

# Living Away from Home Allowances Scheme (LAFHAS)

## Impassable Roads

### 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

A student who does not meet the residential distance criteria of the Living Away from Home Allowances Scheme may still be geographically isolated if reasonable daily access to school is denied for a significant portion of the school year owing to impassable roads caused by adverse weather conditions.

A significant amount of a school year is defined as:

- at least 20 school days on which students have no access to an appropriate Queensland Government state school, or
- at least 30 days on which, though the student would be able to attend school, the home would satisfy the residential distance criteria (e.g. because of need to travel by an alternative, longer route).

The number of days above may be averaged over three years for initial eligibility purposes. A pattern of impassability over a period of years is required to be established.

The following evidence is required in the first instance:

- report from relevant Council engineers or similar authorities on condition of the road(s) concerned.
  - This must include a statement of amount of rainfall which causes road(s) to become impassable and number of days it remains impassable. This could be caused by local rainfall or raised stream levels resulting from rainfall in other areas.
- rainfall charts for past three years (daily by month in millimetres) for home address or surrounding areas.

Additional evidence that may be required:

- absences in previous years caused by impassable roads, verified by the school principal
- alternative measures available to transport student to school and travelling times that would then apply (e.g. temporary boarding arrangements and alternative routes)
- a report, where applicable, from the school bus operator, indicating school days that the student had no access to service.

Following initial approval on grounds of impassable roads, students will remain eligible until they complete schooling at an approved school, provided the applicant:

- confirms annually that the family residence has not changed
- provides confirmation from a relevant Council or similar authority that access to the nearest Queensland Government state school with relevant year level has not improved.

Continued eligibility for approved students cannot be transferred to siblings or neighbours in subsequent years.

If road conditions improve permanently or other circumstances occur that allow reasonable daily access to appropriate schooling, students will no longer be considered under special circumstances unless they are proceeding from Year 11 to Year 12.

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

