



**Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia
ICPA (Aust)**

Tertiary Access Research

May 2013

Including:
Executive Summary
Methodology
National Perspective
Appendix

Jane Morton
Federal Secretary
ICPA (Aust)
505 Ryeford-Pratten Road, MS 422
CLIFTON QLD 4361
Phone: (07) 4695 8513
FedSecretary@icpa.com.au

Judy Newton
Federal President
ICPA (Aust)
'Malabar'
WALGETT NSW 2832
Phone: (02) 68293987
FedPresident@icpa.com.au

www.icpa.com.au

rpms swirl

Scott Carpenter
Jaime Codner

Rural Press Marketing Services

123 Greenhill Road, Unley SA 5061 * GPO Box 2249, Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone (08) 8372 5234 * Facsimile (08) 8373 0451 * Mobile 0408 508 081
Email scott.carpenter@fairfaxmedia.com.au





<i>Page</i>	<i>Description</i>
5 - 8	Executive Summary
9 - 12	Survey Methodology
13	Research Confidence
15 – 32	Tables of Key Findings
33 – 44	Appendices



Executive Summary

Purpose

This survey was commissioned by the Federal Council of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia (ICPA Aust.) as a means to examine the key factors that limit the ability of many young people from rural and remote areas of Australia, to access tertiary education.

Rationale

Engaging in tertiary education, at an institution of choice, should be an option for all young Australians. However, many students living in rural and remote areas are still being denied the right of access to tertiary education due to their inability to meet relocation, tuition and living expenses. ICPA believes that the current government measure for student income support - Youth Allowance - does not adequately recognise the extra costs incurred by many rural and remote students when compared to the costs incurred by their urban counterparts.

Methodology

The method of data collection was through a survey formulated by Rural Press Marketing Services in consultation with ICPA Federal Council. The survey was distributed electronically in mid April 2013. Distribution was via email, containing a hyperlink to the online survey, to all ICPA members. The initiative was promoted through federal and state/territory ICPA networks.

A number of polar (Yes/No) questions were used to qualify members for initial participation from where a further set of polar questions guided members to open questions regarding the types of challenges and key factors that impacted on their children's access to tertiary education. Individual responses outlining the specific factors stated by members as limiting their children's access to tertiary education, are included in full, in Appendix 1.

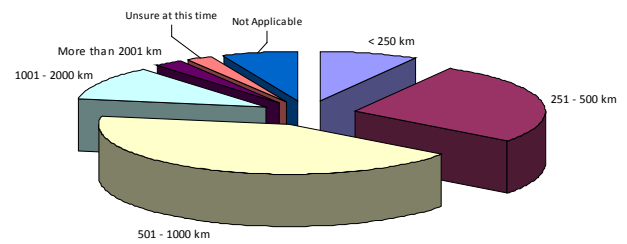
The offer to participate in the survey was made to the 2,275 members of ICPA with 30% of members (692) attempting to complete the survey. One hundred and seventy six (176) of the participants were removed due to either not meeting the qualifying criteria or through partially completing the survey. ICPA members, whose children were below Year 10 in their schooling at the time of distribution of the survey, were deemed ineligible for participation. The data used to analyse member responses was obtained from 516 completed responses, approximately 23% of the total ICPA membership.¹

¹ The total research sample of 516 will give this study a 3.8% confidence interval, at a 95% confidence level based on 2,275 ICPA members in Australia.

Findings

The survey responses draw attention to the issue of the financial costs of undertaking tertiary study being a key factor in limiting the access to tertiary education for young people from rural and remote areas. In addition, member responses have highlighted two key concerns that underpin the need for financial assistance: distance and access to existing government support schemes.

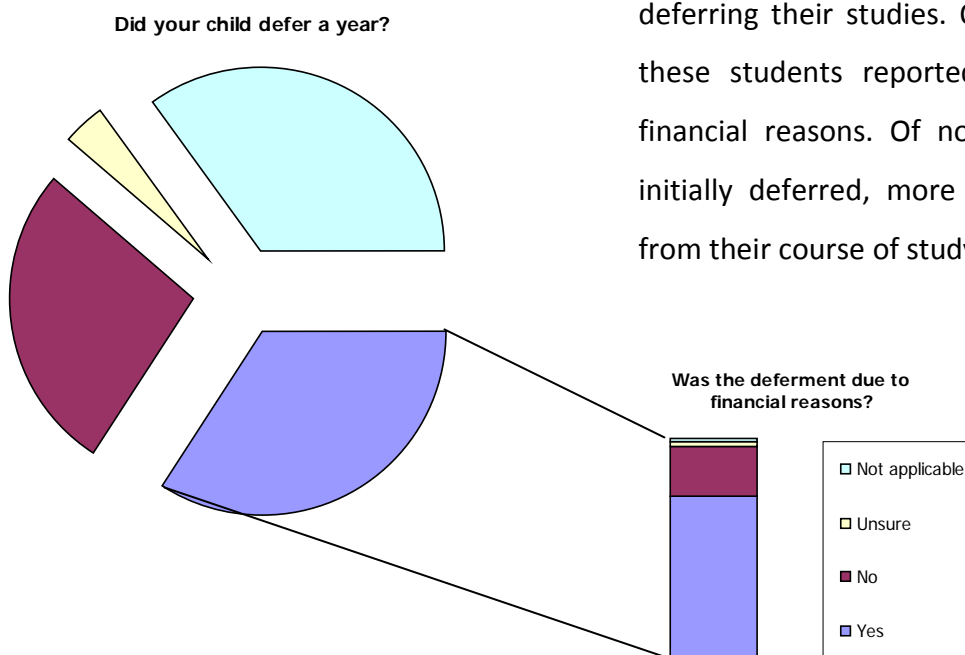
By definition, young people from rural and remote areas are affected by distance. To access a tertiary institution, 42% of members reported their children had to relocate between 501-1000 kilometres from their home with a further 27% indicating a relocation distance of 251- 500 kilometres. In relation to access to tertiary education and



the impact it financially had on families, cost was a significant concern for 88% of members in terms of the cost of relocation and for 93% in terms of the ongoing costs of living away from home.

