

Youth Allowance

This information relates to rural and remote students intending to study full-time and who intend to apply for Youth Allowance. It is current as of November, 2017.

It is a guide only – please visit <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/youth-allowance> or phone the Youth Allowance dedicated line **13 24 90** for more information and assistance.

Everyone’s situation is different. To determine if you may be eligible for Youth Allowance this estimator can be used to give you an idea of what assistance may be available. https://www.centrelink.gov.au/custsite_pfe/pymtfinderest/paymentFinderEstimatorPage.jsf?wec-appid=pymtfinderest&wec-locale=en_US#stay. We encourage families not to self- assess their situation and contact Centrelink for further information.

For ABSTUDY applicants please visit <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/abstudy>

	DEPENDENT YOUTH ALLOWANCE	INDEPENDENT YOUTH ALLOWANCE
Age Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-24 studying full-time • 16-17 completed Year 12 and need to live away from home to study or considered independent for Youth Allowance • 16-24 undertaking full-time Australian Apprenticeship 	
Eligibility	<p>Eligibility criteria for dependent Youth Allowance are based on your age, course you are studying, residence requirements and parental income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studying full-time in an approved course or undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship • An Australian resident • Parents/guardians income is below the threshold for eligibility (Parental Means test) 	<p>Independent Youth Allowance - Independence through part-time work or earnings for rural and remote students:</p> <p>Since leaving secondary school a student has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • earned at least 75 per cent of Wage Level A of the National Training Wage Schedule, in a 14 month period since leaving school (from 1 January 2018) OR • earned at least 75 per cent of Wage Level A of the National Training Wage Schedule, in a 18 month period since leaving school (up to 31 December 2017) • worked part-time (at least 15 hours each week) for at least 2 years <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your combined parental income is less than \$150,000 in the base tax year or in the current tax year if their income has changed substantially, and • you are a full-time student and must live away from home to study, and • Your family home is in an inner regional, outer regional, remote or very remote area using the Student Regional Area Search service. <p>You are automatically deemed to be independent if you are 22 years and older.</p>
	<p>Parental Income Test includes combined taxable income, child support payments, fringe benefit tax entitlements, reportable super contributions, net investment losses and tax free pensions and benefits. There is also a Maintenance Income Test.</p> <p>To receive the full dependent Youth Allowance payment rate, your parents’ income needs to be below the threshold (currently \$51,903). For income above the threshold (\$51,903), the dependent rate of Youth Allowance is</p>	<p>When claiming Youth Allowance a Personal or Combined Assets Test and Personal or Partner Income Test will be applied. There is a liquid asset waiting period - if you have more than \$5,500 in funds available to access when you make a claim, this will be taken into account when identifying the start date of payment. Currently, a liquid assets waiting period can be for 1-13 weeks. Once approved, scholarships (equity and merit-based) are included in the income test with \$7,904 being exempt from the test; any amount above this is</p>

