

Prepare families to claim ABSTUDY for high school now

As a member of the school community, you play an important role in helping your primary school students make the leap to high school.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students can get support with their move to high school from ABSTUDY.

What is ABSTUDY

ABSTUDY supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, trainees and apprentices.

Parents or guardians can get ABSTUDY for their child from the start of high school.

Some ABSTUDY payments are only for students who need to live away from home to study. For example, ABSTUDY can pay for these students and their parents to go to orientation visits at high schools. This can help a parent choose a school. It can also help a student get used to the idea of living away from home.

ABSTUDY can also help parents of high school students who need to live away from home with:

- school fees
- boarding fees
- travel costs
- living expenses.

Who can get ABSTUDY

Students who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians can get ABSTUDY while they study.

To get ABSTUDY payments as a boarding student, students must have a reason why they need to live away from home. It should be one of the following reasons:

- 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
- their parents are away a lot for work
- their home is in a particular remote area.

Students may also get ABSTUDY if they're in one of the following different situations:

- a high school student living at home
- a primary school student aged 14 or older
- at TAFE, University or a student with a private provider.

Parents who already get Family Tax Benefit (FTB) won't lose their payment. Parents can get ABSTUDY and FTB at the same time, usually until their child turns 16. If their child needs to live away from home to study, they can get both payments until the student turns 19 or completes highschool.

How families get ABSTUDY

A parent or guardian needs to claim ABSTUDY on behalf of their child. They should do this when their child is near the end of primary school.

To claim, call the Services Australia ABSTUDY line on **1800 132 317**.

They need to do this either:

- before they take their child to an orientation or open day
- as early as October in the year before their child starts high school.

What you can do to help families prepare

Promote ABSTUDY by sharing posters and factsheets. You can also encourage the parents and guardians of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to claim ABSTUDY before their child starts high school.

For more information

Find more resources to share with parents and students from the Services Australia website, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudyresources