



Student Allowance

January to December 2024

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 numbers of people in this document have 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.

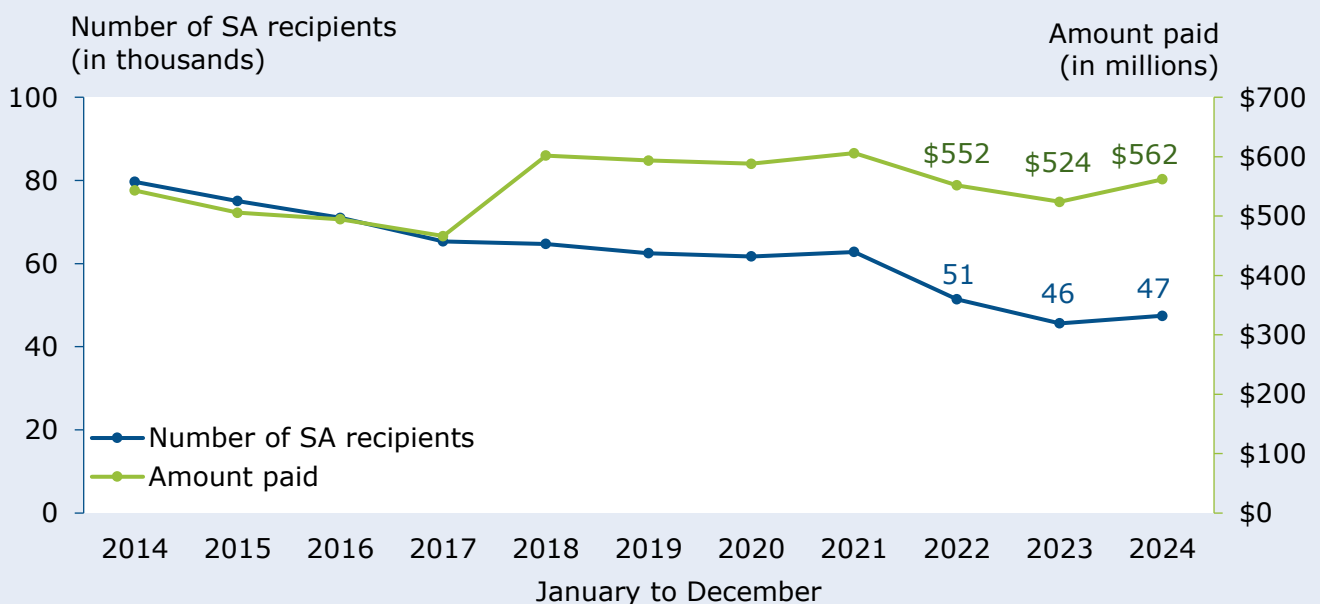
1

Number of recipients and amount paid

There were more Student Allowance recipients in 2024 than in 2023.

In 2024, 47,442 students received financial assistance under the Student Allowances (SA) Scheme. This was an increase of 1,815 students (up 4.0 percent) when compared with 2023. A total of \$562.0 million was paid for SA and Accommodation Benefit (AB) in 2024, an increase of 7.3 percent when compared with 2023.

Figure 1.1: Number of recipients and amount paid for SA and AB, January to December 2014–2024





On average, students received \$10,520 in SA payments in 2024. This was 4.1 percent more than students received, on average, in 2023.

In 2024, students who were also entitled to AB received \$1,987 in AB on average. This was down -0.4 percent from last year.

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

Table 1.1: Number of recipients, amounts paid, and average amount paid					
Student Allowances	January to December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
Student Allowance	51,426	45,621	47,442	-11.3%	4.0%
Accommodation Benefit	35,838	31,479	31,686	-12.2%	0.7%
Total number of recipients	51,426	45,627	47,442	-11.3%	4.0%
Amount paid for Student Allowance	\$480,699,151	\$461,196,364	\$499,075,966	-4.1%	8.2%
Amount paid for Accommodation Benefit	\$71,040,494	\$62,772,638	\$62,960,848	-11.6%	0.3%
Total amount paid	\$551,739,645	\$523,969,002	\$562,036,814	-5.0%	7.3%
Average Student Allowance	\$9,347	\$10,109	\$10,520	8.2%	4.1%
Average Accommodation Benefit	\$1,982	\$1,994	\$1,987	0.6%	-0.4%

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

Note 2: From 1 April 2022, student allowance rates increased by \$25 per week (in addition to the annual inflation adjustment) which had an impact on student allowance payments made in the January to December 2024 period. Where the allowance rate reflects the living expenses of two adults, the increase was \$50 a week.





