

NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BOARDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ISOLATED STUDENTS
2017
INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORM

Boarding Scholarships for Isolated Students assist eligible students from rural areas who are disadvantaged by a low family income and geographic isolation.

The scholarship will assist a student who:

- wishes to attend and board at a NSW government agricultural high school. Applicants in this category must have been accepted for enrolment, or be eligible for enrolment.
OR
- wishes to attend a specialist NSW government secondary school that conducts selection procedures and who would need to board away from home to do so. Applicants in this category must have been accepted for enrolment, or be eligible for enrolment.
OR
- needs to board at a school term hostel to access a NSW government secondary school.

General Conditions of Eligibility

1. Student must live in NSW. The student's primary carer must be a permanent resident of NSW.
2. Student must be in Years 7 to 12.

Applications for students who receive Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC), ABSTUDY or Youth Allowance from Centrelink will not be considered for the scholarship. The scholarships committee will take into account the amount of other educational assistance received by families when considering applications.

The scholarship is to be used to reduce the student's residential fees or the cost of boarding away from home. Scholarships are valued at \$4,980 in 2017.

The Selection Process

The number of scholarships available each year is limited. Scholarship applications will be subject to a competitive selection process, involving ranking by the scholarships committee on the basis of greatest need. In reaching their decisions, the committee will take into account:

- a) family income
- b) the relative geographic isolation of the family home
- c) specific family circumstances which, when combined with the family's rural location, seriously affect the student's access to secondary schooling.

Applications

The completed form should be forwarded to:

Rural and Distance Education
PO Box 717
BATHURST NSW 2795
Fax: 02 6334 8069 or by email to rde@det.nsw.edu.au.

For assistance telephone: 02 6334 8072

Closing Date

Applications will close on **24 March 2017**.

Documentation

Each application must have attached documentation to support eligibility claims. The application form provides examples of evidence.

To establish family income, each application **must** have attached a copy of the 2015/2016 assessment notice from the Australian Tax Office or equivalent documentation of income.

Renewal of Application

Where there is no change to any of the circumstances given in the original application, there is no need for the family to renew the application, unless specifically requested to do so by the Department of Education. Family income will be reviewed when the student enters Year 9 and again in Year 11.

The Rural and Distance Education office in Bathurst must be notified within 14 days of any changes in family circumstances from those given in this application. Failure to do this may cause the cancellation of the allowance. Notification should be in writing. If a scholarship is withdrawn because of a change in family circumstances, a *pro rata* arrangement will be used to determine the value of the scholarship paid.

The Income Test

To qualify in 2017, the family's adjusted income for the 2015/2016 financial year must not exceed \$86,775. An example of how to calculate your adjusted family income is given on page 10 of the application form. **Taxation assessment notices or equivalent documentation for income from the 2015/2016 tax year must accompany the application.**

Specialist NSW Government Secondary Schools

For the purposes of this scholarship scheme, a specialist NSW government secondary school is a government secondary school that conducts separate selection procedures, such as selective high schools, performing arts high schools and sports high schools. If you are seeking enrolment for the first time at a specialist NSW government secondary school, we suggest you contact the school to obtain details of their placement criteria and any special entry requirements.

Boarding

For the purposes of this scholarship scheme, 'boarding' or 'board' refers to a residential arrangement specifically entered into to allow a student to attend the nominated school on a full-time basis during the normal school year.

OTHER SCHEMES PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR BOARDING STUDENTS

There are two 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)

In 2017 the allowance is \$2,048 per annum with an additional \$471 for Year 11-12 students if they are geographically isolated.

This allowance is subject to an income test. The Adjusted Family Taxable Income for the year ending 30 June 2016 must not exceed \$66,775 to be eligible. Students who qualify for the Boarding Scholarship for Isolated Students may also be eligible for the Living Away from Home Allowance if their Adjusted Family Income is below the cut-off point and they meet distance or other conditions.

Enquiries may be directed to:

Rural & Distance Education
PO Box 717
BATHURST NSW 2795
Ph: 02 6334 8070

Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme (AIC)

AIC is a Commonwealth government scheme administered by Centrelink 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.

Boarding Scholarships for Isolated Students may be paid in addition to Living Away from Home Allowance, but students who qualify for Commonwealth allowances are not eligible.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

The personal information provided on this form entitled *Boarding Scholarships for Isolated Students (BSIS) 2017*, is being collected for the purpose of prioritising applications for BSIS scholarships to support students required to board in order to attend a NSW government school in 2017. It will be used by the Department of Education for matters relating to the processing of scholarship applications. The information provided on this form may be disclosed to other schools. While the provision of this information is voluntary, if you do not provide all or any of this information it may limit the Department's ability to give appropriate priority to your child's application. This information will be stored securely. You may access or correct any personal information provided by contacting the Rural and Distance Education office.

BOARDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ISOLATED STUDENTS (BSIS) 2017 APPLICATION FORM

CATEGORY OF SCHOLARSHIP

This application is for a scholarship to assist the student to
(Tick one)

- board at an Agricultural High School
or
 board away from home to attend a specialist government secondary school
or
 board at a school term hostel to attend a government secondary school

STUDENT DETAILS

Surname _____

Given Names _____

Date of Birth _____ School Attended in 2016 _____

Home Address _____

State _____ Post Code _____

School the student will be attending in 2017:

School Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Post Code _____

Student's Boarding Address for 2017 if different from above:

Address _____

State _____ Post Code _____

Please circle the school year the student is in for 2017 - Year 7 8 9 10 11 12

Has the student been accepted for enrolment at the nominated school (above)? Yes No

If No, what advice has been given to you by the nominated school to indicate that the student will be accepted for enrolment?

Name and address of the **nearest government secondary school** to the student's home address:

Name of Government School _____

School Address _____

PARENT/CARER DETAILS

Surname (parent 1) _____

Given Name (s) _____

Title: Mr. Mrs. Miss. Ms.

Surname (parent 2/partner) _____

Given Name (s) _____

Title: Mr. Mrs. Miss. Ms.

Residential Address _____

_____ State _____ Postcode _____

Postal Address (if different from above) _____

_____ State _____ Postcode _____

Home Telephone No () _____ Work Telephone No () _____

Email address _____

ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY

The following sections allow you to claim points that will be taken into account in ranking your application. Your claim for points will need to be supported by the relevant documentation listed in each section.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Commonwealth Allowances

Applications from families or students in receipt of Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC), ABSTUDY or Youth Allowance, paid by Centrelink, will not be considered for the Boarding Scholarships for Isolated Students. The Scholarship Committee will take into account the amount of other educational assistance received by families when ranking applications.

PLEASE INDICATE AND INITIAL IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY	yes/no	Initials
I have applied or intend to apply for Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC), Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY on behalf of the student.		
Will the student receive any other financial assistance (from any source) to cover educational costs during 2017? If yes, please give details, including the amount of any assistance.		

2. Essential criteria

To be considered for a scholarship, the applicant must be eligible for points under one of the income criteria **AND** one of the isolation criteria.

A. FAMILY INCOME

For guidance, see the section headed Calculating Adjusted Family Income on page 10

Circumstance (Select ONE of the following)	Points available	Points claimed	Documents attached (tick)
A1: Adjusted family income for 2015/2016 is between \$76,776 and \$86,775 OR	5		
A2: Adjusted family income for 2015/2016 is between \$66,776 and \$76,775 OR	10		
A3: Adjusted family income for 2015/2016 is between \$56,776 and \$66,775 OR	20		
A4: Adjusted family income for 2015/2016 is between \$46,776 and \$56,775 OR	30		
A5: Adjusted family income for 2015/2016 is between \$36,776 and \$46,775 OR	40		
A6: Adjusted family income for 2015/2016 is \$35,427 or less	50		
Points claimed at A. Family Income			

Relevant Documentation:

Section(s)	ESSENTIAL EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT YOUR CASE
A1 to A6	Statement from Australian Taxation Office or equivalent documentary evidence showing income from all sources. Please consult the section called 'Calculating Adjusted Family Income' on p10 of this form.

B. GEOGRAPHIC ISOLATION

To be considered, the applicant must be eligible for points under at least one of the isolation criteria below (B1 to B3). The Department will use the Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) to determine the remoteness of the student's home.

Applicants may claim points if:

1. the student's home address is in a community classified by ARIA as **Very Remote Australia (10.53 to 15.00)**
OR
2. the student's home address is in a community classified by ARIA as **Remote Australia (5.92 to 10.53)**
OR
3. the student's home address is in a community classified by ARIA as **Outer Regional Australia (2.40 to 5.92)**
OR
4. the student's home address is deemed as isolated by **extraordinary circumstance** by the committee

The ARIA site is available at: http://www.spatialonline.com.au/ARIA_2011/default.aspx

Please Note: If you wish, the Department can complete this process for you or help you with this process.

I would like the Department to consult ARIA on my behalf and allocate the appropriate points.

Contact the Rural and Distance Education Office on 02 6334 8072 for additional information.

Remoteness classification of student's home address (Select ONE only from B1 to B4)	Points available	Points claimed
B1: I have consulted ARIA. The student's home address is classified by ARIA as Very Remote Australia OR	40	
B2: I have consulted ARIA. The student's home address is classified by ARIA as Remote Australia OR	25	
B3: I have consulted ARIA. The student's home address is classified by ARIA as Outer Regional Australia OR	10	
B4: I would like the committee to consider my extraordinary circumstances of isolation as detailed below.	5	
Points claimed for B. Geographic Isolation		

Please indicate the distance from your home address to the nearest town _____

Please indicate your [Rural Addressing Number](#), if known _____

Rural Addressing identifies the location of rural properties. Your local council may provide further information.

Please indicate your extraordinary circumstance of isolation (B4) below:

C. OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES

To qualify for additional points in this section you are asked to provide a brief summary (maximum 250 words) of any specific circumstances that, when combined with the effects of your rural isolation, seriously impact on the student's ability to access local secondary education.

The Selection Committee will consider your submission and allocate points according to its assessment of the points you raise.

Your submission must include:

1. The distance from the student's home to the nearest government secondary school.
2. The mode or modes of transport available to the student to enable them to attend the nearest government secondary school and the normal one-way travelling time for the daily journey.

