



Student Allowance

January to September 2023

The [Student Allowance Scheme](#) provides financial assistance for eligible full-time students who are enrolled in a recognised course of study or programme, at an approved education provider. It is paid weekly to help students with their living expenses.

For this report, a student is defined as a person who received at least one payment from [StudyLink](#) in the calendar year, up to the end of the specified reporting month. The data in this report is cumulative calendar year-to-date figures. Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar and all percentages are computed using actual data and rounded to one decimal point. Total percentages may not add up to exactly 100 percent because of rounding effects. In line with the Ministry of Social Development’s confidentiality policy, all information in this document has been randomly rounded to base three. The last three years of data and annual comparisons are presented in summary tables. Earlier figures are included in the Student Allowance data file.

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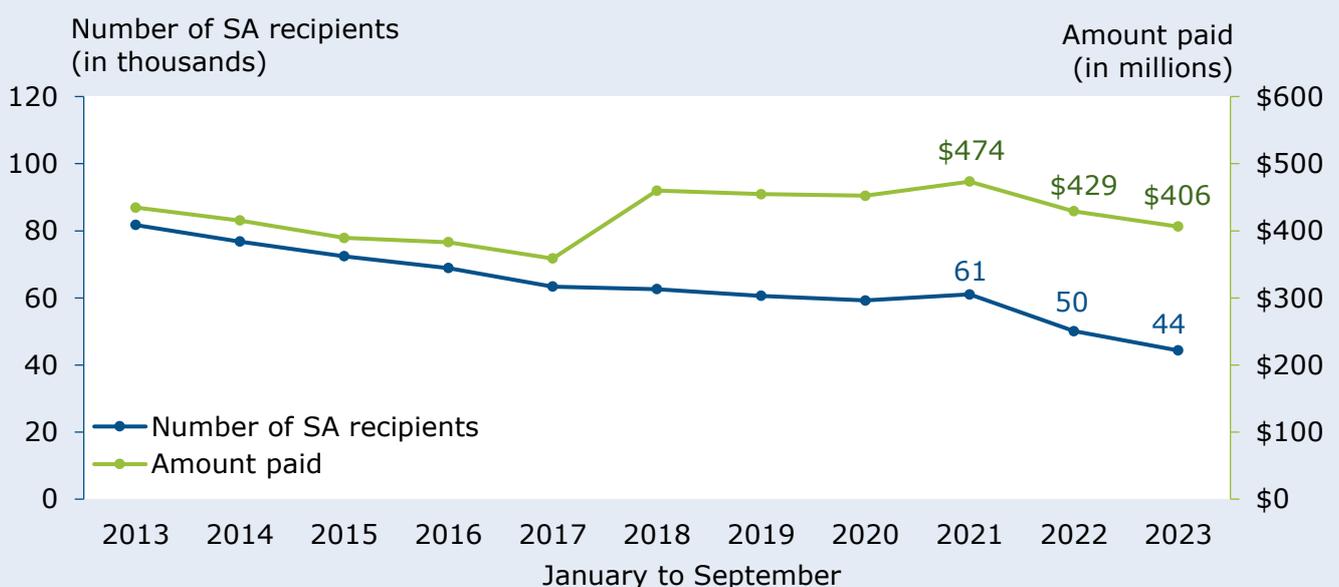
Number of recipients and amount paid

There were fewer Student Allowance recipients between January and September 2023 than in the same period in 2022.

From January to September 2023, 44,328 students received financial assistance under the Student Allowances (SA) Scheme. This was 5,784 fewer students (down 11.5 percent) when compared with the same period in 2022.

A total of \$406.3 million was paid for SA and Accommodation Benefit (AB) from January to September 2023, a decrease of 5.3 percent when compared with the same period in 2022.

Figure 1.1: Number of recipients and amount paid for SA and AB, January to September 2013–2023



On average, students received \$8,063 in SA payments from January to September 2023. This was 8.2 percent more than students received, on average, in January to September 2022. From January to September 2023, students who were also entitled to AB received \$1,604 on average, up 0.7 percent from the same period the previous year.

