

EDUCATION GRANTS EXTENDED

The Commonwealth Government has now extended its Aboriginal Secondary Grants scheme to cover Aboriginal high school students under the age of 15.

Previously the scheme only covered secondary students between the ages of 15 and 21. These students remain eligible for the grants under the same conditions that applied previously.

The benefits of the scheme are now also available to all full-time students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent who were under 14 years of age on 1st January this year and who are attending an approved Australian secondary school.

There are five kinds of benefits available to students who come under the scheme:

Textbook and Uniform Allowance

Up to \$50 per year is available for textbooks and up to \$150 for uniforms, including sports uniforms and equipment, and other clothing worn at school.

The money is normally paid to the student's mother or guardian in three stages—at the beginning and end of first term and at the end of second term.

Living Allowance

The amount of money received as a living allowance depends on whether the student is living at home or away from home.

A student living at home and in the final 2 years of high school, receives \$300 per year. A student in the lower forms receives \$240 per year. The money is paid to the parent or guardian at fortnightly intervals from February to December.

In approved cases, when students have to live away from home to attend school, certain boarding charges are covered under the scheme:

- a student living in a hostel may receive up to \$16 per week to cover compulsory charges;
- a student in private board may receive up to \$16 per week to cover lodging expenses;
- a student attending boarding school, in certain circumstances, may be entitled to up to \$780 per year to cover his board and lodging fees.

In these cases the money is paid directly to where the student is boarding, not to the parents. In cases where living away from home benefits are not approved (usually in cases where there are no apparent advantages in living away from home), the student will remain eligible to the same benefits as if he or she were living at home.

Personal Allowance

During the school year students may be paid a personal allowance to help cover incidental expenses. The amount depends on what grade he or she is studying. A student in forms 1 or 2 is eligible to up to 50 cents per week, in forms 3 or 4 up to \$1.50, and in forms 5 or 6 up to \$2 per week.

The money is paid fortnightly and special conditions may apply to a student in boarding school.

Fees

Where a student attends a Government school his or her examination fees and service fees (e.g. sport and library fees) will be completely covered and paid directly to the school.

Where a student attends a non-Government school up to \$150 per year will be available to cover compulsory fees. In certain cases all compulsory fees may be covered.

Fares

Where a student has to live away from his or her home or normal place of residence to attend school, fares to and from home or the normal residence for the three term vacations will be covered.

Other Conditions of the Scheme

The continuation of a grant depends upon the student attending school regularly and upon his conduct and progress.

The benefits received under the scheme may be affected by any other awards or assistance the student obtains to assist with his education.

Applications

Application forms can be obtained from and should be lodged with, The Regional Director,