Living Away From Home Allowance

2027 Application

The Living Away from Home Allowance (LAFHA) provides financial assistance to eligible NSW families who must board their children away from home to access education.

Eligibility Preconditions

Students must:

1. Be required to board and be living away from their usual NSW home address
2. Have a primary carer who is a permanent resident of NSW
3. Be enrolled at either a NSW public secondary school (Years 7-12) or a non-government secondary school.

This provision allows students who live close to a state border to attend a school in an adjoining state NSW, QLD, SA, VIC, or the ACT.

2027 Allowance

Living Away from Home Allowance is to the value of **$2,642**. Year 11 and 12 students who meet the geographically isolated criteria (2.1) may be eligible for an additional allowance of **$607**.

The annual allowance is generally paid in two equal instalments (see Closing dates for more information).

Application important information

Please ensure that all relevant sections of the application are completed fully to avoid delays in processing payment. These sections include:

Section 1 — Student information

Section 2 — Parent(s) or carer(s) information

Section 3 — Adjusted family income calculation

Section 4 — Eligibility criteria (complete ONE only)

Section 5 — Payment instructions

Section 6 — Parent/carer declaration

Section 7 — School principal certification

Closing dates

Applications for 2027 will not be accepted after 30 September 2027.

- For the full year payment, applications are due by 30 June 2027.
- Any applications received after 30 June 2027 and on or before 30 September 2027 will receive the second semester payment only.

For assistance contact Rural and Distance Education (02) 6334 8070 or email RDE@det.nsw.edu.au

Completed applications should be forwarded to:

Rural and Distance Education

Email: rde@det.nsw.edu.au

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Changes in family circumstances

The Rural and Distance Education team must be notified within 14 days of any changes in family circumstances from those given in this application. **Failure to do this may result in the cancellation of the allowance.** Notification of changes in family circumstances should be emailed to rde@det.nsw.edu.au

Renewal of application

Unless family circumstances change, there is no need for the family to renew the application annually, unless specifically requested to do so. **Family income will be reviewed when the student enters Year 9 and again in Year 11.**

Privacy statement

The personal information provided on this form, **Living Away from Home Allowance 2027** is being collected for the purpose of processing applications for the NSW Secondary Students Living Away from Home Allowance to support students required to board to attend an appropriate secondary school. It will be used by staff of the Department of Education for matters relating to the processing of applications. While the provision of this information is voluntary, if you do not provide all or any of this information it may limit the Department's ability to consider your application. This information will be stored securely. You may access or correct any personal information provided by contacting the Rural and Distance Education office.

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Application

Section 1 — Student information

Surname Given names

Date of birth Gender

School attended in 2026

School the student will be attending in 2027

School name

Address

State Postcode

Student's boarding address (if different from above)

Address

State Postcode

Students school year for 2027

Nearest public secondary school to the student's home address

Name of public school

Public school address

Shortest distance by road from the home address to the above school (kms)

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Section 2 – Parent(s) or carer(s) information

Surname (parent 1)

Given name (s) Title

Surname (parent 2)

Given name (s) Title

Home residential address

State Postcode

Postal address (if different from above)

State Postcode

Email address

Contact phone number 1 Contact phone number 2

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Section 3 – Adjusted family income calculation

Adjusted family income is the combined taxable income from all sources in the 2025/2026 tax year, of each person who will contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the student in 2027, less **$2,233** for a dependent spouse and **$1,647** for each dependent child (where applicable).

Your **taxable income** is the figure advised in the Notice of Assessment issued by the Australian Taxation Office.

To be eligible in 2027, the family's adjusted income for the 2025/2026 financial year must not exceed **$86,843**.

Separated, divorced or single parents must disclose any maintenance or child support payments received from a spouse, former spouse or other parent of the student as well as any defacto/partnership incomes. These amounts must be included in the family income before any deductions are made.

Applications must have attached a copy of the 2025/2026 Notice/s of Assessment from the Australian Taxation Office and, if applicable - Centrelink statements.

Please complete the table below to calculate your adjusted family income.

Item	Example	Your calculation must be completed
Taxable income from all sources		
Person 1	$49,981	$
Person 2	$22,018	$
Other income including any additional payments, e.g. child support	$457	$
Total family taxable income	$72,456	$
Subtract deductions as applicable		
Dependent spouse ($2,233)	N/A	$
Dependent child/ren (Number of children x $1,647)	(4 children) $6,588	$
Total deductions	$6,588	$
Adjusted family income	**$65,868**	**$**

Please contact Rural and Distance Education on telephone (02) 6334 8070 or email RDE@det.nsw.edu.au for support or assistance.

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Section 4 – Eligibility criteria

The application can only be made for **ONE** of the following 7 categories:

Category 2.1 — Distance to the nearest government secondary school –

The distance between the student's home and nearest public secondary school is more than 48 kilometres by road each way or the travelling time required from the transport pick up point to the school exceeds 90 minutes each way.

