# How to avoid an ABSTUDY debt

When a high school student needs to live away from home.

Things could change in your life. This can affect how much ABSTUDY we can pay you.

It’s important you tell us within 14 days if something changes for you or your child. If you don’t tell us, we may pay you too much ABSTUDY. This means you’ll get a debt which you’ll need to pay back.

## What to tell us about

You need to tell us if any of these things happen:

* your child changes schools
* your child can’t go to school for two or more weeks for some reason
* your child stops studying away from home
* your child starts living with another parent or guardian
* you move house or towns
* you start or stop jobs or your income changes
* your child aged 16 or older starts earning money
* you start a new relationship or separate from your partner.

## How to tell us

You can let us know about these changes by calling the ABSTUDY line on 1800 132 317.

You can also tell us about some changes using either your:

* Centrelink online account through myGov
* Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

ABSTUDY — Help for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians with the costs of study.

## For more information

* [servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy)
* ABSTUDY line 1800 132 317

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