	<p>paid on a sliding scale and varies depending on how many children are in the family and whether they are required to live away from home to undertake study. This is called the Family Pool. This means that when there is an additional dependent child or children in your family pool, you may become eligible for Youth Allowance or if you're already getting Youth Allowance, your payment may increase.</p> <p><u>Dependent</u> children can be included in the family pool if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are receiving YA, ABSTUDY (Living Allowance) or income tested School Fees Allowance Group 2, or • they are defined as an FTB child or regular care child, • Assistance for Isolated Children Additional Boarding Allowance is being paid for them, or • they are 16 to 19 years of age and attending secondary school <p>The Personal Income Test may also be used to work out your payment rate. Each year an annual reassessment of your parents' or guardians' income is undertaken to ensure you are still eligible for dependent Youth Allowance.</p>	<p>classified as income and may affect your rate of payment.</p> <p>Note: the test applied each fortnight can vary and is determined by the test which results in the greatest reduction of the student's payment for that fortnight.</p>
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<p>Other services</p>	<p>If you are eligible to receive \$1 of either dependent or independent Youth Allowance, you may also be eligible to receive Rent Assistance, Fares Allowance, a Low Income Health Care Card and Relocation Scholarship. A full list of related payments and services is available on the Youth Allowance home page.</p> <p>Start-up Loan – a voluntary income contingent loan to assist students with the cost of study including text books, internet and computers. Currently paid at the beginning of each semester and in 2017, is \$1,035 per semester. Repayments are paid through the ATO (after HELP debts are paid) once your income exceeds the minimum repayment threshold.</p>	<p>If you are eligible to receive \$1 of either dependent or independent Youth Allowance, you may also be eligible to receive Rent Assistance, Fares Allowance, a Low Income Health Care Card and Relocation Scholarship. A full list of related payments and services is available on the Youth Allowance home page.</p> <p>Start-up Loan – a voluntary income contingent loan to assist students with the cost of study including text books, internet and computers. Currently paid at the beginning of each semester and in 2017, is \$1,035 per semester. Repayments are paid through the ATO (after HELP debts are paid) once your income exceeds the minimum repayment threshold.</p>
	<p>Relocation Scholarship \$4,376 - 1st year, \$2,189 - 2nd year and \$1,094 - 3rd and following years – for Dependent Youth Allowance ONLY.</p>	

Additional Information
Youth Allowance dedicated phone line for information and assistance with application **Ph. 13 24 90**

Websites
Youth Allowance <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/youth-allowance>
National Training Wage Schedule <http://guides.dss.gov.au/guide-social-security-law/1/1/n/12>
Student Regional Area Search https://www.centrelink.gov.au/custsite_sras/sras/regionalAreaPage.jsf?wec-appid=sras&wec-locale=en
Family Pool <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/enablers/income-and-assets-test-youth-allowance>
Proof of Identity <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/confirmation-identity>
Facebook Student Update Page <https://www.facebook.com/studentupdate> 'like' this Facebook page to receive updates and reminders about student payments.
Study Assist <http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/StudyAssist/> Information for students about government assistance for financing tertiary study
Apprentices <https://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au>
Payment Estimator https://www.centrelink.gov.au/custsite_pfe/pymtfinderest/paymentFinderEstimatorPage.jsf?wec-appid=pymtfinderest&wec-locale=en_US#stay

Notes

- Customers facing financial hardship can contact the department, for assistance, **Ph. 13 24 90**. Customers can also request to speak with a department social worker for additional information and support.
- Students who have an “intention” to study in the next available study period i.e. semester, can lodge a claim for income support payments up to 13 weeks prior to the commencement date of their course. This includes young people who are transitioning from secondary school to tertiary study or people who have had a break in study e.g. they have taken a gap year and at the time of claim, are unsure what course or what institution they will be studying at in the following study period, until they receive their letter of offer from a university.
- Once you know your new course details, you need to advise the Department of Human Services within 14 days so these details can be updated accordingly and your payments can commence/continue uninterrupted.
- Students must ensure they have provided the department with all the required supporting paperwork required for their claim, as any delay in supplying necessary documentation can lead to a delay in payment.

ALL Youth Allowance applicant customers

Information required from customers claiming Youth Allowance who are starting study or an Australian Apprenticeship

