

How ABSTUDY can help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

An Easy Read guide



How to use this guide

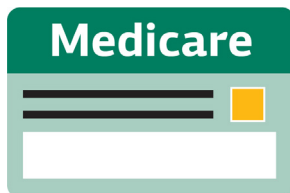


Services Australia wrote this guide.
When you see the word 'we', it means
Services Australia.

Services Australia includes:



- Centrelink



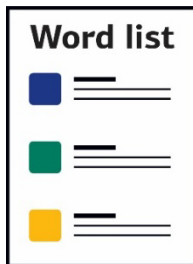
- Medicare



- Child Support.



We wrote this guide in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.



We've written some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There's a list of these words on page 23.



You can ask for help to read this guide.

A friend, family member or support person
may be able to help you.



This document includes photos of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



It may contain images of people who have
passed away.

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What is this guide about?



This guide is about **ABSTUDY**.



ABSTUDY is support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

This includes students who are doing an **apprenticeship**.



An apprenticeship is when someone learns how to do a job while they are at work.

For example, as a builder or hairdresser.



It can help them with the costs of:

- studying
- training.

In this guide, we explain:



- what ABSTUDY is



- what ABSTUDY can help students pay for



- how to claim ABSTUDY.

What is ABSTUDY?

Who can get it?



Students who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander can get ABSTUDY.



They must be studying.

There are 5 types of study they can do.



1. Students can be in primary school.

But they must be 14 years or older.



2. Students can be in high school.



3. Students can go to university.



4. Students can go to TAFE.

Or other places where you can learn.



5. Students can do an apprenticeship **full-time**.

When someone works full-time, they work at least 38 hours each week.

To get ABSTUDY payments, students can live:



- at home



- away from home.

What are the types of support?



Students can get different types of ABSTUDY support.

They can also get different amounts of money.

It will depend on:



- where they live



- where they are studying or training



- what type of studying or training they do.



There is ABSTUDY support for students who live at home.



There is also ABSTUDY support for students who need to live away from home to study.



For this support, the student must have a reason why they need to live away from home.

It needs to be on a list of approved reasons.

For example, if:



- their school or university is too far away



- their home life makes it hard for them to study



- the course they want to study isn't at their local school or university.

What does ABSTUDY help students pay for?



ABSTUDY can help students pay for lots of different **expenses**.



Expenses are things you need to buy or pay for.

School fees



High school students can use ABSTUDY to help pay for school fees.

This can include fees for:



- school subjects



- doing exams.



Students can use ABSTUDY to help pay for general school fees.

For example, hiring a locker or books.



Students can also use ABSTUDY if they live in a **boarding home**:

- at their school
- close to their school.



A boarding home is a building that has rooms for **rent**.



Your rent is the money you pay to live in a home you don't own.



If a student lives in a boarding home, ABSTUDY can also help pay for their day-to-day living costs.

For example, meals.

Learning and training fees

Students can use ABSTUDY if they move from school to:



- university



- TAFE



- other types of study

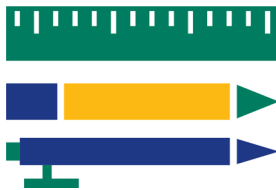


- an apprenticeship.

This can include:



- study expenses, for things like programs or services



- costs for supplies, like books or pens.

Living costs



Students can use ABSTUDY to help pay for day-to-day living costs.

These costs can include:



- rent



- groceries.

Travel fees



Students can use ABSTUDY to help pay for their travel when they live away from home.



They can also use ABSTUDY when they need to stay somewhere else for a short time to go to an activity.

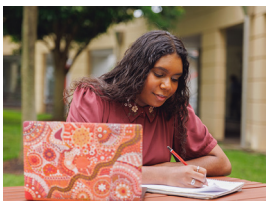
Students might need to travel away from home for:



- school



- TAFE



- university



- other types of study.



They might need to travel to where they will study for the start of classes.



Or they might need to visit where they will study before they become a student there.



Students might also travel back home to visit their families:

- for the holidays
- at the end of the year.



They might also travel back home to go to a **cultural** event.

Your culture is:



- what is important to you
- your connection to Country and the community
- your beliefs
- your way of life.

If a student lives away from home, ABSTUDY can help them stay connected to their:



- families



- community



- culture.

Family visits



Students can use ABSTUDY to help pay for their family to visit when they have an award ceremony, like graduation.

High school students can ask their family to visit them for an important event, including:



- sport activities



- a school play



- a parent-teacher interview.



Their family might also visit for an important reason.

For example, if their student needs to have a meeting because they are at risk of not finishing high school.



Or because their high school student feels upset that they are far away from home.

How to claim ABSTUDY



If a student is 15 years or younger, their parent or **guardian** can claim ABSTUDY.



A guardian is a person who acts and makes decisions for you.

16+



If a student is 16 years or older, they can claim ABSTUDY on their own.



To claim ABSTUDY, the:

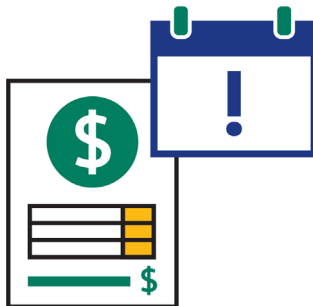
- student needs to call us
- parent or guardian needs to call us.



1800 132 317



We can work out what supports the student can get.



If the student has already started their studying or training, make sure you claim before the end of the year.



For more information about ABSTUDY, you can visit our website.

www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy

Word list

ABSTUDY



ABSTUDY is support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

This includes students who are doing an apprenticeship.

It can help them with the costs of:

- studying
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Apprenticeship

An apprenticeship is when someone learns how to do a job while they are at work.

For example, as a builder or hairdresser.



Boarding home

A boarding home is a building that has rooms for rent.

Cultural

Your culture is:

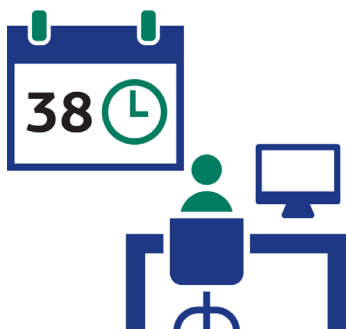


- what is important to you
- your connection to Country and the community
- your beliefs
- your way of life.



Expenses

Expenses are things you need to buy or pay for.



Full-time

When someone works full-time, they work at least 38 hours each week.



Guardian

A guardian is a person who acts and makes decisions for you.



Rent

Your rent is the money you pay to live in a home you don't own.



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