

NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL BOARDER SCHOLARSHIPS

**AT NSW GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOLS
FARRER HURLSTONE YANCO**

2007 INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORM

The NSW Government provides a number of scholarships for boarders at the state's three boarding agricultural high schools. The scholarships are available to assist needy and isolated rural students wishing to undertake full time schooling as a boarder at a state agricultural high school.

1. The scholarship value will be \$1560 per year.
2. The scholarships will be available for students from Years 7 to 12. Students must meet the conditions for enrolment at a state agricultural high school.
3. The scholarships will be available to students currently enrolled at an agricultural high school or successful new applicants provided they meet the eligibility criteria.
4. Where a prospective year 7 student has not secured enrolment at one of the agricultural high schools, a separate application should be sent to each school the student is prepared to attend.

General conditions of eligibility

Applicants must provide evidence of disadvantage because of a combination of low family income and geographic isolation.

To meet the basic criteria, applicants must be eligible for BOTH the NSW Secondary Students Living Away from Home Allowance (LAFHA), and the Commonwealth's Assistance for Isolated Children Allowance (AIC).

Families who do not meet these two basic criteria, but whose circumstances merit special consideration may also apply. The additional information that could be provided to support applications for scholarships provided through the contingency fund is detailed on pages 5–8.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Scholarship applications will be considered by a school selection committee. The school selection committee will consist of the principal, a staff representative and a nominee of the school's governing parent community body. The committee will have the power to co-opt additional members. The school selection committee will determine the distribution of the scholarships over Years 7 to 12
2. Each application must have attached a copy of the 2005/2006 assessment notice from the Australian Tax Office and evidence of isolation.
3. Each application must have attached documentation to support eligibility claims. The application form sets out examples of evidence for each section.
4. Scholarships normally continue whilst the student remains enrolled at the agricultural high school, provided that the student continues to meet eligibility conditions. Should a change to the student's family circumstances affect their eligibility for a scholarship during the period of a scholarship's tenure, the scholarship will be reviewed.
5. The residential agricultural high schools may be contacted as follows:

The Principal Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School 585 Calala Lane TAMWORTH 2340	The Principal Hurlstone Agricultural High School Roy Watts Rd GLENFIELD 2167	The Principal Yanco Agricultural High School Private Mail Bag YANCO 2703
Ph. 02 6720 9211	Ph. 02 9829 9222	Ph. 02 6951 1500

FEES

Tuition is free but the schools may charge varying amounts to cover services such as library, textbooks and sport. Fees to cover boarding cost are charged.

ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY: BASIC CRITERIA

To be considered, applicants must provide evidence of disadvantage because of a combination of **low family income** and **geographic isolation**. The basic criteria to be met are that the student is eligible for BOTH the NSW Secondary Students Living Away from Home Allowance (LAFHA), and the Commonwealth's Assistance for Isolated Children Allowance (AIC).

Enquiries concerning eligibility for the LAFHA and the AIC Allowance should be directed to the office administering the allowances, not to the school.

SECONDARY STUDENTS LIVING AWAY FROM HOME ALLOWANCE (LAFHA)

This scheme is administered by the NSW Department of Education and Training. 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)

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

	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		

	Yes	No
Do you believe that you will be eligible for the Commonwealth Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) in 2007?		

**If you have already established eligibility for both AIC and LAFHA, please attach documents to confirm this.
Go straight to the declarations on p10. You do not need to complete any other sections.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Applicants who have not met the basic criteria to establish eligibility for both AIC and LAFHA may wish to provide additional information to support an application for a scholarship from the contingency fund

In some instances the committee may consider applications from families who do not meet the two basic criteria, but whose circumstances merit consideration. Sections A and B explore additional information you may wish to provide in relation to income and isolation. In addition you may wish the committee to consider other factors, such as those in sections C and D.

To assist the committee, 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 the school.

Section A: Family Income

Circumstance	Tick if this applies to you
A1: Adjusted family income for 2005/2006 is between \$38,538 and \$48,536 (i.e., below LAFHA income test limit by \$1 to \$9,999).	
A2: Adjusted family income for 2005/2006 is between \$35,537 and \$28,538 (i.e., below LAFHA income test limit by \$10,000 to \$19,999).	
A3: Adjusted family income for 2005/2006 is between \$28,537 and \$18,538 (i.e., below LAFHA income test limit by \$20,000 to \$29,999).	
A4: Adjusted family income is \$18,537 or less (i.e., \$30,000 or more below LAFHA income test).	

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

Circumstance	Examples of 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' at the back of this form.

Section B: Geographic Isolation

Circumstance	Tick if this applies to you
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.	

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

Circumstance	Examples of 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.

Section C: School or curriculum requirements

Circumstance	Tick if this applies to you
C1: The student wishes to attend an agricultural high school specifically to study Agriculture at School Certificate or Higher School Certificate level.	
OR	
C2: The student is in Yrs 11 or 12 and has a strong vocational interest in Agriculture that is supported by attendance at a specialised agricultural high school.	

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

Circumstance	Examples of Evidence
C1 & C2	A statement from the principal of your nearest high school indicating that the agriculture subjects relevant to the student's current year level will not have a class formed in 2007.

Section D: Other family or student circumstances

Circumstance	Tick if this applies to you
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 student's sole caregiver is required to work and so cannot provide adequate supervision of the student before and after school hours.	
D3: Because of the student's ill-health, it is necessary for that student to board to access a government secondary school.	
D4: A report from a counsellor or other significant source highlights specific student or family circumstances that need to be taken into account.	
D5: Special circumstances known to the Principal adversely affect the student's ability to access appropriate local secondary education.	

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

Circumstance	Examples of Evidence
D1	Name(s) and age(s) of sibling(s) and school(s) attended.
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 school situation is crucial to the management of the student's condition.
D4	Letter or other documentation from a counsellor or registered psychologist outlining the need for a boarding placement for the student.
D5	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).

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.

DECLARATIONS

I/we wish the selection committee to take into account the following additional information in relation to this application and agree to provide appropriate documentation or to answer questions in relation to these matters if asked to do so by the school.

I/We understand:

1. That the funds from the scholarship are not transferable, and cannot be redeemed for cash.
2. If the student is awarded a scholarship, I/we accept responsibility for the payment to the school of the difference between the amount of the scholarship and the boarding fees set by the school.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____
Parent(s)/ Guardian(s)

Privacy Notice

The personal information provided on the Application Form is being obtained for the purpose of processing the student's application for the Boarder Scholarships. It will be used by the Department of Education and Training for scholarship administration and communication and other matters relating to the scholarship. Provision of this information is voluntary. This information will be stored securely. You may access or correct any personal information provided by contacting the school.

APPLICATIONS TO BE FORWARDED TO THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL

The Principal Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School 585 Calala Lane TAMWORTH 2340 Ph. 02 6720 9211	The Principal Hurlstone Agricultural High School Roy Watts Rd GLENFIELD 2167 Ph. 02 9829 9222	The Principal Yanco Agricultural High School Private Mail Bag YANCO 2703 Ph. 02 6951 1500
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------