The following should be included if relevant:

3. Is the family required to support one or more siblings of the student in a boarding situation away from home to access a secondary school?
4. Is the student's sole carer required to work and so cannot provide adequate supervision of the student before and after school hours?
5. Does the student's ill-health make it necessary for that student to board to access a particular government secondary school?
6. Are there other special circumstances that make it necessary for this student to board away from home to attend a government secondary school?

You may also include:

7. Evidence of the student's out-of-school participation or credentials in a particular educational field.
8. Evidence of the student's need for a particular subject or course in order to meet an established occupational or career goal.
9. Other exceptional circumstances.

Relevant documents (e.g., a doctor's certificate or copy of a credential held by the student) could be attached to the statement.

Office Use Only

<i>Points confirmed for A. Family Income</i>	
<i>Points confirmed for B. Geographic isolation</i>	
<i>Points allocated by selection Committee for C. Other Circumstances</i>	
<i>Total points for this applicant</i>	

CALCULATING ADJUSTED FAMILY INCOME

In 2017 the Adjusted Family Income threshold has been set at \$86,775.

Adjusted Family Income is the combined taxable income from all sources in the 2015/2016 tax year, of each person who will contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the student in 2017, less \$1,725 for a dependent spouse and \$1,272 for each dependent child (where applicable). If you have a question about this, please check with the Allowances Officer, Rural and Distance Education, on telephone (02) 6334 8072.

Your taxable income is the figure advised in the **Notice of Assessment** issued by the **Australian Taxation 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.

This Notice must be included with your application.

Averaging of income, as allowed by the Australian Taxation 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.

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 as well as any defacto/partnership incomes. These amounts must be included in the family income before any deductions are made.

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

Dependent Children – Please insert details of dependent children

Surname	Given Name	DOB	School attending 2016 (If applicable)	Receiving LAFHA in 2017
				Yes, No or NA
				Yes, No or NA
				Yes, No or NA
				Yes, No or NA
				Yes, No or NA

Request for Assessment on Current Year's Income

Where particular circumstances mean that it would not be appropriate for us to consider the family's 2015/2016 income (for example, where you know the 2016/2017 income will be significantly lower than in the 2015/2016 financial year), you may apply on the basis of the current year's income, provided you can provide documentary evidence that supports this claim. Minimum documentation would be:

- a) tax assessments for the 2015/2016 financial year, plus
- b) a letter from your accountant stating your anticipated taxable income for 2016/2017. Please note that a student in their final year of schooling would **not** receive the scholarship under the current year's income provision. If you wish to use this option please tick the box below.

- I wish to be assessed on the current year's income. I understand that I will be required to repay any scholarship received if my actual income for the current year exceeds the threshold and my child is not eligible for the scholarship in the student's final year of schooling

If you have a question about this, please check with the Rural and Distance Education office on telephone (02) 6334 8072.

The worksheet below is to be completed by all applicants

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

Taxation Notice of Assessments <i>must</i> be attached	Worksheet	
	An example	For your use
Taxable income from ALL sources		<i>This must be completed</i>
Person 1	\$46,554	\$
Person 2	\$20,069	\$
Other income including any additional payments e.g., child support payments, etc	\$ 400	\$
Total family taxable income (1)	\$67,023	\$
Subtract deductions as applicable		
Dependent spouse @ \$1,725	N/A	\$
Dependent child or children @ \$1,272 /child	(4 children) \$5,088	\$
Total deductions (2)	\$5,088	\$
Adjusted Family Income (1 minus 2)	\$61,935	\$

DECLARATIONS

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

1. I/We am/are responsible for the student's education fees and boarding fees
2. I/We am/are responsible for the full support of the student
3. I/We will inform the Rural & Distance Education office (PO Box 717, Bathurst) within 14 days of changes to any of the information given on this application during the period for which the scholarship is approved.
4. If I/we have asked to be assessed on the current year's income, I/we undertake to repay any scholarship received if actual income for the current year exceeds the estimate, and will provide taxation documentation to the Rural & Distance Education office every year my child is eligible for the scholarship.
5. I agree to notify the Rural and Distance Education office immediately if the student becomes eligible for any Commonwealth assistance.
6. The information on this application is true and accurate in all respects.

Parent(s)/Carer(s) _____
Print name

Print name

Parent(s)/Carer(s) _____
Signature

Signature

Date / / 2017

DECLARATION

To be completed by the Principal.

I support the application for _____ for the Boarding Scholarship for Isolated Students.

Signature _____

Date _____

PAYMENT DETAILS – AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOLS

Scholarships to support boarding at a government agricultural high school will be directly credited to the student's boarding account at the school and cannot be used for any other purpose.

PAYMENT DETAILS – OTHER SCHOOLS

If this application is for a scholarship to support a student boarding at a school term hostel or boarding to attend a government specialist secondary school, please give full details of the person who is to receive the payment.

Bank account details (for direct credit of payments)

BSB _____ A/C number _____ Bank _____

OR by cheque to: Name of recipient _____

Postal Address:

Contact telephone numbers: _____ Day _____ After hours