

Secondary Assistance Scheme



AVELEY
SECONDARY COLLEGE

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 during Term 1, 2023, to complete an application form. The concession card must have the student name listed on it, be valid for at least four weeks within Term 1 (31 January to 8 April) and **must** be sighted by the school officer when you complete your application. **Applications close on 6 April 2023.**

SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

YEARS 7 TO 12
YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO:

\$350
towards school expenses

DO YOU HOLD A: • CENTRELINK HEALTH CARE CARD
(OR) • CENTRELINK PENSIONER CONCESSION CARD
(OR) • VETERANS' AFFAIRS PENSIONER CONCESSION CARD

Applications Close
Thursday 6 April 2023

Ask School Reception for More Information

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?

There are two types of Secondary Assistance Scheme Allowance parents/guardians can apply for, either SAS or Abstudy Supplement Allowance. Those who apply for SAS receive:

1. \$115 Clothing Allowance, paid directly to the school or parent/ guardian. (Please note, if your child is in Year 9-11 we recommend you opt for this to go to the school to cover subject charges).
2. \$235 Educational Program Allowance, paid directly to the school.

If, however, the student qualifies for Centrelink ABSTUDY, then the parent/guardian can choose to 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?

No. The only exception 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 or other guardian apply for Secondary Assistance?

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

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.