

Living Away From Home Allowance

Living Away From Home Allowance (LAFHA) provides assistance to eligible apprentices and trainees where they move away from their parents' or guardians' home in order to take up or remain in an Australian Apprenticeship. LAFHA is available to apprentices and trainees of any age including full time, part time and school-based.

Rates and eligibility periods

Subject to meeting eligibility requirements, LAFHA is paid as follows:

Year	Rate	Eligibility period
First Year	\$77.17 per week	First 12-month period from commencement date
Second Year	\$38.59 per week	Second 12-month period
Third Year	\$25.00 per week	Third 12-month period

LAFHA payments to Australian Apprentices are tax exempt, therefore are not treated as taxable income.

Am I eligible?

You must meet the following requirements to be eligible for LAFHA:

- Your employer must meet eligibility criteria to receive Australian Government incentives in accordance with the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme Guidelines; **AND**
- Be undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship at the Certificate II or above qualification; **AND**
- Be within the first 36 months (3 years) of your Australian Apprenticeship (regardless of full time or part time mode); **AND**
- Meet the residential criteria (as per below) or be homeless.

Residential criteria

You must satisfy the following residential criteria:

Moved away from your parent or legal guardian home for the first time. At least ONE of the following must apply:

- Within three (3) months before starting your Australian Apprenticeship; **OR**
- To remain in your Australian Apprenticeship; **OR**
- To pursue essential supplementary on-the-job training with another employer.

School-based apprentices and trainees moving to boarding school does not satisfy the residential criteria.

AND

Demonstrate at least ONE of the following eligibility criteria would have applied if you stayed in the parental/guardian home.

- You would have to travel more than 90 minutes each way between work and home; **OR**
- You would have to cope with unreasonable travel delays; **OR**
- There would be limited or unsuitable transport arrangements available; **OR**
- There would be unaffordable/prohibitive transport costs.

You may be eligible to receive the allowance if you are undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship and you are, or become, homeless.

Ineligibility

You will NOT be eligible for LAFHA if:

- You have lodged a claim for Youth Allowance, Austudy, or ABSTUDY with Centrelink and the claim is still current; **OR**
- You are receiving rental or accommodation assistance from Centrelink or free or subsidised housing from your employer; **OR**
- You have moved away from home to attend block release off-the-job training.

How do I apply?

If you think you meet the eligibility criteria please contact MEGT to confirm your eligibility. You can then apply by completing a LAFHA application form online.

Please note additional evidence is required as follows:

A Statutory Declaration from your parent or legal guardian stating the following:

- Their residential address; **AND**
- That you lived at that address immediately prior to moving to take up your or remain in your Australian Apprenticeship; **AND**
- This is the first time you have moved away from home; **AND**
- The date you moved away from your parents' or guardians' home.

AND

Proof of your current residential address, by providing one of the following:

- A rental receipt; **OR**
- A Statutory Declaration from the owner (landlord) of the house; **OR**
- Official documentation showing your name and current residential address i.e. electricity, water, gas, mobile phone, or internet bill; **OR**
- A document from the real estate agent who you are renting the property from.

How do I claim LAFHA?

MEGT will advise you once your application has been assessed and how to claim if you're eligible.

If you have any questions or require assistance please contact us on **13 MEGT (13 6348)**.