

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Living Away From Home Allowances Scheme

### **1. When do I have to have my LAFHAS application in by?**

Applications close on 31 December each year for the year of application. Applications must be received by the Department of Education by this date.

### **2. My child is finishing up at boarding school prior to the end of the school year, what do I do?**

You need to contact the Department of Education by email or phone as soon as you are aware of the change of circumstances so that we can assess the impact on your entitlements.

### **3. My child is changing boarding schools what do I have to do?**

You need to contact the Department of Education by email or phone as soon as you are aware of the change in boarding school so that we can reassess your entitlements.

### **4. How far does the bus have to be from my address to claim for LAFHAS?**

If the bus is less than 4.5 km from your home then it must travel more than 56 km from your home to the nearest school with the required year level for you to be eligible. Otherwise, if there is no bus the school must be more than 16 km from your home.

### **5. Can we apply for LAFHAS if we live interstate or overseas?**

No. LAFHAS is a Queensland state assistance scheme and only families whose family home is in Queensland can be considered.

### **6. Why do I receive only the travel allowance when my child is in private boarding?**

If your child is in a private board arrangement then it is deemed that they have access to a State School where there is no tuition charged, therefore only travel assistance is paid.

### **7. Why don't we receive LAFHAS if we have a second home in the town where my children attend school?**

If you maintain a second home for education purposes, it is deemed that you have daily access to a State School and therefore are not geographically isolated from education.

### **8. What happens if we move home?**

You must advise the Department of Education of any change in address as soon as you are aware of the details. Your new address will need to be assessed against the LAFHAS criteria and depending on the circumstances you may or may not continue to qualify.

**9. What if our new address does not satisfy distance eligibility?**

Your eligibility for LAFHAS will cease as at the change in address and any overpaid entitlements will need to be recovered. If your child is in Year 11 or 12, they may be eligible to continue to receive entitlements to the end of Year 12.

**10. What if our new family home address is interstate or overseas?**

If you move interstate or overseas, benefits are payable up to the last day on which you were Queensland residents.

**11. Can we claim Abstudy and LAFHAS together?**

No. You are unable to claim both, it must be one or the other.

**12. Can we claim LAFHAS if child is in receipt of a bursary/scholarship?**

If your child is in receipt of a bursary/scholarship, it is not mandatory to tick the box. It will not affect your LAFHAS entitlements so you may still apply.

**13. Do we get a letter to notify us of our payment?**

Yes, a letter is sent to applicants when payments are deposited into their nominated bank account.

**14. Where can I find the online application for LAFHAS?**

<http://www.qld.gov.au/education/schools/financial/ruralremote/pages/lafhas.html>

**15. Can I have a paper application sent out to my postal address?**

Yes, if you are unable to download the form or complete the online form, a paper copy can be posted.

**16. How much will I get if I apply for LAFHAS?**

This depends on the boarding school and the year level the student is in. There is a travel calculator online at

<http://www.qld.gov.au/education/schools/financial/ruralremote/pages/lafhas.html>

**17. Do I get the payment into my account?**

The tuition allowance is paid directly to the school and Travel allowance is paid into the applicant's nominated financial institution account each semester.