

Living Away from Home Allowances Scheme (LAFHAS)

Itinerant Occupations

Special circumstances

Special consideration can be given to applicants who do not fully meet residential distance criteria, but who could still be regarded as geographically isolated because of special circumstances.

Criteria for particular special circumstances are below.

Fact Sheet

An **itinerant** occupation for the purposes of the LAFHAS is an occupation that is not located in one specific location but where the nature of the type of work cannot be regarded as static. A home base is required to be identified.

Both parents are required to be involved in the itinerant occupation. If only one parent has an itinerant occupation and the other parent remains at home living in an ineligible location, eligibility cannot be applied.

Where a single parent has the full time custody of the student or where the partner is deceased, eligibility is able to be considered provided the nature of employment identifies as a true itinerant occupation.

The following itinerant occupations are considered under the LAFHAS:

- **Show families** (show circuit is required to be followed each year)
- **Shearing occupations** including camp cook (shearing of sheep requires property to property movement)
- **Cattle mustering** (land/aeroplane) requires property to property movement
- **Professional fishing** where movement on a fishing vessel to various seasonal fishing locations is required.

Parents who are employed in genuine itinerant occupations, such that an itinerant lifestyle is necessary for the whole family, can apply for assistance if they:

- move residence at least three times during the school year or five times over two years
- travel extensively and regularly away from a home base or fixed address
 - spend at least 60 school days per year outside a home base (only absences of five or more consecutive school days qualify)
 - spend at least 120 school days per year in Queensland

- provide verification of frequent movement for example, employer's statement, membership of showmen's guild
- move to various work/home locations over a considerable area so that it could not reasonably be expected that a fixed family address is maintained. Location solely within metropolitan areas or at locations which are less than 56 km from one centre offering adequate schooling, does not qualify.

Payment can be made in the next payment process following an eligible assessment outcome based on supporting documentation.

Remote Area Travel Allowance will be paid based on distances from boarding locations to addresses at which applicants are living at the time of travel.

Following initial approval, students will remain eligible until they complete schooling at approved schools provided reasonable patterns of itinerancy are maintained and applicants confirm that family occupational circumstances have not changed (appropriate documentation to be supplied annually).

Occupations outside the scope of LAFHAS and unable to be considered as an itinerant occupation:

- Doctor/nurse
- Merchant seaman
- Salesperson
- Armed forces
- Mining work

Occupations such as these are unable to be considered in the context of assessment for financial assistance under the LAFHAS. The nature of work for these types of occupations is considered static. These types of positions can be located within a fixed environment but across many towns/locations therefore the work is not itinerant. It is regarded as a choice/decision of occupation that a person move from location to location in this type of work.

For further information please contact
School Financial Resourcing on
 Freecall: 1800 248 997

