



Australian Government

About the Schoolkids Bonus

What is the Schoolkids Bonus?

The Schoolkids Bonus is a payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies.

When does the Schoolkids Bonus start?

The Schoolkids Bonus starts from January 2013.

Who is eligible?

You could receive the Schoolkids Bonus if you have a child in primary or secondary school, or you are a primary or secondary student, and you receive one of the following payments:

- Family Tax Benefit Part A
- Youth Allowance
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance
- Carer Payment
- Parenting Payment
- Special Benefit
- Education allowances under the Veterans' Children Education Scheme and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme.

Children in preschool are not eligible.

How much will I receive?

If you are eligible, you will receive:

- **\$410** for each child in primary school (paid in two instalments of \$205)
- **\$820** for each child in secondary school (paid in two instalments of \$410).

If you share the care of your children and receive a percentage of Family Tax Benefit Part A or an education allowance, you will receive the same percentage of the Schoolkids Bonus.



When will I receive it?

Payments are made in January and July every year. You must be receiving one of the eligible payments on 1 January to be eligible for the January payment. Similarly, you must be receiving one of the eligible payments on 30 June to receive the July payment.

If you claim Family Tax Benefit Part A as a lump sum at the end of the financial year, you will receive the Schoolkids Bonus then.

What do I need to do to get it?

It's easy. You don't have to fill out any forms, keep receipts, or claim the Schoolkids Bonus in your tax return.

You just need to let Centrelink know:

- when you or your child starts primary school to start receiving the payment and
- when you or your child move from primary to secondary school to start receiving the secondary school amount.
- when you or your child finishes secondary school to receive the final secondary school payment.

How will I be paid?

If you're eligible, the Schoolkids Bonus will be automatically paid into your nominated bank account in January and July.

Has the Schoolkids Bonus replaced the Education Tax Refund?

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund, which means you no longer need to keep receipts and claim it through your tax return.

Is the Schoolkids Bonus less than the Education Tax Refund?

No – the Schoolkids Bonus is \$410 a year for each primary student and \$820 for each secondary student compared to a maximum of \$397 for a primary student and \$794 for a secondary student under the previous Education Tax Refund. In addition, most families were not claiming their full entitlement under the Education Tax Refund because they didn't have the receipts when they did their tax returns or forgot to claim the payment. Schoolkids Bonus is paid automatically and no receipts are required.

Where can I go for more information?

To learn more about the Schoolkids Bonus, visit

australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus

