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

Student needs to be removed from a local school under section 4.3.5.4

The Department of Human Services (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.

In considering requests for a statement of support, the NSW Department of Education will take into account:

- reasons for the student to be removed from the local school environment (in broad terms only). For example, this might be because of interpersonal problems affecting psychological, emotional or physical health (such as bullying or harassment) or expulsion from school
- attempts that have been made by the family and the school to resolve the problem
- whether there is any other suitable school in the district that the student can attend daily.

If the claim is on the basis of a disability or other health related condition, it **must** also be supported by medical evidence that establishes that there is a health related problem and recommends that the student be removed from the school as part of the treatment plan for the condition.

The Executive Director responsible for your local school will be contacted to investigate the circumstances in your application. The Executive Director will be required to:

- confirm the reason the student was removed from the local school (in broad terms only, e.g. interpersonal problems affecting health, expulsion)
- confirm that attempts been made by the family and the school to resolve the problem
- confirm that there is not another suitable school in the district that the student can attend daily.

1. Complete the application request on page 3 of this document.
2. Attach any medical evidence, to this application and complete the questions on page 3 and 4before forwarding to the Rural and Distance Education office.
3. You do not need to contact the local school. The circumstances described in your application will be investigated with the local Executive Director.
4. Send your completed application to:

Coordinator, Rural and Distance Education
Department of Education
PO Box 717
Bathurst 2795

Or

Email to: rde@det.nsw.edu.au

*Further information can be found at the Rural and Distance Education unit website.

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

Student needs to be removed from a local school environment

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: _____

If the child was removed due to interpersonal problems affecting psychological, emotional or physical health a claim of this type can only be supported if you meet the **AIC scheme criteria** with **appropriate medical evidence** and **confirmation** from the relevant Departmental office **that there have been unsuccessful attempts to resolve the issues** with the school.

The information you get from the health professional **must**:

1. clearly state that the student has a disability or health related problem; and

2. contain a recommendation that the student be removed from the local school environment as part of the medical response to the disability or health related problem.

We will seek confirmation from the relevant Executive Director that there have been unsuccessful attempts to resolve the issues and that there is not another suitable school for your child to attend.

Please attach this evidence to this application and complete the following questions before forwarding to the Rural and Distance Education office.

1. Please give details of the interpersonal problems affecting the child that prevent them from attending the local school.

2. Please explain how the family and the school have tried to resolve the problem without success. This may include meetings with school and educational service personnel or Director.

3. How far is it from your home to the nearest government school (primary or secondary, whichever is appropriate for the student)?

4. How far is it from your home to the next nearest government school (primary or secondary, whichever is appropriate for the student)?

5. Is there any reason why the student could not transfer to that next nearest school (and continue to live at home)?

I declare that the information provided in this document is accurate.

Name of applicant _____

Signature _____

Relationship to student _____

Date _____