



# Budget 2026-27

This information is accurate as of 12 May 2026.

## Education Portfolio – schools reform

CATEGORY: Education

The Startup Year is an Australian Government program that supports students to participate in Startup Year courses at Australian universities. It gives final year and post-graduate students access to a STARTUP-HELP loan through the Higher Education Loan Program to undertake a business-focused year of tertiary study.

Due to low take-up of the loan, the Startup Year program will be discontinued, resulting in savings to the Budget of about \$2.8 million per year.

This measure is led by the Department of Education.

Services Australia will support this measure by removing references to Startup Year courses from student payments such as Youth Allowance, Austudy and ABSTUDY.

Services Australia will get \$2.9 million over 4 financial years to implement this measure.

This measure is subject to legislation passing.

### Who this measure affects

This affects students who were planning to undertake a Startup Year course.

### When this starts and finishes

This measure starts on 1 July 2026 and ends on 30 June 2027.