



# Youth Allowance

## STUDENT INCOME SUPPORT—RELOCATION SCHOLARSHIP

University students receiving Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY who have to live away from the family home for study will be assisted by a Relocation Scholarship. This will be available to dependent students living away from home as well as independent students who are disadvantaged by personal circumstances. This measure will take effect from 1 January 2010.

The Relocation Scholarship will provide \$4000 for students in their first year at university and \$1000 in each year thereafter and will be indexed. It will replace the Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship (CAS) for new students, while existing CAS recipients will be 'grandfathered'.

The cost of the measure is \$193.2 million over four years.

### Removing financial barriers

The Relocation Scholarship will assist students with the cost of establishing new accommodation in order to attend university. Its objective is to remove financial barriers to the educational participation of students from low socio-economic status (SES) backgrounds, particularly those from regional and remote areas and Indigenous students.

This measure is tightly targeted and improves support for students who need it most. It is critical to meeting the Government's target of 20 per cent of higher education enrolments at undergraduate level being students from low SES backgrounds by 2020.

An estimated 14 200 students will benefit from this measure in 2010, rising to 28 700 by 2013. This compares with the 3571 Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships allocated in 2007 for commencing students under the previous system and the 8100 allocated in 2010 as a result of the Rudd Government's commitment to double the number of Commonwealth Scholarships by 2012.

### What this measure will deliver?

This measure allows disadvantaged university students to receive \$4000 on commencement of their course and \$1000 for each year thereafter for up to four years.

The Scholarship will be administered by Centrelink, linking the provision of scholarship benefits to university students receiving income support payments.

The Scholarship will only be available to university students on income support, including Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY, and university students who are assisted under veterans' schemes.

### Next steps

This measure will be legislated in 2009 and guidelines updated as appropriate. Required modifications to Centrelink systems are expected to be completed by December 2009.