Of those members able to meet the relocation and living costs, only 26% of ICPA members indicated they were able to meet this expense *without* government financial support. The ability to sustain this commitment (the reported average cost is in excess of \$350.00 per week), for the duration of a student’s entire course, is

also seen as a significant issue with 34% of students deferring their studies. Of the 34% deferrals, 74% of these students reported the deferment as being for financial reasons. Of note is that those students who initially deferred, more than 20% eventually withdrew from their course of study.



Of concern is the indication provided by many members of both the lack of awareness of types of financial assistance available and the difficulty accessing the types of government financial support already in place. Only 54% of members reported knowing of scholarships to assist their children to attend university. This would suggest increased communication and greater advertising of available assistance is required by both the government sector and private providers of such assistance.

The Federal Government does recognise there are financial difficulties inherent in relocating to take up tertiary studies, by offering Relocation Scholarships to dependent Youth Allowance recipients. However, as indicated in member responses (47%), many families who, in addition to relying on seasonal commodity prices for cash flow, are often deemed ineligible for this and other assistance due to the large investment in assets required to maintain their business operations. This, coupled with experiencing frequent unpredictable and erratic cycles of being 'asset-rich' and 'cash poor', limits the ability of many families to support their children during their tertiary years. Only 15% of ICPA members reported being unaffected by the government's Family Asset Test.

The \$150,000 parental income limit also poses a barrier for students attempting to qualify for independent Youth Allowance, after having met the workforce criteria and needing to relocate to attend university. Members report that 27% of students applying for independent Youth Allowance were affected by this parental income limit. Sixty two per cent (62%) of our members report having three or more children. Some families educate siblings at boarding schools whilst at the same time supporting tertiary students. They struggle with the additional costs associated with the provision of this support. No financial support is available to live away from home if the parental income limit is exceeded.

From a qualitative perspective, responses to the open question that asked members to indicate the main factor they felt limited their child's access to tertiary education, showed an overwhelming trend towards financial cost with the terms 'cost', 'money' and 'affordability' being used repeatedly throughout the survey. The findings of this study reveal the key issues evident for ICPA members, which impede the ability of many young people from rural and remote areas of Australia, to access tertiary education. Ongoing anecdotal reports of the financial demands experienced by the many ICPA members undertaking this transition, are supported by this quantifying report. This objective position provides ICPA with a standpoint from which to further progress the lobby for a tertiary access allowance, at the same time, highlighting the barriers that exist for rural and remote students when accessing tertiary studies.



Methodology

THE ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA MEMBERS' TERTIARY ACCESS STUDY RESULTS

Rural Press Marketing Services is pleased to deliver to ICPA Australia, the results of
"The Tertiary Access Research – May 2013".

METHODOLOGY

The ICPA Tertiary Access Research was conducted via email requests to the 2,275 members of ICPA, utilising Rural Press Marketing Services to assist with development of questions, questionnaire design and final evaluations.

692 ICPA members attempted to do the survey. Of this, 516 members were able to both qualify and complete the research. 176 members were removed due to partial completion of the study or did not meet the criteria.

Some of the tables in this report are 'family based' responses (n=516) as well as 'individual child based' responses (n=989) due to families having more than one child that qualify in different stages of education.

*These 'individual child based' tables will be denoted by a * before the question number.*

The final sample of 516 members who accepted to complete the survey, supplied this study with the following demographic breakdowns –

Q33. Final sample – State Responses:

Queensland	167
	32%
New South Wales	195
	38%
Victoria	1
	0%
Tasmania	7
	1%
Northern Territory	13
	3%
South Australia	35
	7%
Western Australia	85
	16%
Not Specified	13
	3%
Total	516
	100%

Q2. Living in a remote, outer or inner regional area.

Yes	516
	99%
No	7
	1%
Total	523
	100%

NOTE: If No, the respondent was terminated from the study

Q3. Number of children in family.

One	21
	4%
Two	174
	34%
Three	194
	38%
Four	99
	19%
More than Five	28
	5%
Total	516
	100%

Q4. Children that have either previously attended, currently attend or plan to attend a tertiary institution in the next 2-3 years.

Yes	432
	83%
No	84
	17%
Total	516
	100%

NOTE: If No, the respondent was asked Q5

Q5. Was it due to financial reasons that any of your children were unable to attend tertiary education?

Yes	2
	2%
No	82
	98%
Total	84
	100%

NOTE: If No, the respondent was moved to Q30

***Q7. Final sample – Stage of Education**

Secondary School	438
	44%
Tertiary Education	366
	37%
Previously attended tertiary education	185
	19%
Total	989
	100%

***Q9. Final sample – Distance to the nearest tertiary institution (offering your child’s choice)**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
< 250 km	83	36	29	18
	8%	8%	8%	10%
251 - 500	267	113	111	43
	27%	26%	30%	23%
501 - 1000	420	167	173	80
	42%	38%	47%	43%
1001 - 2000	110	41	40	29
	11%	9%	11%	16%
More than 2001 km	24	3	12	9
	2%	1%	3%	5%
Unsure at this time	23	22	1	-
	2%	5%	0%	-
Not Applicable	62	56	-	6
	6%	13%	-	3%
Total	989	438	366	185
	100%	100%	100%	100%

All the information available within the ‘Tables of Key Findings’ area of this report has been strategically aligned or cross-referenced using ‘stage of education’ demographic parameters.

Any question can be aligned by any of the methodology parameters, or any other question should it be requested.

A rounding error of $\pm 1\%$ may be evident in the data within the ‘Tables of Key Findings’

CONFIDENCE INTERVAL

The total research sample of 516, will give this study a **3.8% confidence interval** at a **95% confidence level** based on 2,275 ICPA members in Australia.