Below is a summary table with year-on-year comparisons over the previous three years.

Table 1.1: Number of recipients, amounts paid, and average amount paid

Student Allowances	January to September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Student Allowance	61,071	50,112	44,325	-17.9%	-11.5%
Accommodation Benefit	42,084	34,863	30,495	-17.2%	-12.5%
Total number of recipients	61,071	50,112	44,328	-17.9%	-11.5%
Amount paid for Student Allowance	\$405,561,860	\$373,545,700	\$357,377,642	-7.9%	-4.3%
Amount paid for Accommodation Benefit	\$68,001,194	\$55,542,081	\$48,906,680	-18.3%	-11.9%
Total amount paid	\$473,563,054	\$429,087,781	\$406,284,323	-9.4%	-5.3%
Average Student Allowance	\$6,641	\$7,454	\$8,063	12.2%	8.2%
Average Accommodation Benefit	\$1,616	\$1,593	\$1,604	-1.4%	0.7%

Note 1: Not every SA recipient is eligible for AB.

Note 2: From 1 April 2022, student allowances rates increased by \$25 per week (in addition to the annual inflation adjustment) which will have had an impact on student allowances payments made in the January to September 2023 period. Where the allowance rate reflects the living expenses of two adults, the increase is \$50 a week.



2

Education providers

Across all types of providers, there were fewer SA recipients enrolled than there were in the same period the previous year.

There were fewer students enrolled across all types of education providers between January and September 2023 than there were in the same period in 2022. This was mainly driven by fewer Student Allowance (SA) recipients enrolled in University and Te Pūkenga (New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology, formerly Polytechnics and Institutes of Technology).

From January to September 2023, 26,385 students received SA for study at University only. This was 2,364 fewer students (down 8.2 percent) when compared with the same period in 2022 (28,749).

There were 10,986 students who received SA for study at Te Pūkenga only. This was 2,115 fewer students (down 16.1 percent) when compared to the same period in 2022 (13,101).

Table 2.1 provides a summary of the number of SA recipients by the type of provider that they were enrolled in over the previous three years. The SA data file includes breakdowns for the small number of students who received SA for more than one provider type during the year.

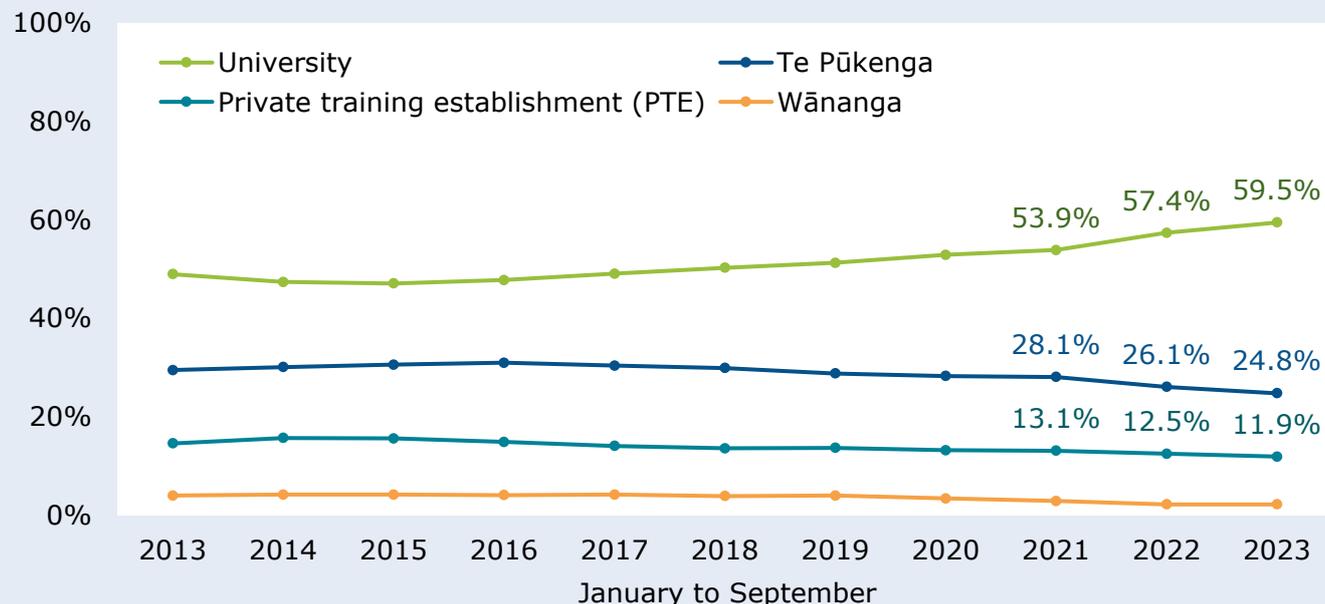
Table 2.1: Number of SA recipients by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
University	32,919	28,749	26,385	-12.7%	-8.2%
Te Pūkenga	17,169	13,101	10,986	-23.7%	-16.1%
Private training establishment (PTE)	7,998	6,252	5,280	-21.8%	-15.5%
Wānanga	1,785	1,104	957	-38.2%	-13.3%
Multiple and other providers	1,203	903	720	-24.9%	-20.3%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,071	50,112	44,328	-17.9%	-11.5%