The distance by road directly from my home to the nearest public school is more than 48km.

School name _____ Distance _____ (kms)

Normal time taken to travel from the transport pick up point to the nearest public school is more than 90 minutes. Time taken is _____ mins.

There is a bus service from my home to the school? _____

Category 2.2 — Distance to a school of preferred religious denomination –

The distance between the student's home and nearest secondary school of preferred religion is more than 48 kilometres by road each way or the travelling time required from the transport pick up point to the school exceeds 90 minutes each way. This school must be of a specific religious denomination, not a non-denominational secondary school.

Details of nearest secondary school of preferred religious denomination from your home

Name of school _____

Religious denomination of this school _____

School Address _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Distance from your residence to this school is _____ kms

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Category 2.3 — Distance from a public secondary school that offers agriculture at a senior level.

The student is attending a NSW public agricultural high school specifically to study Agriculture through to the Higher School Certificate level. The student's residence must be more than 48 kilometres from a public secondary school that consistently offers Agriculture as a Higher School Certificate subject.

The Rural and Distance Education office will verify that appropriate courses in Agriculture are not available at a local school.

Name of closest public secondary school

Distance from your residence to that school kms

Other circumstances criteria

Category 3.1 — One-parent family –

The student is from a one-parent family and the parent is required to work and so cannot provide adequate supervision of the student before and after school hours.

A Statutory Declaration must be attached to support the application, signed by sole carer, setting out:

- Why supervision cannot be arranged

- That the carer is not in any current relationship

A Statutory Declaration is attached _

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Category 3.2 — Medical –

It is essential that a student must live away from home for the management of a medical condition.

A letter or certificate from a relevant medical specialist stating that this is the case, and the duration that the student must be away from home.

Medical documentation attached _

Category 3.3 — Impassable roads –

The student does not have reasonable access to an appropriate public school or school of preferred religion on at least 20 days of the school year because of impassable roads (refers to public roads only).

Applications must be supported by documented evidence (eg, statement from the local council

Description of particulars of the road/s concerned and how you are affected by it

Evidence is attached _

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Category 3.4 — Change of place of residence when the student is in Year 12 –

The parents change their place of residence when the student is in Year 12 and it is considered undesirable that the student change schools during the year.

It is a condition of the Allowance that the department is advised of any change in the family's place of residence during any school year. Applications under this category will be considered only where the student is in Year 12 and the student's parents or carers have changed their place of residence to a location that is more than 48km from the student's current school or the student's travelling time to the current school would exceed 90 minutes each way.

Family's residential address before the relocation

Family's new residential address

Date of the relocation

Name of student's current school

Distance from the family's new location to the student's school kms

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Section 5 – Payment instructions

Please nominate where the payment is to be directed (A or B). Please write clearly and ensure ALL details are completed to enable prompt payment.

A) To the parent/carer – by direct deposit

A1 Direct Deposit to Bank

Account name

BSB / Account number

Name of bank/building society/credit union

Branch name/location

Account holder signature

B) To the boarding school or hostel

Title (eg Secretary, Bursar)

School or Hostel Name

Address

State Postcode

Contact phone number/s

I AUTHORISE PAYMENT AS NOMINATED ABOVE (parent/carer to sign)

Parent/carer signature Date

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Section 6 – Parent /carer declaration

This section must be signed by the parents or carers

1. I/We am/are responsible for the student's education fees and boarding fees
2. I/We am/are responsible for the full support of the student
3. I/We will inform the Rural & Distance Education office (RDE@det.nsw.edu.au) or mail to (PO Box 717, Bathurst 2795) within 14 days of changes to any of the information given on this application during the period for which the scholarship is approved. In particular, the office must be notified of any of the following:
    a. the family taxable income exceeds the means tested amount
    b. the student transfers to another school
    c. the parents' place of residence changes
    d. the parent in a one-parent family remarries or re-partners
    e. a student in Year 11 or 12 who previously received the allowance based on criteria other than the isolation factor is eligible to claim the additional allowance for students who are geographically isolated.
4. The information on this application is true and accurate in all respects.

Other dependent children – please insert details of dependent children.

Surname	Given Name	Date of birth	School attending in 2027 (if applicable)	Receiving LAFHA in 2027

Parent/Carer (1)

Name

Signature

Date

Parent/Carer (2)

Name

Signature

Date

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Section 7 – School principal certification

The school principal must certify that the student is enrolled and attending in 2027.

Principal's certification

I certify the student named below has enrolled for attendance at this school in 2027.

I understand that they are making application for the NSW Department of Education's Living Away from Home Allowance (LAFHA).

Student's First Name Student's Surname

In Year (for 2027)

Of (student's home address)

State Postcode

Principal's name (please print)

Principal's Signature

School Name

Date

Please contact Rural and Distance Education on telephone (02) 6334 8070 or email RDE@det.nsw.edu.au for support or assistance.

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