consult the section called 'Calculating Adjusted Family Income' on p9.

Please note that if you have provided supporting documentation with your LAFHA application there is no need to provide another copy with this application.

Section B: Geographic Isolation

To assist us, will you please tick the boxes to indicate any of the circumstances that are relevant to you, then attach any supporting documentation to your application before sending it to us.

Circumstance	Applies to you?	
	YES	NO
B1: School transport is available to a government secondary school, but the distance from the student's home to the nearest school transport pick up point is more than 5km.		
B2: The distance from the student's home to the nearest government secondary school is more than 16km and there is no school transport available.		
B3: School transport is available to a government secondary school, but the student's home is more than 48km from the school.		
B4: The normal daily travelling time by school transport from the student's nearest transport pick up point to the nearest government secondary school would exceed 90 minutes (one-way).		
B5: The student does not have reasonable access to a government secondary school on at least 20 days per year because of impassable roads. (Applies only to public roads between the student's home and the nearest school.)		
B6: Geographic circumstances other than those mentioned in B1 to B5 have a significant impact on the student's ability to access secondary education. (Details attached.)		

Examples of the sort of evidence that could be used to support your application.

Circumstance	Evidence
B1, B2, B3, B4	Confirmation of distances involved by means of detailed map, or statement by Council official, school bus operator, or other official source.
B5	Evidence of absence from school by the student or a sibling due to adverse road conditions on public roads connecting the student's home to the nearest government secondary school. Statement from relevant authority (e.g., local Council officer verifying that the road has been impassable at particular times, has not been upgraded since and there is a strong likelihood that it will be impassable on at least 20 school days in the coming year).
B3, B4, B5	In this context a 'government secondary school' is one that offers courses of study leading to eligibility for the award of a School Certificate or Higher School Certificate (as relevant).
B6	A letter setting out the relevant details and how these affect the student's access to a secondary school.

Please note that if you have provided supporting documentation with your LAFHA application there is no need to provide another copy with this application.

Section C: School or curriculum requirements

To assist us, will you please tick the boxes to indicate any of the circumstances that are relevant to you, then attach any supporting documentation to your application before sending it to us.

Circumstance	Applies to you?	
	YES	NO
C1: The student is boarding at a school term hostel in order to access a government secondary school; OR		
C2: The student is boarding at another residence (other than home) in order to access a specialist government secondary school; OR		
C3: The student has a strong vocational interest that justifies attendance at a specialised government secondary school, and will study courses in a specialised curriculum area sufficient to meet the minimum requirements (see Notes); OR		
C4: The student has an identified special talent or educational need that can only be met if the student boards away from home to attend a specialist government secondary school.		

Examples of the sort of evidence that could be used to support your application.

Circumstance	Evidence
C1 & C2	Letter of confirmation or other documents (e.g., a receipt) showing that the student boards at a hostel or other boarding situation.
C3	Letter of support from Principal of student's current school outlining the student's vocational interest in the nominated area and reasons why the interest cannot be catered for locally. Evidence that the student is studying (or will study) courses in the nominated specialist curriculum area to a minimum of 400hrs in Stage 5 (Yrs 9 and 10), or 240 hrs in Stage 6 (Yrs 11 and 12).
C4	Letter of support from Principal of student's current school outlining the student's need for special provision. Evidence that the student is studying (or will study) courses in the nominated specialist curriculum area to a minimum of 400hrs in Stage 5 (Yrs 9 and 10), or 240 hrs in Stage 6 (Yrs 11 and 12).

Section D: Other family or student circumstances

To assist us, will you please tick the boxes to indicate any of the circumstances that are relevant to you, then attach any supporting documentation to your application before sending it to us.

Circumstance	Applies to you?	
	YES	NO
D1: The family is required to support one or more siblings of the student in a boarding situation away from home to access a secondary school.		
D2: The family is in receipt of or applying for other scholarships or allowances.		
D3: The student's sole caregiver is required to work and so cannot provide adequate supervision of the student before and after school hours.		
D4: Because of the student's ill-health, it is necessary for that student to board to access a government specialist secondary school.		
D5: A report from a counsellor or other significant source highlights specific student or family circumstances that need to be taken into account.		
D6: Special circumstances known to the Principal adversely affect the student's ability to access appropriate local secondary education.		
D7: Any other circumstance that you think should be considered in this application.		

Examples of the sort of evidence that could be used to support your application.

