**Transcript: ABSTUDY for high school students living away from home**

Going to a new school away from home is a big step.

A student might need to live away from home to go to high school for a number of reasons. There may be no school nearby, they might not be able to go to the local school or they might have a scholarship from a boarding school.

ABSTUDY can help.

ABSTUDY is available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians at high school to help with the cost of education and training.

If your child is starting high school and has to live away, you may be eligible for ABSTUDY to help with things like travel, school fees and boarding fees.

It can cover travel for you and your child to go to interviews, orientation activities and open days.

It can also help with the cost of travel to school each term and travel home for the school holidays or to attend important events in your community.

You should claim ABSTUDY before your child starts high school and even earlier if they do need to travel to go to an open day or orientation.

If your child is 15 or younger, you can claim the payment for them. If they’re 16 or older, they can claim it themselves.

As long as your child needs to live away from home to study, you can get ABSTUDY and Family Tax Benefit at the same time up until they turn 19.

The easiest way to claim is over the phone – ABSTUDY staff will help you work out what you or your child might be able to get.

For more information go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy or call us on 1800 132 317.