



Moving away for high school with ABSTUDY

When a high school student needs to live away from home

Steps for getting help from ABSTUDY.

☐ Look into ABSTUDY

Watch Services Australia videos to learn how ABSTUDY can help your child succeed at high school. Find these at servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy

☐ Claim ABSTUDY

Call the Services Australia ABSTUDY line on **1800 132 317** to claim ABSTUDY for your child. Do this before you travel to the new school with your child.

☐ Give your school permission to talk with us

When you're far away, it can be easier if your school can talk to us about your child's ABSTUDY. You can tell us if this is ok when you're claiming ABSTUDY. Or, you can fill out a form.

☐ Go to open day activities at your child's new school

Let the school know that you want to come to their open day. The school will work with ABSTUDY to book travel and accommodation for you and your child. ABSTUDY covers the costs, but you need to claim ABSTUDY first.



☐ **Enrol your child**

Once you've enrolled your child, ABSTUDY works with your school or boarding provider to arrange payments.

☐ **Work out gap payments**

ABSTUDY may not cover all the boarding and school fees. If your child gets a scholarship from the school or from somewhere else, tell ABSTUDY.

☐ **Plan to travel to school**

To help your child settle in, you or another adult can travel with them for their first day of term. Your school will usually arrange this travel with ABSTUDY in advance. If your child is boarding privately, call ABSTUDY to organise travel.




ABSTUDY

Help for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Australians with the costs of study.

For more information

 servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy

 ABSTUDY line **1800 132 317**

Who can get ABSTUDY

When a high school student needs to live away from home

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students may get ABSTUDY payments.

What ABSTUDY payments students can get will depend on their situation, where they study and the type of study they do.

Some ABSTUDY payments are only for students who need to live away from home to go to high school.

For these payments, your child must have a reason why they need to live away from home.

Reasons why your child may need to live away from home

- ☒ the local school is too far away
- ☒ there's no local school for them to go to
- ☒ they have a scholarship to go to a school in another town
- ☒ their home conditions make it hard to study
- ☒ they can't go to the local school for some reason, like racism
- ☒ they're excluded from all local schools
- ☒ they have a disability, health condition or special education need
- ☒ they're doing an approved special course
- ☒ you're away a lot for work
- ☒ your home is in a particular remote area



To find out if your child might get ABSTUDY, call the ABSTUDY line on **1800 132 317**.



Before your child moves away, you may want to take them to an open day at the new school.

ABSTUDY helps you and your child visit the school before the school year starts. You must claim ABSTUDY first.

Other students can also get ABSTUDY. For example:

- primary school students aged 14 or older who live at home
- high school students who live at home
- TAFE and university students
- Australian Apprentices.




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How to get ABSTUDY

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To get ABSTUDY, your child needs to be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian.

If they're 15 or younger, you'll need to claim ABSTUDY for them.

If they're 16 or older, your child will need to claim.

Steps to claiming

- 1** Call ABSTUDY on **1800 132 317**.
- 2** Give ABSTUDY information about you and your child over the phone.
- 3** Tell ABSTUDY which school your child plans to go to. You can also tell us if it's ok to talk to the school about your child's ABSTUDY. This can make things easier for you.
- 4** Have your bank account details handy.
- 5** Send or upload documents if ABSTUDY asks you to.
- 6** Wait for a letter from ABSTUDY. It will tell you if your claim for ABSTUDY is approved.



How much you'll get

Some ABSTUDY payments don't have an income or assets test. For these payments, it doesn't matter how much you earn.

Other payments have an income and assets test. If you earn more than a set amount, your child will get less ABSTUDY payments. ABSTUDY will tell you how much you'll get after assessing your claim. Usually, payments for boarding and school fees will go straight to the school or hostel.

When you claim a payment with an income test, ABSTUDY will ask how much you and your partner earn. Your last Tax Notice of Assessment has these details. This is a document from the Australian Taxation Office.

When you should claim

Claim before you take your child to a high school orientation or open day.

OR

Claim in October in the year before your child starts at a boarding school.


Claim before you want to travel. This is so ABSTUDY can pay for your travel and a place to stay.

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How ABSTUDY helps students to succeed

When a high school student needs to live away from home



ABSTUDY helps students make the leap from primary school to living away from home for high school.

It can cost a lot to live away from home to study. That's why there are extra ABSTUDY payments.



Pays boarding fees

ABSTUDY helps with boarding fees so your child can live away from home to go to school. They could live in a boarding school, boarding house or hostel, or they could board privately.

ABSTUDY may not cover the full boarding fees. Talk to your child's school about other ways you could get help with fees.



Pays school fees

ABSTUDY also helps with school fees. This includes tuition fees, school subject fees and locker and book hire.



Pays living costs

If you get Family Tax Benefit for your child, this won't stop. You can keep getting it the whole time they get ABSTUDY as a boarding student.



Gets your child to school and home again

ABSTUDY pays for you to take your child to school and home again for holidays.

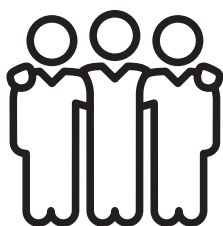


Keeps you connected to your child

You can visit your child's school when they have an important event like:

- a sporting event
- a school play
- an award ceremony
- a parent teacher interview.

You can also travel to the school if your child is at risk of dropping out or being expelled. This includes if they want to leave because they're homesick.



Keeps your child connected to family, community and culture

Your child can get trips for reasons like:


- cultural or community events
- Sorry Business
- family emergencies.

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