Circumstance	Evidence
D1	Name(s) and age(s) of sibling(s) and school(s) attended.
D2	Attached list of current or possible scholarships or allowances.
D3	A Statutory Declaration signed by the sole caregiver in the presence of a Justice of the Peace, setting out the relevant circumstances and reasons why supervision cannot be arranged.
D4	Letter or certificate from a relevant medical practitioner, setting out why a boarding situation is crucial to the management of the student's condition.
D5	Letter or other documentation from a counsellor or registered psychologist outlining the need for a boarding placement for the student.
D6	Statement of support by a Principal of a government school outlining the need for a boarding placement for the student (confidential matters need not be disclosed).
D7	A letter setting out the relevant circumstances.

CALCULATING ADJUSTED FAMILY INCOME

In 2007 the Adjusted Family Income threshold has been set at \$48,537.

Adjusted Family Income is the combined taxable income from all sources in the 2005 – 2006 tax year, of each person who will contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the student in 2007, less \$1,254 for a dependant spouse and \$924 for each dependant child (where applicable). If you have a question about this, please check with the Allowances Officer, Rural and Distance Education on (02) 6334 8075.

Your taxable income is the figure advised in the Notice of Assessment issued by the Australian Tax Office. The Notice of Assessment is normally attached to the tax refund cheque or is the form that advises you of any amount you owe the tax office. The Notice must be included with your application.

Averaging of income, as allowed by the Australian Tax Office is NOT acceptable for the calculation of adjusted family income. You must include the actual income received in the relevant financial year, prior to the deduction of a previous year's losses. Social security payments (Centrelink payments) are taxable and need to be included as income at (a).

Separated, divorced or single parents must disclose any maintenance or child support payments received from a spouse, former spouse or other parent of the student. These amounts should be included in the family income at (a) before any deductions are made.

Any other income (e.g., extraordinary circumstances payments or investment income) that must be included in a tax return must be declared at (a)

Worksheet

	An example	For your use
1. Taxable income from all sources		
Person 1:	\$26 554	
Person 2:	\$22 069	
Total family taxable income (a)	\$48 623	
2. Subtract deductions as applicable		
Dependant spouse	N/A	
Dependant child or children	(4 children) \$ 3 696	
Total deductions (b)	\$ 3 696	
Adjusted Family Income (a – b)	\$44 927	

Copies of taxation documents, or any other documents that show how you have calculated the Adjusted Family Income should be attached to your application to help us in processing your application.

Where particular circumstances mean that it would not be appropriate for us to consider the family's 2006 income (for example, where you know the 2007 income will be significantly lower than in 2006), you may apply on the basis of the current year's income, provided you can provide documentary evidence that supports this claim. If you wish to use this option please tick the box.

If you have a question about this, please check with the Allowances Officer, Rural and Distance Education, on (02) 6334 8075.

DECLARATIONS

To be completed by the person(s) making this application on behalf of the student.

NAME(s):

Mr/Ms/Mrs.....

Mr/Ms/Mrs Surname(s) First Name(s)

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:

..... POST CODE:

POSTAL ADDRESS (if different):

.....

..... POST CODE:

HOME TELEPHONE NO: WORK TELEPHONE NUMBER:

I am/ we are solely responsible for the student's education and boarding fees

I am/ we are responsible for the full support of the student

I/we will inform the Department of Education and Training immediately if, during the period for which the scholarship is approved, there are changes in my/our circumstances that could affect the student's eligibility for the scholarship.

The information on this form is true and accurate in all respects

Signature(s)

.....

Date

PRINCIPAL'S CERTIFICATION

Before payment of the scholarship can be made, we need to confirm that the student is attending the nominated school. Please ask the principal of the school that the student is attending in 2007 to sign the certificate on the back page before you send us the completed application form.

PAYMENT DETAILS

Payment is normally made to the parent/caregiver either by direct deposit or by cheque. Please use the form on the next page to indicate your preference.

PRINCIPAL'S CERTIFICATION

FOR STUDENTS AWARDED AN ACCESS SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND A SPECIALIST GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL OR TO BOARD AT A SCHOOL TERM HOSTEL TO ACCESS A GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL

Principal's certification

I Certify that:

_____ has enrolled at and is attending this school for a course of study
(name of scholarship holder)

leading to the School Certificate or Higher School Certificate.

Student's year level in 2007 _____

Principal's signature _____ Date _____

Name of School
