

Queensland Academies Isolated Student Bursary Information Guide - 2012

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USE THIS INFORMATION WHEN COMPLETING AN APPLICATION FORM

Applications for the 2012 Bursary close **Friday 30 March 2012**

Queensland Academies Isolated Student (QAIS) Bursary

The Bursary is a new form of support for rural and remote students based on their acceptance into one of the Queensland Academies, provided the following eligibility criteria are met:

- the student is **not eligible** to receive assistance through the *Living Away From Home Allowances Scheme* (LAFHAS); and
- the nearest Queensland Government school with the appropriate year level to the student's family home is located in a **Rural or Remote Education Zone** (according to MCEECDYA Geographical Location Classifications); and
- the Queensland Academy the student attends is **at least three hours** travelling time per day from their home address using the school transport or public transport service.

For financial assistance available to parents through the *Queensland Academies Isolated Student (QAIS) Bursary*, the following conditions apply in addition to the specific eligibility criteria mentioned above:

- The home address of the student must be in Queensland; and
- The student's conduct, progress and attendance must be satisfactory; and
- A new application must be completed each year on the approved form.

What benefits are available?

QAIS has 2 components:

- Travel Allowance
- Student Accommodation Allowance

Please Note: No financial means test is applied to these allowances. Payments do not attract GST.

Travel Allowance

Assistance is available to offset travelling expenses. This allowance is paid twice a year (50% of entitlement paid after the end of each semester) and ranges from \$116 to \$1,481 p.a. per student based on the distance from the family home to the student's accommodation location via the shortest trafficable route by road (and sea if necessary).

Remote Area Travel Allowance	School Sector	Maximum payable per student per annum
Up to 500km	\$ 0.69 per km	\$ 345
Each additional km over 500km	\$ 1.14 per km	\$ 1,481

Student Accommodation Allowance

Eligible students will receive an amount equivalent to the Basic Boarding Allowance provided through the Commonwealth's Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme, currently set at **\$7,141 per annum**. This allowance is paid twice a year (50% of the allowance paid after the end of each semester).

How are benefits paid?

All payments under QAIS are made by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The benefits are paid to the financial institution nominated by the applicant on the annual application form.

Benefits are paid in two semester instalments, after the end of each Semester:

- Semester 1 period: 23 January – 22 June 2012
- Semester 2 period: 9 July – 14 December 2012

What if family or student circumstances change?

Following lodgement of an application form, the Queensland Academies Directorate must be advised immediately of any subsequent change in circumstances e.g. changes to:

- family residential address;
- school attended; and/or
- bank account details.

Benefits payable are determined by the date of change, and a change of circumstances may require reassessment of applications and entitlements already paid.

Students commencing or leaving school part way through the school year receive pro-rata entitlements based on the actual number of school days attended.

What happens if overpayments occur?

Overpayments that may result from a change in family or student circumstances are recoverable from the date that an applicant's circumstances change.

An applicant is responsible for ensuring that distances quoted on the application form are accurate. Where appropriate the local Queensland Transport office should be contacted to confirm if any distances have changed as a result of roadwork or bus route modifications.

Application forms

To apply for benefits under the QAIS Bursary, please download the online application form, print, manually complete and return via post to the address indicated on the application form or via facsimile on (07) 3237 0842.

The application form is available via the Rural and Remote and Queensland Academies websites:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/ruralandremote/isolated-student-bursary.html>

www.qldacademies.eq.edu.au

Contacts

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