Note: “Multiple and other providers” includes combinations of providers (e.g. University and Te Pūkenga, PTE and University) that some students attended during the specified reporting period, as well as ‘other’ types of education providers such as high schools.

Proportionately, students attending only University accounted for 59.5 percent of SA recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 24.8 percent.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of SA recipients by type of education provider, January to September 2013–2023



Note: To avoid double counting, the figure above excludes a small number of students attending more than one provider type.

Table 2.2: SA paid to students by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021–22	2022–23
University	\$215,227,990	\$213,635,834	\$212,221,352	-0.7%	-0.7%
Te Pūkenga	\$115,869,223	\$98,054,672	\$89,404,224	-15.4%	-8.8%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$48,923,580	\$42,947,516	\$39,175,887	-12.2%	-8.8%
Wānanga	\$15,203,425	\$10,579,822	\$9,395,753	-30.4%	-11.2%
Multiple and other providers	\$10,337,642	\$8,327,857	\$7,180,427	-19.4%	-13.8%
Total amount paid for Student Allowance	\$405,561,860	\$373,545,700	\$357,377,642	-7.9%	-4.3%

Note 1: Data does not include payments for AB.

Note 2: “Multiple and other providers” includes combinations of providers (e.g. University and Te Pūkenga, PTE and University) that some students attended during the specified reporting period, as well as ‘other’ types of education providers such as high schools.



3

Allowances paid based on personal and family circumstances

The [weekly rates for Student Allowance](#) are based on the personal and family circumstances of students, e.g., age, income of the student (and their partner if they have one), parental income for students aged under 24 years, relationship status, and other circumstances.

From January to September 2023, 26.0 percent of SA recipients were single students who were living away from home.

This proportion was 0.6 percentage points lower than it was in January to September 2022.

Figure 3.1: Proportion of SA recipients based on personal and family circumstances, January to September 2013–2023

