

Applying for the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme

A guide for Aspect Distance Education families



aspect
Distance Education

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Prepared by Aspect Distance Education

This guide provides general information to assist families applying for the Australian Government Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme.

Eligibility and payment decisions are made by Services Australia.

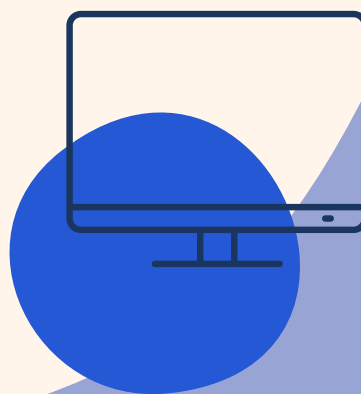
What is the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme?

The Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme is an Australian Government payment administered by Services Australia. It provides financial assistance to eligible families whose children study through an approved distance education program because they cannot attend a local mainstream school due to geographical isolation, disability or special education needs.

For eligible Aspect Distance Education students, the relevant payment is the Distance Education Allowance.

Key facts

- The 2026 Distance Education Allowance is up to \$5,277 per year, paid in four instalments.
- The payment is not means tested.
- It is not taxable income.
- It does not affect payments such as Family Tax Benefit or Carer Allowance.
- Claims may be backdated in some circumstances.
- Applications must be renewed each year if eligibility continues.



How the AIC Scheme may help with the cost of Aspect Distance Education

The allowance is designed to help eligible families meet the costs associated with studying from home through an approved distance education provider. Families often use the allowance to help cover school fees, technology and other education-related expenses.

Example costs	Estimated amount
Distance Education Allowance (2026)	Up to \$5,277 per year
Aspect Distance Education annual school fee (2026)	\$3,120
Remaining allowance	Approx. \$2,157
Technology	Up to ~\$1,800
Estimated allowance remaining	Approx. \$357

The above is an example only. Actual costs and payment amounts may vary. The allowance is paid by Services Australia to eligible families.

Who may be eligible?

Your child may be eligible if they:

- ✓ live at home
- ✓ are enrolled in an approved distance education program
- ✓ are under 19 years of age and meet one of the isolation conditions such as special education need, geographical isolation, no reasonable access to a school or continuity of schooling.



Before you apply

- Review the [AIC Claim Form \(SY040\)](#).
- Have a [Medical Statement](#) completed by your child's GP, psychologist, medical specialist or registered allied health professional.
- Email distanceed@aspect.org.au to obtain a Confirmation of Attendance letter from Aspect Distance Education.

How to apply

Step 1

Download the [AIC Claim Form \(SY040\)](#).



Step 2

Complete the parent/carers sections.

Step 3

Arrange for a health professional to complete the medical statement. This can be done by your GP, psychologist, medical specialist or registered allied health professional.

Step 4

Attach the Aspect confirmation of attendance letter and supporting documentation.

Step 5

Submit via [myGov](#) by post, fax or by attending a Services Australia office. Please visit or contact a Centrelink office if you require further assistance to complete the form.



Tips for completing the AIC Claim Form

Part A (Parent/Carer)

Question 8 – Tick Option A: Needs to study from home.

Part B (Doctor/Specialist/Registered Allied Health Professional)

Question 23 – Ensure Option A (the first box) is selected.

Question	Suggested response
Q44	Attach Aspect letter
Q45	Tick Yes
Q46	Use enrolment date
Q48	5 days
Q49	Tick No
Q50	Tick No then go to Q83
Q83	Tick second box – student has disability
Q101	Attach school letter and supporting reports

How Aspect can help

- ✓ Provide the confirmation of attendance letter.
- ✓ Answer general questions and advise where you can find information about the application process.
- ✓ Supply updated enrolment confirmation letters for renewals.



Need more information?

Visit Services Australia

132 318

www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/sy040

Contact:

Aspect Distance Education

distanceed@aspect.org.au

