

Request for a Statement of Support: Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme

Student would Suffer Serious Educational Disadvantage at a Local School 4.3.5.7

The Department of Social Services through Centrelink manages the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme for the Australian Government. The scheme provides allowances for parents or carers of eligible children, who board away from home to attend a school, live in a second family home to attend school daily or live at home and undertake distance education or approved home schooling.

For full details on the allowances and eligibility rules please consult the [AIC Guidelines](#) or contact Centrelink on 132 318.

Consideration for statements of support

In considering requests for a statement of support, the NSW Department of Education must consider information that meets the criteria of AIC guidelines. The AIC Guidelines state that a student cannot be considered as suffering from serious educational disadvantage on the basis of:

- A desire for the student to attend a school of choice, including a school that is classified as 'specialist' or 'selective' or a school that will 'enhance the student's academic prospects'
- The standard of teaching facilities
- The socioeconomic, racial or ethnic mix of a school
- Non-core subjects (e.g., subjects other than maths, science and English) being studied by distance education methods
- Inability to continue study in the same subjects or the same system after the student's parents have moved from one non geographically isolated area to another
- Family connections with another school
- Difficulties with out of school care arrangements
- A desire for a family to send a child to a boarding school.

The Department must provide clear evidence that the student would suffer serious educational disadvantage in the statement of support. Evidence provided in this application will match the educational program of the individual student and the capacity of the local school to respond to those needs on a case-by-case basis. This may result in differing outcomes for siblings and other students in the same geographical location.

How eligibility is determined

Applications will be accepted from students from year 7 to year 12 at one of the isolated schools listed in table 1. Points will be allocated to reach a threshold of 15 or more points to gain a statement of support outlined in table 2.

The Executive Director responsible for your local school will be contacted to provide information about the courses available at your local school, the size of the relevant cohort and will assess the additional information in your statement.

Table 1 Schools		
Schools serving Very Remote communities. Remoteness Loading = 10 points	Schools serving Remote communities. Remoteness Loading = 5 points	Other Geographically Isolated schools. Remoteness Loading = 0 points
Goodooga CS Ivanhoe CS Wilcannia CS	Baradine CS Bourke HS Brewarrina CS Cobar HS Collarenebri CS Coonamble HS Hillston CS Lightning Ridge CS Menindee CS Mungindi CS Nyngan HS Tottenham CS Tullamore CS Tullibigeal CS Walgett CCHS	Ardlethan CS Arian Park CS Ashford CS Balranald CS Batlow TCS Barraba CS Binnaway CS Boggabilla CS Coleambally CS Coolah CS Emmaville CS Gulargambone CS Lake Cargelligo CS Oaklands CS Tooleybuc CS Trangie CS Trundle CS Ungarie CS Warren CS

Table 2 Points	
Geographic Isolation	Either 0, 5 or 10 points will be allocated according to the degree of remoteness of the community served by the local government school. A list of schools is provided on the following page
Curriculum	<p>Applicants seeking points for curriculum will only be accepted from students already enrolled in a school away from their home community in years 9 - 12. No points for curriculum can be awarded to students in years 7 or 8. NSW secondary schools that do not have the capacity to provide all mandatory courses for these years are included on the limited programs school list provided to Centrelink and do not require a statement of support.</p> <p>Year 11 and 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 points will be allocated per core 2-unit subject studied at the 'away' school that can only be met by distance education at the local school • A subject pattern that would meet the minimum requirements leading to the award of an ATAR will be considered as core. Subjects will be matched up to 12 units in year 11 and 10 units in year 12. Additional units above this pattern will not be counted. <p>Year 9 and 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core subjects in year 9 and 10 are English, Mathematics, Science, Human Society and Its Environment, Physical Education and one elective subject. <p>Subjects available at Aurora College and through the Access Program are not designed as distance education programs and will not attract points</p>
Cohort Size of the Local School	<p>5 points are allocated for one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total enrolment of years 7 to 12 is less than 25 students • For students entering years 11 and 12 the total senior school enrolment is less than 10 students • The total number of enrolments of the year that the student would be in is 3 or less.
Parent Statement (250-word limit)	<p>Up to 5 point may be provided for a statement outlining the special educational circumstances relating to the need to bypass the local school due to social isolation. Elements relating to social isolation would be considered.</p> <p>Parents may indicate that their child is socially isolated because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the child is the only student in the class of a certain ethnic or cultural background • the child is the only student in the class being either male or female • the child feels isolated because of their sexuality • the family may be part of an itinerant workforce within a community • there is no daily travel access to an alternative school, such as more than one hour car travel time to an alternative school which would address this isolation <p>This statement will be assessed by the local Executive Director who will consider any programs run by the school to ameliorate the effects of the isolation described and allocate points accordingly</p>

To request a statement of support

1. Complete the application on the following pages.
2. If the child is in year 7 or 8 complete page 5 only.
3. If the child is in year 9 or 10 complete page 5 and the Principal's Statement on page 6.
4. If the child is in year 1 or 12 complete page 5 and the Principal's Statement on page 6.
5. Send your completed application to: rde@det.nsw.edu.au

It will generally take 3 – 4 weeks for the Department to respond to your request.

Should you require any further information or clarification about this process please contact the Rural and Distance Education office on 6334 8070.

Supporting Statement Application Request

Parent/Carer name: _____

Address (include rural address number or GPS if known):

Contact phone number: _____

Student name: _____

Name of current school: _____

Current year level: _____

Name of nearest NSW government secondary school:

Parent/carer statement

Please provide a statement in no more than 250 words of what you consider are the special educational circumstances relating to the need to bypass the local school. Please ensure you do not include reference to the AIC exclusions on page one.

Principal's statement certifying a student's pattern of study in year 9 or 10

Name of School: _____

Name of Student: _____

The school year in which the student is enrolled: Year 9 Year 10

- I certify that the above-named student's pattern of study at this school satisfies the requirements for the core subjects for the student to be awarded the Record of School Achievement and includes the elective subjects listed below.
- I have specified the Mathematics level.
- I have ticked any subject that is completed by distance education.

Table 3 subjects being studied in year 9 or 10

Core year 9 and 10 Subjects	Delivered by Distance Education
English	
Science	
HSIE	
PDHPE	
Maths (Specify course in NSW 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3)	
Elective Subjects	

Name of Principal: _____

Signature of Principal: _____

Date: _____

Principal's statement certifying a student's pattern of study in year 11 or 12

Name of School: _____

Name of Student: _____

The school year in which the student is enrolled: Year 11 Year 12

- I certify that the above-named student's pattern of study at this school for this year is as follows
- I have ticked any subject that is completed by distance education.

Table 4 subjects being studied in years 11 or 12

Course Name	2 Unit or 1 Unit	Delivered by distance education
English (Specify actual course names and/or level as appropriate)		

Name of Principal: _____

Signature of Principal: _____

Date: _____