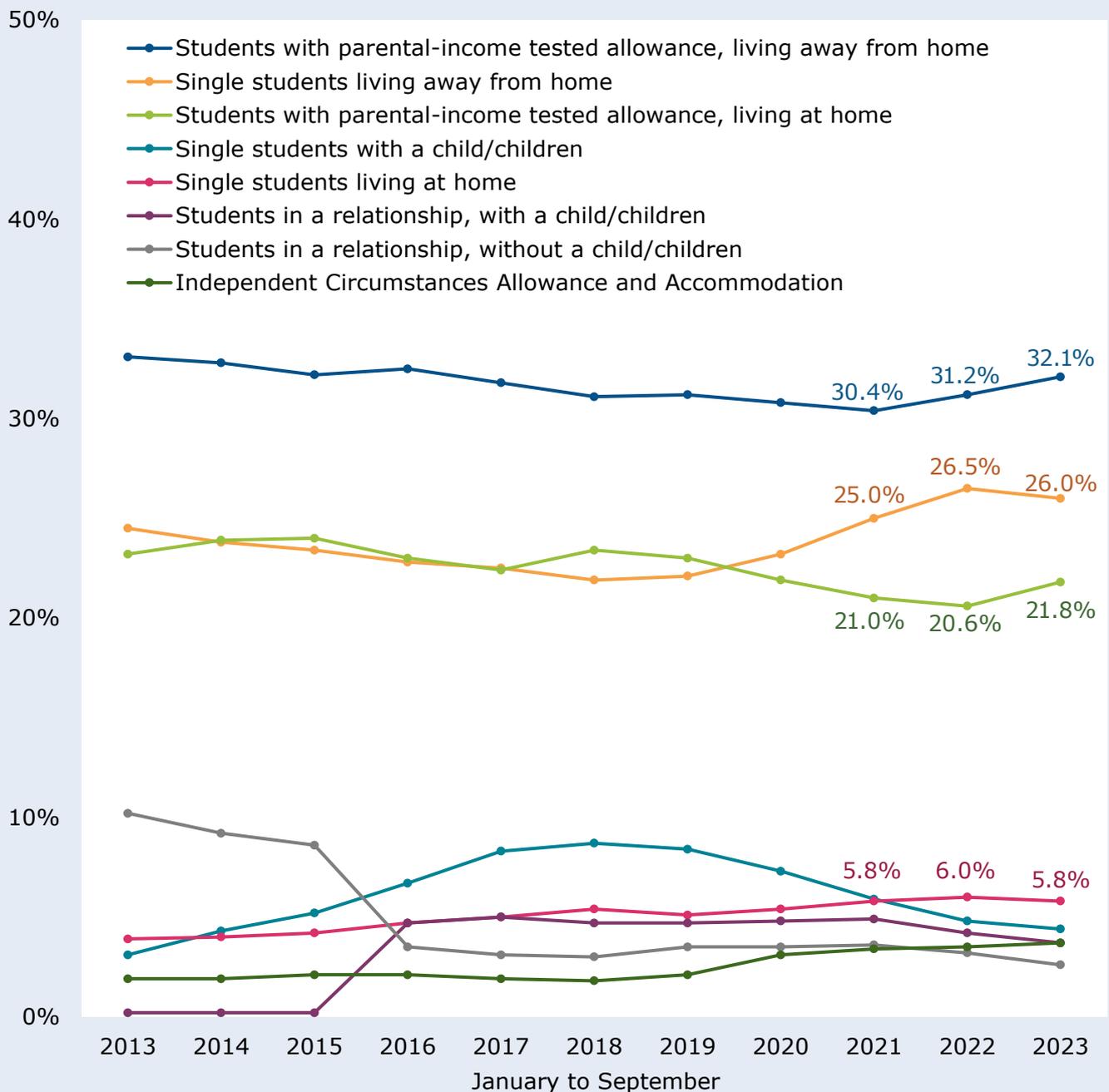


Table 3.1: Number of recipients based on personal and family circumstances

Personal and family circumstances	January to September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living at home	12,840	10,323	9,642	-19.6%	-6.6%
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living away from home	18,537	15,618	14,220	-15.7%	-9.0%
Single students living at home	3,534	2,994	2,580	-15.3%	-13.8%
Single students living away from home	15,270	13,293	11,514	-12.9%	-13.4%
Single students with child/children	3,630	2,415	1,941	-33.5%	-19.6%
Students in a relationship, without a child/children	2,211	1,584	1,149	-28.4%	-27.5%
Students in a relationship, with a child/children	2,979	2,127	1,635	-28.6%	-23.1%
Independent Circumstances Allowance and Accommodation	2,070	1,755	1,650	-15.2%	-6.0%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,071	50,112	44,328	-17.9%	-11.5%

Note: In this document, ‘single’ generally refers to students aged 24 years or older who are single. Under the SA scheme, a relationship is not recognised if either party is under 24 years old. Students who are under 24 are usually subject to a parental income test for SA. For more information, please see [here](#).