This is basically saying that if you conducted the same survey 100 times, 95 out of the 100 people should yield results within $\pm 3.8\%$ of the published number or percentage within this report.

To create a **99% confidence level** the following results will have a confidence interval of 5.0%.



Tables of Key Findings

***Q10. Does your child qualify for Youth Allowance?**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Yes	254	20	147	87
	26%	5%	40%	47%
No	389	157	174	58
	39%	36%	48%	31%
Don't Know	218	174	43	1
	22%	40%	12%	1%
Not Applicable	128	87	2	39
	13%	20%	1%	21%
Total	989	438	366	185
	100%	100%	100%	100%

NOTE: If No, DK or NA, the respondent was moved to Q12

***Q11. Does your child qualify for the Youth Allowance at the dependant rate or independent rate?**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Dependent	69	12	44	13
	27%	60%	30%	15%
Independent	157	4	91	62
	62%	20%	62%	71%
Unsure	28	4	12	12
	11%	20%	8%	14%
Not Applicable	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total	254	20	147	87
	100%	100%	100%	100%

***Q12. Does the \$150,000 threshold affect your child's eligibility?**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Yes	267 27%	103 24%	142 39%	22 12%
No	277 28%	77 18%	130 36%	70 38%
Don't Know	264 27%	154 35%	83 23%	27 15%
Not Applicable	181 18%	104 24%	11 3%	66 36%
Total	989 100%	438 100%	366 100%	185 100%

***Q13. Does the Family Assets test affect your child's eligibility?**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Yes	460 47%	177 45%	193 56%	66 39%
No	153 15%	27 7%	82 24%	39 23%
Don't Know	196 20%	115 29%	45 13%	9 5%
Not Applicable	180 18%	76 19%	27 8%	54 32%
Total	989 100%	395 100%	347 100%	168 100%

***Q14. Does the uncertainty impact on your child's decision to undertake tertiary education?**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Yes	440 44%	192 44%	182 50%	66 36%
No	282 29%	81 18%	143 39%	58 31%
Don't Know	109 11%	84 19%	17 5%	8 4%
Not Applicable	158 16%	81 18%	24 7%	53 29%
Total	989 100%	438 100%	366 100%	185 100%

***Q15. Could your child attend tertiary education without Government support?**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Yes	259	82	122	55
	26%	19%	33%	30%
No	547	244	190	113
	55%	56%	52%	61%
Unsure	183	112	54	17
	19%	26%	15%	9%
Total	989	438	366	185
	100%	100%	100%	100%

***Q16. Did your child defer a year?**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Yes	339	34	195	110
	34%	8%	53%	59%
No	268	40	160	68
	27%	9%	44%	37%
Unsure	36	32	4	-
	4%	7%	1%	-
Not Applicable	346	332	7	7
	35%	76%	2%	4%
Total	989	438	366	185
	100%	100%	100%	100%

NOTE: If No, Unsure or N/A, the respondent was moved to Q19

***Q17. Was the deferment due to financial reasons?**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Yes	251	20	148	83
	74%	59%	76%	75%
No	75	9	41	25
	22%	26%	21%	23%
Unsure	8	1	5	2
	2%	3%	3%	2%
Not Applicable	5	4	1	-
	1%	12%	1%	-
Total	339	34	195	110
	100%	100%	100%	100%

***Q18. Did your child return to study after their deferment as intended?**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Yes	260 77%	8 24%	155 79%	97 88%
No	26 8%	7 21%	11 6%	8 7%
Unsure	28 8%	8 24%	18 9%	2 2%
Not Applicable	25 7%	11 32%	11 6%	3 3%
Total	339 100%	34 100%	195 100%	110 100%

***Q19. Do you have any tertiary students currently living out of home?**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Yes	303 31%	63 15%	199 55%	41 23%
No	686 69%	370 85%	166 45%	140 77%
Total	989 100%	433 100%	365 100%	181 100%

NOTE: If No, the respondent was moved to Q26

***Q20. Approximate weekly cost of living out of home?**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Less than \$100	5 2%	5 8%	- -	- -
\$101 - \$200	30 10%	3 5%	25 13%	2 5%
\$201 - \$300	60 20%	7 11%	42 21%	11 27%
\$301 - \$400	69 23%	11 17%	48 24%	10 24%
\$401 - \$500	66 22%	10 16%	46 23%	10 24%
More than \$501	39 13%	8 13%	29 15%	2 5%
Unsure	34 11%	19 30%	9 5%	6 15%
Total	303 100%	63 100%	199 100%	41 100%
AVERAGE	\$353.35	\$345.45	\$356.32	\$347.14

***Q21. While your child is living away from home, what type of accommodation do they reside in?**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
On campus	53 17%	6 10%	40 20%	7 17%
Private College/ Residential College	89 29%	33 52%	48 24%	8 20%
Rental house/ Flat or Share house	131 43%	11 17%	97 49%	23 56%
Family/ Home stay arrangement	12 4%	1 2%	9 5%	2 5%
Other	2 1%	2 3%	- -	- -
Not currently living away from home	16 5%	10 16%	5 3%	1 2%
Total	303 100%	63 100%	199 100%	41 100%

Other: Gap year working; Currently on exchange in Austria

Q23. Thinking about the logistics of living away from home, we would like to get an understanding of what financial support from yourself is required to ensure that your children are able to continue their studies. We would like you to indicate whether you 'fully support', 'partially support', or 'do not support' your child with these costs?

