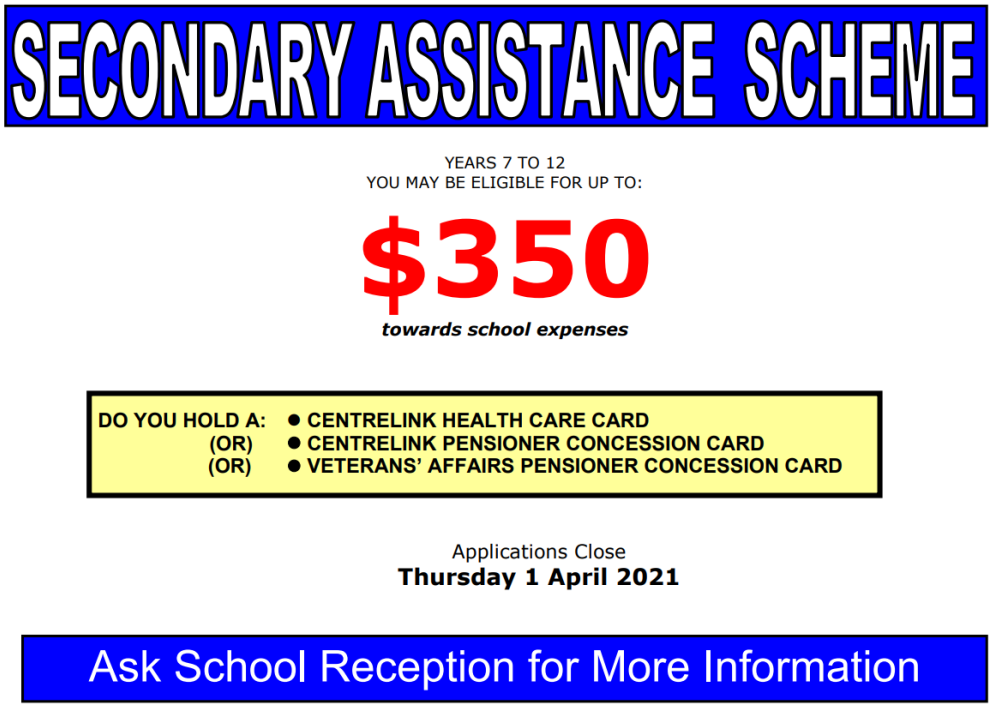
Secondary Assistance Scheme - 2021

If you hold one of the following cards:

- Department of Human Services (Centrelink) Pensioner Concession Card;
- Department of Human Services (Centrelink) Health Care Card; or
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card (blue card only, TPI and gold cards cannot be accepted as they are issued for medical benefit purposes only).

You may be eligible to claim Educational Program Allowance ($235) and Clothing Allowance ($115).
Please visit the College administration office during Term 1, 2021, to complete an application form. The concession card must have the student name listed on it, be valid for at least four weeks for some time within Term 1 (1 February to 1 April) and **must** be sighted by the school officer when you complete your application.
Applications close on Thursday 1 April 2021.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 Who is eligible for the Secondary Assistance Scheme?

To be eligible for the allowance, the parent/guardian must hold a Centrelink Health Care Card or Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card or a Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card (blue) card that is valid for at least 4 weeks at the time of applying (during Term 1).

Q2 At what age is a student eligible for Secondary Assistance?

Years 7-12 and up to and including the year the student turns 18.

Q3 What payments do the parent/guardian/school receive?

The Secondary Assistance Scheme Allowance consists of two types of applications being SAS or Abstudy Supplement Allowance. Parents/guardians who apply for SAS receive:

1. $115 Clothing Allowance, paid directly to the school or parent/ guardian. (Full $115 paid even if enrolling after end of term 1).
2. $235 Educational Program Allowance, paid directly to the school.

If however, the student qualifies for Centrelink ABSTUDY, then the parent/guardian can ONLY apply for ABSTUDY Supplement Allowance Payment which consists of:

1. $79 Education Program Allowance, paid directly to the school. (Please note, Centrelink will make a payment of $156.00 either directly to the school or parent resulting in a combined total payment of $235.00, which is the same amount as the Secondary Assistance Scheme payment).

Q4 A student is not listed on the parent's concession card. Can they still apply for Secondary Assistance?

No. The only exception to this is if the student has turned 16 and has been removed from the family card and has been issued with his/her own card. The parent must still hold a card. Both cards must be presented at the school and sighted for validity, prior to accepting the form.

The only exception to this is when a student holds their own health care card and has been declared 'Independent' by Centrelink (e.g. Independent Youth). In this instance, a letter of confirmation or statement from Centrelink needs to accompany the application and the clothing payment will be made directly to the student. The supporting Centrelink documentation must specifically have the word "Independent".

Q5 Can a grandparent who has primary care of the child apply for Secondary Assistance?

Yes, if the grandparent is the recognised guardian(s) and the student is listed on the grandparent's card. (This would need to be discussed and approved by the Department of Human Services [Centrelink])

Q6 A parent has been granted a concession card after first term. Are they still entitled to claim Secondary Assistance?

No, the card must be valid sometime in first term except where they have arrived from overseas after first term.

Q7 A student is receiving ABSTUDY payments. Can they also receive Secondary Assistance?

Those receiving the $156 or $78 ABSTUDY School Fees Allowance payment from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink) (which can be paid to either the parent or the school), cannot claim Secondary Assistance.

The ABSTUDY School Fees Allowance is for schooling expenses, the same purpose as the Secondary Assistance Scheme; therefore both cannot be applied for. Recipients of the ABSTUDY School Fees Allowance may apply for the $79 ABSTUDY Supplement Allowance.