



# Student Travel Subsidy Scheme Policy

## Policy Statement

The Department of Transport (the Department) is committed to assisting eligible students living in Western Australia in overcoming geographical isolation from schools and other educational institutions.

The On-demand Transport Business Unit of the Department administers a Student Travel Subsidy Scheme (the Scheme) which provides travel assistance in the form of subsidised fares and/or a road travel subsidy subject to eligibility criteria being met.

## Principles

- Student Travel Subsidies are available to eligible students who:
  - hold Australian Citizenship or permanent residency status; and
  - are below the age of 26 years; and
  - are dependant financially on their parent(s)/guardian(s); and
  - are not receiving Youth Allowance, Austudy or ABSTUDY; and
  - had a gap of no more than 12 months between secondary and tertiary study.
- To be eligible for subsidised fares, the student and parents must ordinarily reside in the Defined Remote Area of Western Australia.
- The Scheme is designed to assist parents with the cost of travel to and from educational institutions only, during the academic year. It is not to be used to subsidise the cost of extended family visits or holidays, or to travel back to Perth for the purpose of vacation employment.
- Travel dates should reflect term/semester dates. Subsidised travel on dates which are more than two weeks outside the start or end of the relevant secondary or tertiary academic year will only be approved at the Department's discretion in exceptional circumstances.

## Objectives

- To alleviate the difficulties associated with access to secondary/tertiary education related transport in regional and remote Western Australia.
- To reduce the amount of time that children are outside parental supervision when travelling between home and educational institutions.
- To ensure integrity and efficiency in the delivery of the Scheme through a policy and a robust governance framework.
- To consider any initiatives which will lead to a better, fairer distribution of benefits among eligible families and ensure the taxpayer funded Scheme is contemporary, equitable and transparent.

## Review date

31 December 2022

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This document should be read in conjunction with supporting information on the Department of Transport website: <https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/aboutus/student-travel-subsidies.asp>

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