Summary Tables

Total

	Level of Support			
	Fully Support	Partially Support	Do not Support	Not Applicable
Accommodation costs (rent/ board)	86 48%	53 30%	35 20%	4 2%
Utilities (Electricity, gas)	46 26%	37 21%	56 31%	39 22%
Course fees	43 24%	40 22%	86 48%	9 5%
Health/ medical expenses	107 60%	54 30%	12 7%	5 3%
Transport: Allowance to cover the use of public transport	43 24%	48 27%	51 28%	36 20%
Transport: Costs associated with running a car	60 34%	80 45%	19 11%	19 11%
Other costs: Mobile phone	61 34%	50 28%	62 35%	5 3%
A weekly allowance	36 20%	51 28%	80 45%	11 6%
Total	179 100%	179 100%	179 100%	179 100%

Secondary School

	Level of Support			
	Fully Support	Partially Support	Do not Support	Not Applicable
Accommodation costs (rent/ board)	9 64%	3 21%	1 7%	1 7%
Utilities (Electricity, gas)	5 36%	3 21%	3 21%	3 21%
Course fees	7 50%	- -	6 43%	1 7%
Health/ medical expenses	9 64%	2 14%	2 14%	1 7%
Transport: Allowance to cover the use of public transport	6 43%	1 7%	5 36%	2 14%
Transport: Costs associated with running a car	6 43%	5 36%	1 7%	2 14%
Other costs: Mobile phone	7 50%	1 7%	5 36%	1 7%
A weekly allowance	5 36%	3 21%	5 36%	1 7%
Total	14 100%	14 100%	14 100%	14 100%

Q23. Continued
Tertiary Education

	Level of Support			
	Fully Support	Partially Support	Do not Support	Not Applicable
Accommodation costs (rent/ board)	54 48%	35 31%	22 20%	1 1%
Utilities (Electricity, gas)	29 26%	19 17%	36 32%	28 25%
Course fees	27 24%	28 25%	55 49%	2 2%
Health/ medical expenses	69 62%	34 30%	7 6%	2 2%
Transport: Allowance to cover the use of public transport	28 25%	34 30%	27 24%	23 21%
Transport: Costs associated with running a car	37 33%	55 49%	9 8%	11 10%
Other costs: Mobile phone	40 36%	35 31%	35 31%	2 2%
A weekly allowance	25 22%	31 28%	50 45%	6 5%
Total	112 100%	112 100%	112 100%	112 100%

Previously attended tertiary education

	Level of Support			
	Fully Support	Partially Support	Do not Support	Not Applicable
Accommodation costs (rent/ board)	16 41%	12 31%	10 26%	1 3%
Utilities (Electricity, gas)	9 23%	12 31%	15 38%	3 8%
Course fees	5 13%	9 23%	21 54%	4 10%
Health/ medical expenses	25 64%	12 31%	2 5%	- -
Transport: Allowance to cover the use of public transport	7 18%	11 28%	14 36%	7 18%
Transport: Costs associated with running a car	15 38%	13 33%	8 21%	3 8%
Other costs: Mobile phone	11 28%	8 21%	20 51%	- -
A weekly allowance	3 8%	15 38%	20 51%	1 3%
Total	39 100%	39 100%	39 100%	39 100%

Q23. Thinking about the logistics of living away from home, we would like to get an understanding of what financial support from yourself is required to ensure that your children are able to continue their studies. We would like you to indicate whether you 'fully support', 'partially support', or 'do not support' your child with these costs?

Accommodation costs (rent/ board)

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Fully Support	87 49%	67 51%	78 50%	21 44%
Partially Support	53 30%	37 28%	42 27%	15 31%
Do not Support	35 20%	25 19%	33 21%	11 23%
Not Applicable	4 2%	3 2%	2 1%	1 2%
Total	179 100%	132 100%	155 100%	48 100%

Utilities (electricity, gas)

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Fully Support	46 26%	38 29%	40 26%	12 25%
Partially Support	37 21%	28 21%	28 18%	14 29%
Do not Support	56 31%	34 26%	51 33%	17 35%
Not Applicable	40 22%	32 24%	36 23%	5 10%
Total	179 100%	132 100%	155 100%	48 100%

Course Fees

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Fully Support	44 25%	33 25%	37 24%	8 17%
Partially Support	40 22%	32 24%	36 23%	11 23%
Do not Support	86 48%	61 46%	77 50%	25 52%
Not Applicable	9 5%	6 5%	5 3%	4 8%
Total	179 100%	132 100%	155 100%	48 100%

Q23. Continued
Health/ medical expenses

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Fully Support	108 60%	80 61%	93 60%	29 60%
Partially Support	54 30%	37 28%	48 31%	16 33%
Do not Support	12 7%	10 8%	11 7%	3 6%
Not Applicable	5 3%	5 4%	3 2%	- -
Total	179 100%	132 100%	155 100%	48 100%

Transport: Allowance to cover the use of public transport

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Fully Support	43 24%	37 28%	37 24%	10 21%
Partially Support	48 27%	33 25%	42 27%	11 23%
Do not Support	51 28%	35 27%	44 28%	18 38%
Not Applicable	37 21%	27 20%	32 21%	9 19%
Total	179 100%	132 100%	155 100%	48 100%

Transport: Costs associated with running a car

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Fully Support	61 34%	45 34%	53 34%	20 42%
Partially Support	80 45%	55 42%	72 46%	17 35%
Do not Support	19 11%	15 11%	16 10%	8 17%
Not Applicable	19 11%	17 13%	14 9%	3 6%
Total	179 100%	132 100%	155 100%	48 100%

Q23. Continued
Other costs: Mobile phone

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Fully Support	61 34%	45 34%	53 34%	12 25%
Partially Support	50 28%	36 27%	44 28%	10 21%
Do not Support	63 35%	46 35%	55 35%	26 54%
Not Applicable	5 3%	5 4%	3 2%	- -
Total	179 100%	132 100%	155 100%	48 100%

A weekly allowance

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Fully Support	37 21%	31 23%	33 21%	7 15%
Partially Support	51 28%	38 29%	43 28%	16 33%
Do not Support	80 45%	54 41%	70 45%	24 50%
Not Applicable	11 6%	9 7%	9 6%	1 2%
Total	179 100%	132 100%	155 100%	48 100%

***Q24. How many hours does your child work during the semester?**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Not at all	97 32%	15 24%	72 36%	10 24%
Less than 10 hrs per week	59 19%	7 11%	47 24%	5 12%
11 - 20 hrs	57 19%	- -	47 24%	10 24%
21 - 30 hrs	18 6%	1 2%	12 6%	5 12%
More than 31 hours per week	17 6%	2 3%	11 6%	4 10%
Not Applicable	55 18%	38 60%	10 5%	7 17%
Total	303 100%	63 100%	199 100%	41 100%

***Q25. How many hours does your child work during holidays? (Paid Employment)**

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Not at all	23 8%	3 5%	17 9%	3 7%
Less than 10 hrs per week	23 8%	4 6%	17 9%	2 5%
11 - 20 hrs	42 14%	8 13%	30 15%	4 10%
21 - 30 hrs	36 12%	4 6%	27 14%	5 12%
More than 31 hours per week	129 43%	10 16%	98 49%	21 51%
Not Applicable	50 17%	34 54%	10 5%	6 15%
Total	303 100%	63 100%	199 100%	41 100%

Q26. Are you aware of any scholarships available to assist your child to attend tertiary education?

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Yes	234	165	160	71
	54%	53%	60%	60%
No	198	149	107	48
	46%	47%	40%	40%
Total	432	314	267	119
	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q27. Has your child received any scholarships to assist them to attend tertiary education?

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Yes	79	45	66	36
	34%	27%	41%	51%
No	155	120	94	35
	66%	73%	59%	49%
Total	234	165	160	71
	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q28. You said that your child received a scholarship, can you please specify what assistance this entailed?

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Accommodation costs	26	16	20	7
	33%	36%	30%	19%
Course fees	15	10	14	5
	19%	22%	21%	14%
Other (Please specify)	2	2	1	2
	3%	4%	2%	6%
Cash for education purposes	31	17	28	17
	39%	38%	42%	47%
Multiple Scholarships	5	-	3	5
	6%	-	5%	14%
Total	79	45	66	36
	100%	100%	100%	100%

Other: Overseas study; Placement

Q29. Which of the following statements best describes your circumstances?

	Total	Stage of Education		
		Secondary School	Tertiary Education	Previously attended tertiary
Financially we are able to comfortably support our child(ren) to attend tertiary education	24 6%	13 4%	18 7%	6 5%
We have made sacrifices to be able to financially support our child(ren) to attend tertiary education	203 47%	149 47%	137 51%	57 48%
We are only able to support our child(ren) to attend tertiary education because of financial assistance such as scholarships or youth allowance etc.	161 37%	115 37%	90 34%	48 40%
We are unable to financially support our child(ren) to attend tertiary education	44 10%	37 12%	22 8%	8 7%
Total	432 100%	314 100%	267 100%	119 100%

Q30. On a scale of 1-10 where 1 = Strongly Disagree and 10 = Strongly Agree. Thinking about your family as a whole, please rate the following aspects of access to tertiary education for all of your children?

	Distance from the family home	Costs of relocation	Cost of living away from home	Access to government support services such as centrelink payments
Strongly Disagree	6 1%	4 1%	3 1%	8 2%
2	4 1%	0 0%	1 0%	5 1%
3	8 2%	8 2%	1 0%	5 1%
4	7 1%	5 1%	6 1%	13 3%
5	31 6%	31 6%	14 3%	31 6%
6	22 4%	11 2%	14 3%	17 3%
7	38 7%	43 8%	28 5%	36 7%
8	69 13%	67 13%	50 10%	61 12%
9	46 9%	56 11%	81 16%	59 11%
Strongly Agree	285 55%	291 56%	318 62%	281 54%
Total	516 100%	516 100%	516 100%	516 100%
MEAN	8.59	8.76	9.09	8.57

Q31. What would you say is the main factor limiting your child's access to tertiary education?

	Total
Relocation costs	34 7%
Financial costs of living away from home	116 22%
General financial costs	224 43%
Psychological costs of living away from home	18 3%
Student having to work to afford to study	18 3%
Eligibility for Youth Allowance or other government assistance	52 10%
Distance from institution	138 27%
Access to accommodation	31 6%
Access to appropriate courses	4 1%
Personal motivation	2 0%
Part-time employment opportunities	2 0%
No limit/ Not applicable	7 1%
Total	516 100%

Full unedited responses can be found within appendix A, pgs 34-44

Q32. On a scale of 1 to 10 where 1= Strongly Disagree and 10= Strongly Agree. If available, please rate each of these 'access allowance' payments as to whether this amount would be THE DIFFERENCE between your child attending tertiary education or not.

	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000
Strongly Disagree	121 23%	44 9%	13 3%
2	67 13%	13 3%	2 0%
3	46 9%	25 5%	10 2%
4	34 7%	26 5%	6 1%
5	96 19%	91 18%	41 8%
6	31 6%	34 7%	23 4%
7	15 3%	61 12%	33 6%
8	29 6%	59 11%	38 7%
9	4 1%	37 7%	36 7%
Strongly Agree	73 14%	126 24%	314 61%
Total	516 100%	516 100%	516 100%
MEAN	4.45	6.59	8.55



Appendix



Q31. What would you say is the main factor limiting your child's access to tertiary education?