- **Proof of identity documents** e.g. Birth certificate, Passport, Driver’s licence, Bank/ATM card, Secondary student ID card (for customers under 18), School reports.
NOTE: To register for online services (**MyGov**), the applicant will need to present to a Centrelink office and provide photo ID such as: Passport, Driver’s licence, secondary student ID card (for customers under 18). Applicants need to provide **one** document from each of the following three categories and **one** should be a **photographic identity document**:
 - 1 Commencement of Identity document e.g. Birth certificate,
 - 1 Primary use in Community document e.g. Driver’s licence,
 - 1 Secondary Use in Community document e.g. Bank/ATM card.
- **Bank account number** where payments are to be made (if customer is under 18 they will need an account number in their parents name)
- **Income and assets details**
 - Bank account numbers for all accounts in your name and balances from the date of claim
 - Current market value and any amounts owing on all your assets e.g. household contents and personal effects, vehicle, furniture
 - Current employment details, including employer’s name, ABN, hours works and fortnightly income
 - Details of any other financial investments e.g. shares, bonds, money on loan to other people, managed investments
 - Details of income from any other sources
 - Employment separation certificate if you have ceased work within the last 12 months (only for person claiming the payment)
- **Tax file number**
- **Study details**
 - Current course details, including name of institution, student ID number, exact course title and course code and expected start and finish dates
 - Details of previous study either completed or attempted at the same level e.g. official academic transcripts
- **Accommodation details** for your current home address **and** your term address if you are, or plan to, live away from home to study
- **Partner’s income and assets details**, where applicable (same information as requested above for customer)
- **Australian Apprenticeship Commonwealth Registration Number (CRN)** if you are an apprentice or trainee (your claim cannot be granted without this)

Dependent Youth Allowance applicant customers (only)	
Information required from Parents for dependant customers	<p>If an applicant is under 22 years of age and does not meet any of the independence criteria, they will be considered dependent for Youth Allowance. As a dependant, their parents' income may impact their eligibility and rate of payment. Parents will be required to complete and provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOD JY form for parental Income https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/forms/mod-jy. This can also be done online after the student has made a claim at https://www.centrelink.gov.au/custsite_api/api/adviseParentalIncomePage.jsf?wec-appid=api&wec-locale=en_US#stay • Tax Notice of Assessment (NOA) for the base and the current tax year for natural and/or adoptive parent with whom the Youth Allowance customer currently lives with or previously lived with; or • If the customer also lives with a step parent, please also provide their NOA (if applicable). • If both or either parents have not yet received their Tax Notice of Assessment, they will need to provide an estimate as well as the expected date their NOA will be available. • Documentation to verify foreign income from outside Australia (if applicable).
Independent Youth Allowance applicant customers (only)	
Information required if claiming Independence due to work for regional or remote customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters from each employer within the assessment time frame including all hours worked for the entire assessment period e.g. 18 months. • Payslips, payroll reports, letter or payment summaries (group certificates). These must show the weekly hours the customer has worked and period of employment for the entire assessment time frame e.g. 18 months. • Proof that their parental income in the appropriate tax year is less than \$150,000 (please see list in table above). • The date the applicant last left secondary school. This is the later of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the last date they were considered to be enrolled, or ▪ The date of their last exam, if this completed all requirements for their course. <p>Self-supporting criteria for Regional or Remote Customers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where they have been employed within a 14 month period (from 1 January 2018) since the person last left secondary school with cumulative earnings that total at least 75% of Wage Level A of the National Training Wage schedule or; • Where they have had part-time employment of at least 15 hours per week for at least two years since the person last left secondary school. <p>NOTE: This can include periods of overseas employment, periods on paid leave, periods of unpaid leave due to an employer being shut down that are outside the control of the customer, periods engaged in a full-time Australian Apprenticeship or traineeship and periods when receiving Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) wages.</p>
Information required if claiming Independence due to work for Youth Allowance customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters from each employer within the assessment time frame including all hours worked for the entire assessment period e.g. 18 months. • Payslips, payroll reports, letter or payment summaries (group certificates). These must show the weekly hours the customer has worked and period of employment for the entire assessment time frame e.g. 18 months. <p>Self-supporting criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time paid employment (30 hours per week) – customer needs to have worked at least 18 months within any two year period. Where the work has not been consistently been 30 hours per week it can be averaged over periods of a maximum of 13 weeks. <p>NOTE: This is not an exhaustive list. However, it includes the information most commonly required to support Youth Allowance claims for both dependent and independent customers.</p>