

Student assistance schemes – policy

Contents

1. Policy	3
2. Business need	3
3. Scope	3
3.1. Boarding.....	3
3.1.1. Within the Northern Territory.....	3
3.1.2. Interstate.....	3
3.2. Daily transport to and from school.....	3
3.3. Distance education.....	4
3.4. University or higher education.....	4
4. Grandfather clause	4
5. Roles and responsibilities	4
6. Definitions	4
7. Related legislation, resources and documents	5
7.1. Departmental.....	5
7.2. Northern Territory.....	5
7.3. Other.....	5

1. Policy

The Department of Education (the department) is committed to ensuring that all children residing in the Northern Territory have choice and access to quality education and are not disadvantaged by distance or isolation.

Financial assistance may be available to help geographically isolated families whose child or children live away from home to attend school, college or university, access distance education or for daily transport to and from school.

The department is responsible for administering the Student assistance schemes including assessment of applications, processing claims and making payments to approved applicants. Each scheme or allowance has different eligibility criteria which are outlined in the Student assistance schemes guidelines and procedures.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Student assistance schemes guidelines and procedures.

2. Business need

The Student assistance schemes policy and its associated guidelines and procedures have been developed to provide clear information to stakeholders on the financial support available to families and how to access that support under the schemes. The policy and guidelines outline the eligibility criteria, assessment conditions and due dates for each scheme and stakeholder responsibilities.

3. Scope

This policy supports eligible geographically isolated students residing in the Northern Territory to access educational facilities by providing a range of schemes and allowances which are outlined below.

3.1. Boarding

These schemes and allowances are available for geographically isolated students who must live away from home to attend school in the Northern Territory or interstate.

3.1.1. Within the Northern Territory

- Isolated students education allowance, for boarding institutions.
- Intrastate boarding allowance.

3.1.2. Interstate

- Interstate boarding allowance.

3.2. Daily transport to and from school

This scheme is available to help geographically isolated students with daily transport to and from school:

- remote transit subsidy.

3.3. Distance education

This scheme is available to geographically isolated students who attend a School of the Air, Northern Territory School of Distance Education or other correspondence and distance education:

- distance education allowance

3.4. University or higher education

These schemes are available to eligible students who attend university or higher education away from home in the Northern Territory or interstate:

- tertiary fares reimbursement scheme – interstate
- tertiary fares reimbursement scheme – Northern Territory.

4. Grandfather clause

In December 2022 a review of the Student assistance schemes was conducted and a new suite of allowances were developed.

The grandfather clause is applicable to eligible students who were approved in 2022; and who have been impacted financially by a decrease against their 2022 entitlement under the new schemes. Please contact Financial Services to determine eligibility and apply Studentassistance.det@education.nt.gov.au

5. Roles and responsibilities

Refer to the Student assistance schemes guidelines and procedures.

6. Definitions

Term	Definition
Considerable distances	Any distance in excess of 5km for geographically isolated students in remote localities.
Distance education	Is provided by a school or facility offering an alternative program to students who cannot attend a government school in person due to being geographically isolated or students with a disability.
Eligible students	A student who meets all conditions of a scheme to which they are making an application or claim.
Geographically isolated	Primary residence is more than 5km from the nearest school, and in localities defined in Determination 8 of 2015, Remote Locality Provisions pursuant to the <i>Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993</i> .
Remote locality	As defined by Determination 8 of 2015, Remote Locality Provisions pursuant to the <i>Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993</i> , but not limited to Determination 8. Any variation will be at the discretion of a Director of Financial Services.
Student	A child enrolled and attending an approved educational facility on a full-time basis.

7. Related legislation, resources and documents

7.1. Departmental

Northern Territory Government's Student assistance schemes guidelines and procedures - <https://nt.gov.au/learning/student-financial-help-and-scholarships/financial-help-for-isolated-students>

7.2. Northern Territory

Education Act 2015 - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/EDUCATION-ACT-2015>

Education Regulations 2015 - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/EDUCATION-REGULATIONS-2015>

Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993 - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/PUBLIC-SECTOR-EMPLOYMENT-AND-MANAGEMENT-ACT-1993>

Public Sector Employment and Management Regulations 2011 - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/PUBLIC-SECTOR-EMPLOYMENT-AND-MANAGEMENT-REGULATIONS-2011>

Determination 8 of 2015, Remote Locality Provisions - <https://ocpe.nt.gov.au/employment-law/determinations>

7.3. Other

Australian Bureau of Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI) - <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/consumer-price-index-concepts-sources-and-methods/2018>

Australian Government Aboriginal Study (ABSTUDY) Assistance Scheme - <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy>

Australian Government Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme - <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/assistance-for-isolated-children-scheme>

Australian Government Australian Study (Austudy) Assistance Scheme - <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/austudy>

Australian Government Youth Allowance Assistance Scheme - <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/youth-allowance>

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