Applying for the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme

A guide for Aspect Distance Education families

aspect
Distance Education

Table of contents

What is the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme? 3

How the AIC Scheme may help with the cost of Aspect Distance Education....4

Who may be eligible?....4

Before you apply....5

How to apply....5

Tips for completing the AIC Claim Form....6

How Aspect can help....6

Need more information?....7

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.

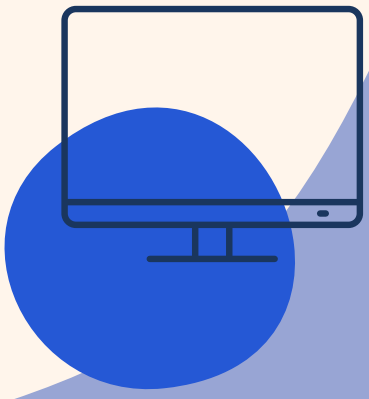
What is the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme?

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

- Shared allowance given to enrolled students in Aspect
- 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.

As fees and allowance amounts may change, families are encouraged to:

- Visit the Aspect Website for current information about fees and associated costs for Distance Education.
- Visit the Services Australia website for the latest information about the Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme, including current allowance rates, eligibility requirements and payment information.

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.
- Families need to pay for enrolment fees before requesting the Confirmation of Attendance Letter
- 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/carer 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

aspect
Autism Spectrum Australia