- Ability to be able to afford them living away from home
- Absolutely costs total, accommodation, limited residential college places. Cost of living rent, electricity, travel, these all add up. Whereas had we lived within public transport access to tertiary education, our daughter would have lived at home, which would have been a considerable saving on total accommodation costs. Our second child went through ADFA simply because he could see we could not manage a second lot of tertiary support (ADFA is not everyone's solution). We were also in exceptional circumstances when our daughter commenced so she received Youth Allowance then transferred to independent Youth Allowance
- Access to a good secondary education in a small town leading to lower ATAR results, limited subject choice
- Access to accommodation
- Access to financial assistance and difficulty in finding regular work
- Access to government support services
- Access to living away from home allowance
- Accessing some financial assistance to live away from home for geographically isolated students
- Accommodation
- Accommodation
- Accommodation and living away from home expenses
- Accommodation cost in Perth
- Accommodation costs and living expenses
- Accommodation costs as we do not have property in Perth. Therefore, our daughter will be forced to rent
- Accommodation in the city that is affordable
- Accommodation, distance and financial challenges
- Affordability
- Affordability
- Affordable accommodation
- Affordable assisted accommodation near university
- Airfares, distance to travel home
- Although we are not quite there yet (Children have not yet left high school), it is VERY worrying to start thinking about the high costs of a university education for our children - so the answer is 'financial'
- Any reductions in Youth Allowance payments and the decrease or withdrawal of any start up allowances/scholarships (Centrelink)
- Asset test on low performing assets like farms
- Assets on paper that do not equate to disposable cash
- Assistance from the government
- Available funding towards startup grants
- Because of going to boarding school they were unable to obtain weekend work to build up the independent status at their time of doing tertiary.
- Distance and cost
- Being able to afford it
- Being able to afford the university and living costs to attend universities
- Being able to support our child with the cost of tertiary education
- Being away from home for years, as that is all they are used to
- Being isolated where we live, transport is expensive, there is no public transport and nowhere for them to live closer.
- Challenges of fitting into city life and city people
- Continual financial requirements - eg accommodation, food and living expenses, uni fees
- Cost
- Cost
- Cost
- Cost
- Cost
- Cost
- Cost
- Cost
- Cost
- Cost

**Q31. What would you say is the main factor limiting your child's access to tertiary education?**

- Cost of living away from home especially rent and travel
- Cost of living away from home when unable to obtain part time work and only get a portion of Youth Allowance
- Cost of living away from home, finding suitable accommodation
- Cost of living away from home, too remote for any other option
- Cost of living away from home
- Cost of living away from home
- Cost of living away from home
- Cost of living away from home. More expensive than staying at home
- Cost of living away home
- Cost of living expenses ie accommodation, food, transport
- Cost of living in the city
- Cost of living, having to set up second and third home to allow them to access education (two different universities in two different cities)
- Cost of maintaining child away from home - having to duplicate accommodation, transport, etc
- Cost of moving away from home
- Cost of relocating a large distance away from home, and age (too young yet but not for long)
- Cost of relocating and living away from home
- Cost of relocating and living away from home
- Cost of relocation
- Cost of relocation
- Cost of relocation to a larger centre
- Cost of rental accommodation when living in Perth
- Cost of residential fees for accommodation
- Cost of supporting this
- Cost of supporting your child with accommodation in the absence of the option of living at home
- Cost of tertiary education and relocation
- Cost of the necessity of living away from home
- Cost of travel and accommodation
- Cost of traveling to and from the family home to the city where tertiary education is offered
- Cost to live away
- Cost to live away
- Cost to move away
- Cost will be the major factor
- Cost will determine which tertiary education, he can afford to attend
- Cost, distance, relocation
- Cost, financially and the inability to enjoy the optional extras that tertiary students enjoy and need to be involved with to be in with peers
- Cost, in relation to distance, taking into account the cost of 6 years of boarding school/child previous to tertiary
- Cost, location, safe accommodation
- Costs
- Costs
- Costs
- Costs
- Costs
- Costs - relocation, living and traveling home. Due to financial pressures and being in another state children only come home at Christmas as they have work commitments to supplement their incomes and there is no job opportunities here at home
- Costs and effort of relocation
- Costs and isolation
- Costs associated with accommodation and living
- Costs associated with relocation
- Costs caused by distance
- Costs for country students are very high, and students have to spend all holidays and spare time undertaking casual employment to help with expenses



Q31. What would you say is the main factor limiting your child's access to tertiary education?

Distance. She did distance education, and then boarding school due to geographical isolation, so university is 1000km away

Distance/cost

Eligibility for allowances if we experience droughts or other factors that affect our income

Eligibility to get into uni

Emotional support for young adults will be difficult because of distance from family

Expense

Expense

Expense

Family asset test

Family income. Over \$150 000 as it's farm based income with distance related expenses

Family support

Fees and bus supply

Financial factors

Finance

Finance

Finance

Finance

Finance - ability to find part time work to fit with study timetable

Finance & distance

Finance and distance

Finance, distance

Finances

Finances

Finances

Finances

Finances

Finances

Finances

Finances

Finances

Finances and distance

Finances and lack of off-farm employment opportunities in a remote location during the holidays without also incurring the cost of living away from home

Finances to support attendance/access

Finances.