4

Demographics of Student Allowance recipients

The following tables provide a summary profile of SA recipients for each of the last three years, up to the month specified. As demographics may change during the year, the profile is as recorded at the end of the period. Detailed data series are available in the SA data file.

Table 4.1: SA recipients by age group

Age group	January to September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
16-17 years	102	81	78	-20.6%	-3.7%
18-24 years	37,221	30,810	28,203	-17.2%	-8.5%
25-34 years	16,104	13,437	11,289	-16.6%	-16.0%
35-44 years	4,266	3,348	2,778	-21.5%	-17.0%
45-54 years	1,941	1,455	1,227	-25.0%	-15.7%
55 years and older	1,437	981	756	-31.7%	-22.9%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,071	50,112	44,328	-17.9%	-11.5%

Note 1: Age is calculated as at the end of the period.

Note 2: A breakdown of “55 and older” is available in the SA data file.



Table 4.2: SA recipients by gender

Gender	January to September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Female	36,543	29,769	26,196	-18.5%	-12.0%
Male	24,150	19,851	17,562	-17.8%	-11.5%
Gender Diverse	378	492	570	30.2%	15.9%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,071	50,112	44,328	-17.9%	-11.5%

Table 4.3: SA recipients by residential status

Residential status	January to September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Citizen by birth	43,545	35,712	31,875	-18.0%	-10.7%
Citizen	9,222	7,605	6,744	-17.5%	-11.3%
Permanent resident	7,701	6,291	5,226	-18.3%	-16.9%
Other	603	504	486	-16.4%	-3.6%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,071	50,112	44,328	-17.9%	-11.5%

Note: “Other” includes students who have refugee status, and those classified as protected person/s. Details of “Other” are included in the Student Allowance datafile.

Table 4.4: SA recipients by relationship status

Relationship status	January to September			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Single	54,993	45,801	41,004	-16.7%	-10.5%
Married/Civil Union	3,852	2,751	2,151	-28.6%	-21.8%
Defacto	2,217	1,557	1,170	-29.8%	-24.9%
Unknown	9	3	0	-66.7%	-100.0%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,071	50,112	44,328	-17.9%	-11.5%

Note: Students with unknown marital/relationship status refer to clients who have had a change in circumstances, and their marital/relationship status has not been confirmed at the end of the period. These students would not be receiving payments while their marital/relationship status is not confirmed.

It is not mandatory for students to disclose their ethnicity and students may report more than one ethnicity.

The numbers presented in table 4.5 are total response – students who reported more than one ethnic group were counted in each group they identified with. The total number of responses therefore does not add up to the total number of SA recipients.

Table 4.5: SA responses by ethnic group

Ethnic group (Total response)	January to September			Annual Change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021–22	2022–23
European	33,462	28,143	24,903	-15.9%	-11.5%
Māori	12,057	9,354	8,394	-22.4%	-10.3%
Pacific Peoples	7,050	5,673	5,007	-19.5%	-11.7%
Asian	13,935	12,282	11,373	-11.9%	-7.4%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	2,409	2,142	2,025	-11.1%	-5.5%
Other	342	279	243	-18.4%	-12.9%
Total recipients with recorded ethnicity	58,974	49,113	43,788	-16.7%	-10.8%
Not specified	2,097	999	543	-52.4%	-45.6%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,071	50,112	44,328	-17.9%	-11.5%

Note: A detailed breakdown of ethnic groups is included in the Student Allowance datafile.