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

Financial

**Q31. What would you say is the main factor limiting your child's access to tertiary education?**

- Financial
- Financial
- Financial
- Financial - costs of living away from home and relocating to urban areas
- Financial - lack of government support
- Financial and location
- Financial assistance
- Financial assistance
- Financial assistance
- Financial capacity to meet costs associated with a tertiary education
- Financial circumstances
- Financial constraints
- Financial constraints
- Financial constraints and distance
- Financial constraints of moving from home (country) to the city to study
- Financial constraints require the children having to defer from study for at least 1 year
- Financial cost
- Financial cost of distance
- Financial cost of living in the city, accommodation and fuel, parking, food. Travel to visit home
- Financial costs
- Financial costs
- Financial costs - after educating them at boarding school it is like another 4 years of boarding school
- Financial debt of the farm
- Financial due to living away from home
- Financial factor
- Financial implications
- Financial strain
- Financial support
- Financial support
- Financial support
- Financial support
- Financial support
- Financial support - the beginning of the year costs (rental bonds, upfront rent, furniture for units, upfront uni costs) are enormous. Onsite college costs are huge too as these have to be prepaid
- Financial uncertainty that the commitment your child makes to go to uni will be affordable as your child generally does not have a guarantee that they will receive any financial assistance when they commit to a tertiary course. Also having to live away from home for extended periods
- Financial, but I place a huge emphasis on education, this strongly encourages the children to continue with their education - so we go without at home.
- Financial, logistics, unable to be involved in family relationships, i.e. weddings, birthdays, funerals etc.
- Financial. Eligibility for financial assistance limited by asset-rich, cash-poor parents. This was my experience and the sole reason why I didn't attend university 10 years ago. Wanted to but couldn't afford it. Now can't afford it time-wise with children of my own, and still cost-prohibitive to study external
- Financially not able to help them
- Finding employment to fit in with study hours, having to fully support themselves, cost of living
- Finding safe and secure reasonable accommodation for them to live in
- Finding suitable accommodation and dealing with living away from home expenses
- Finding the money
- Fortunately we both have good jobs, otherwise our eldest would have had to restrict her course selection to what was offered locally, not being eligible for Youth Allowance nor wanting to delay studying to become eligible for the independent allowance
- Funding to be able to study full-time without having to also work long hours. We (my son and I) have had to physically attend Centerlink on 14 occasions in 3 years to maintain its payment!
- Geographical distance
- Geographical isolation and cost

**Q31. What would you say is the main factor limiting your child's access to tertiary education?**

Getting no financial assistance from the government for them to live away from home. If we lived in Adelaide, I would not expect assistance, as the children could live at home. They are disadvantaged, as they have to find work, which leaves them less time for study, yet students that live at home do not have that imposition, and the added stress this causes. The lack of financial assistance also means we get to see them less, as we cannot afford for them to come home very often, again more stress not applicable for metro families

Government funding because 5 yrs of boarding school is expensive enough & then we have to pay for uni and living somewhere!

Having to defer study for two years in order to qualify for independent Youth Allowance. Simply defers their income-making ability

Having to find financial support to be able to continue study. Limited external options and support for external studies

Having to leave home

Having to leave their home and family to study - not financially but just being pulled out of their home area

Having to move so far away to an unfamiliar city to access tertiary education, and the cost of doing this

Having to relocate to attend university, living so far from home

Home support. Accommodation and living expenses (power/water, etc.) are added costs that many of our city counterparts do not have to contend with due to the support of the family unit/home

Inability to access independent Youth Allowance until 18 months after leaving secondary school

Income

Isolation

Isolation

Isolation

Isolation and relocating costs

It has to be the financial factor. It is so expensive to rent in Brisbane, which makes it very hard for the kids to study full time without working big hours if they can get a job

It will be lack of financial assistance - at the moment we qualify for Youth Allowance (dependent), but next year may not. Then it will be a real struggle to afford to continue

Just started, irrespective of cost. Am low income single parent, very remote, two kids. Who knows how we'll go?

Lack of accessible accommodation for them to live in major regional centres and the high cost of renting

Lack of financial assistance.

Lack of financial support

Lack of funding

Lack of funds

Lack of funds

Lack of government assistance

Lack of support from Centrelink

Limited funds and accommodation/buying or renting expenses to be able to help and support your children's dreams to succeed in tertiary education many kilometres away from their family members, farm, and home base and having to relocate and live in a city environment

Living away costs

Living away from family

Living away from home

Living away from home and the distance to return home to visit

Living away from home costs

Living away from home expenses

Living cost

Living costs away from home

Living expenses

Living expenses - need to have Youth Allowance - live-in college placements - challenges of moving to a university town

Living out of town with no public transport and our town doesn't have tertiary facilities

Living remotely

Location

Location

Location

Location and money

Low income family

Making sure the family farm is running a profit otherwise we wouldn't be able to support our children

**Q31. What would you say is the main factor limiting your child's access to tertiary education?**

Money
Money
Money
Money
Money
Money
Money
Money
Money
Money
Money
Money
Money
Money
Money
Money
Money - costs of living away from home
Money for extremely high rentals in Darwin
Money to cover living away expenses for regional and isolated students like Assistance for Isolated Children payment that is receivable up until year 12. This payment carried over to tertiary education would solve this problem
Money, or lack of
Money. It is so expensive when your child can no longer live at home. We are 560km from Adelaide so it is even too expensive for our daughter to come home to visit for a weekend. She only visits in holidays
My child works his guts out during holidays to earn the money to pay accommodation, etc. The biggest drawback is the 18 months required before eligible for independent Youth Allowance
My children hold down employment whilst studying, and this is extremely difficult to give full attention to study-then report to Centrelink-not simple
N/A
N/A
Need to live away from home
No assistance.
No issue
No limit if they really want to do it!
Not able to access funds as we are at the limit of borrowing from the bank!
Not being able to live at home
Not broad enough tertiary options available for Agriculture and/or Agribusiness subjects within closer proximity to Central Queensland. Closest offering a wider field of Agriculture options is in the SE corner
Not getting any assistance due to the our income which can vary dramatically from year to year depending on the season
Ongoing costs and also having time to work to support themselves while studying full-time
Our daughter is easing the financial pressure of tertiary education by working while studying
Our financial situation
Our inability to access any financial assistance
Our income may drop too much = no support for tertiary education. Farm ownership asset calculation = no Youth Allowance
Overall cost due to distance
Parent's asset rich depending on seasons and commodity prices for cash flow
Parental assets as our children are a part of our farming financial structure
Providing accommodation
Public transport, distance
Qualifying for Youth Allowance
Quality of primary and secondary education, costs of all levels of education/child
Relocating from home
Relocating to Perth to be able to support themselves and study without family also living in Perth
Relocation
Relocation and living from home costs



Q31. What would you say is the main factor limiting your child's access to tertiary education?

- Relocation and the cost to keep them away from home
- Relocation costs
- Relocation costs
- Relocation costs and finding paid employment during study to offset cost of living
- Relocation costs and living costs on a weekly basis
- Relocation, cost
- Remote location and costs of living away from home to study
- Remoteness, no access to funding to help send country kids to uni, have put all 4 through boarding school because no schools, now they have had to come home and do their chosen courses through distance education. Not Fair! We are the forgotten out here and our children suffer
- Rental costs in Melbourne and Canberra where my children are currently studying are very high, one daughter has spent 50% of first semester sleeping in a swag while trying to find accommodation that was affordable. Connecting to the internet & associated costs also add up. Travel costs to & from home to university very high and not direct, so all have bought cheap vehicles to keep connection with home & family. Ongoing vehicle costs high for the age group. Youth allowance essential
- Rural location
- Skills to access part time work
- Suitable affordable accommodation
- Suitable, not expensive accommodation
- Surety of being able to 'get' Youth Allowance and attendance scholarships
- The ability to pay for all course expenses, relocate our child, support our child enough that work commitments don't interfere with her ability to study successfully
- The access to help to navigate our way through any tertiary assistance is impossibly challenging
- The combined costs of boarding, relocation, transport and living
- The cost and the distance
- The cost as the family has siblings close in age
- The cost involved, particularly after years of costly boarding school
- The cost of accommodation and living expenses outweigh their weekly pay. As there is not a TAFE or many businesses to take on apprentices near by, living away from home would not be an option
- The cost of accommodation and relocating
- The cost of education
- The cost of giving my children the same kind of environment to comfortably access tertiary education that city tertiary students take for granted.
- The cost of living away from home and the lack of jobs available to help fund this
- The cost of living away from home
- The cost of living away from home
- The cost of living away from home
- The cost of living away from home
- The cost of living away from home
- The cost of living away from home
- The cost of living away from home
- The cost of living away from home
- The cost of living away from home
- The cost of living away from home
- The cost of living away from home
- The cost of living away from home and no government support until he has gained independence. Not easy when you're farmers
- The cost of living away from home as dependent young adults
- The cost of living in Adelaide, rent, food, fuel, amenities
- The cost of relocating and cost of every day living
- The cost of relocating and living away from home
- The cost of relocating, finding affordable accommodation and part-time work (that does not impact on their study) to help cover living expenses.
- The cost to live away from home. We currently have one child at university living away from home and we are paying his accommodation costs on credit. We would not be able to continue to do this for the 2nd child which is unfair to him. There should be consideration when assessing government financial support. The fact they, the children, have to leave their home and their family life
- The cost. The Youth Allowance doesn't go anywhere near covering the costs of living away from home, yet they are restricted from earning too much
- The costs as they have to live away from home
- The costs involved

**Q31. What would you say is the main factor limiting your child's access to tertiary education?**

- The costs of living away from home
- The distance away that we live will mean that they will have to live away from home to access any tertiary education
- The distance of tertiary education, and all the psychological, physical and financial hurdles associated with each individual child. Different with each one of them
- The expense of having to live away from home
- The expense of living away from home to access tertiary education
- The feeling that they are putting a great burden on the family financially. We support them and are happy to do that, but it is difficult. I have six children and all have gone/will go to university. I have three at university this year. It is not equitable that my children have cousins at university who live at home and access the Youth Allowance when my children are told they are not eligible and we pay up to \$500 a week for them to live away from home
- The main factor and obstacle that affected our children's access to tertiary education was having to relocate so far from home this added an additional burden which was challenging to meet and now affects our retirement as we have to work longer to try and save for retirement as it took all we had to educate our children so far from home
- The main factor is a combination of all of the above - particularly not being able to access relocation and living away from home allowances. There is great inequity in the qualification criteria for Youth Allowance which greatly disadvantages farmers who live and work on their own properties
- The need to go and live in the city
- The need to live independently away from home. Basically you need to run two households which is financially draining
- The need to work to provide the funds to complete study and be independent
- The unfairness of the \$150,000 parental income test on independent Youth Allowance
- Their ability. If they want to go and are good enough then we will arrange it. Financial assistance would be nice but it will not "limit" them/us
- Their own personal motivation. If they want it badly enough they always get a job to support themselves through uni - that's what I did (never got a cent from the government or my parents when I was at uni)
- They didn't want to study
- They keep changing the income amounts earned and rules for being a dependent
- They would not be able to attend without extra financial support
- Time. He works 3 jobs as it is
- Total cost
- Total lack of financial assistance from Government, as they are not eligible for Youth Allowance. Cost of accommodation food and course fees
- Transport and accommodation costs
- Tyranny of distance
- Unable to access assistance from the government
- Unable to live at home after 6 years away for secondary schooling
- Unable to obtain any help in the way of Youth Allowance or Rent Assistance
- Uncertainty about repeated changes to eligibility for independent Youth Allowance
- Unfortunately not the answer you are looking for but finding the appropriate course to study followed closely by distance to it
- We could afford to support our children whilst studying, but their access to Youth Allowance made a huge difference in their belief that they were not a drain on family finances. The distance from home, especially in the early years of tertiary study and the inability to visit home were matters that affected their well being. We had to really support emotionally two of our children to stay and complete their studies
- We have told all of our other children that we simply cannot afford to pay their expenses when they study, particularly when they study extremely demanding courses such as medicine and law. While we are extremely proud of them we are actually stretched beyond belief. The girls have very little money to play around with
- When my first child in particular went to uni, we needed all the help we could get to find suitable accommodation, relocate and generally assist. We just did not have the money available to do it, and our son who had worked at home to make enough money for a little rubbish car, had to run pizzas 5 nights a week as well as doing a double degree. Can't tell you how difficult it was for him
- Where they study was more to do with scholarships they received and uni costs, than a particular uni of their choosing
- Where we live
- Whether we as a family are prepared to make the financial and personal sacrifices to make it happen
- Without Youth Allowance, my children would not be able to attend uni. The need to work to supplement the Youth Allowance is a risk to their success that they have to manage at the tertiary level