2

Education providers

In 2024, 26,976 students received SA for study at University only. This was 141 more students (up 0.5 percent) when compared with 2023 (26,835).

There were 12,069 students who received SA for study at only Te Pūkenga. This was 732 more students (up 6.5 percent) when compared with the same period in 2023 (11,337).

Table 2.1 provides a summary of the number of SA recipients by the type of provider that they were enrolled in over the last 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

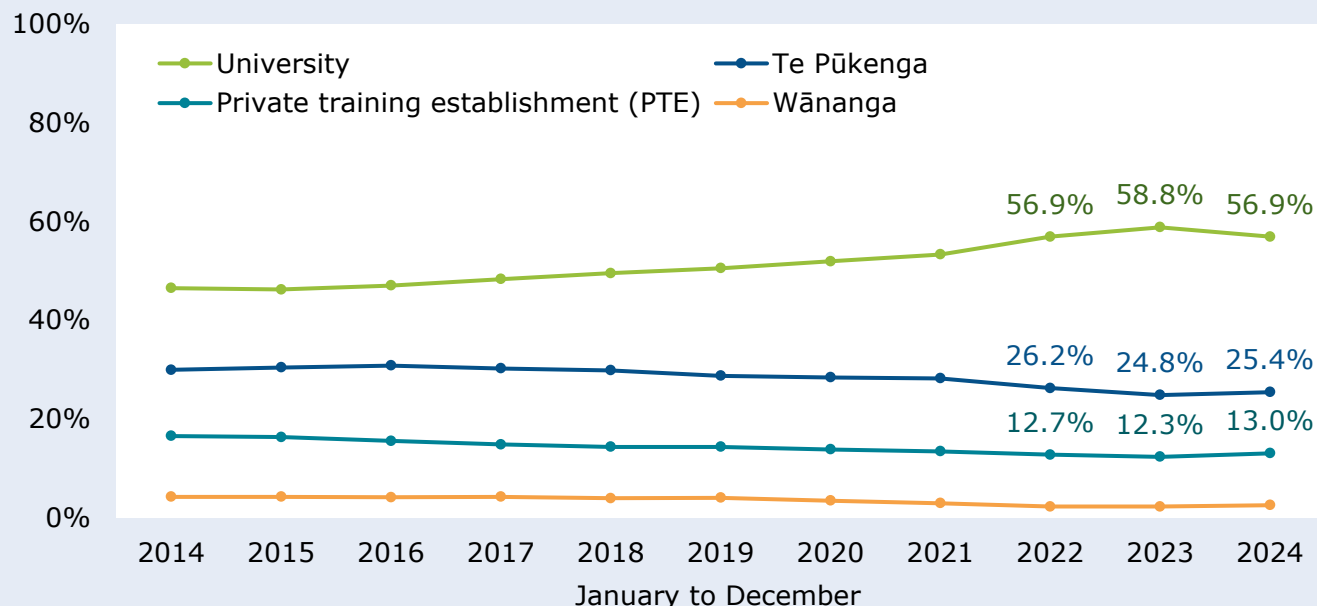
Type of provider	January to December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
University	29,271	26,835	26,976	-8.3%	0.5%
Te Pūkenga	13,473	11,337	12,069	-15.9%	6.5%
Private training establishment (PTE)	6,525	5,619	6,174	-13.9%	9.9%
Wānanga	1,128	984	1,197	-12.8%	21.6%
Multiple and other providers	1,026	852	1,029	-17.0%	20.8%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	51,426	45,627	47,442	-11.3%	4.0%

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.



Students attending only University made up 56.9 percent of SA recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 25.4 percent.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of SA recipients by type of education provider, January to December 2014–2024



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 December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022–23	2023–24
University	\$271,764,817	\$269,606,942	\$283,456,999	-0.8%	5.1%
Te Pūkenga	\$126,719,740	\$116,182,456	\$127,365,373	-8.3%	9.6%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$56,037,378	\$51,999,186	\$59,216,591	-7.2%	13.9%
Wānanga	\$14,163,688	\$12,588,474	\$15,880,453	-11.1%	26.2%
Multiple and other providers	\$12,013,528	\$10,819,306	\$13,156,550	-9.9%	21.6%
Total amount paid for Student Allowance	\$480,699,151	\$461,196,364	\$499,075,966	-4.1%	8.2%

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.

In 2024, 25.0 percent of SA recipients were single students who were living away from home. This proportion was 1.2 percentage points lower than it was in 2023.

Figure 3.1: Proportion of SA recipients based on personal and family circumstances, January to December 2014–2024

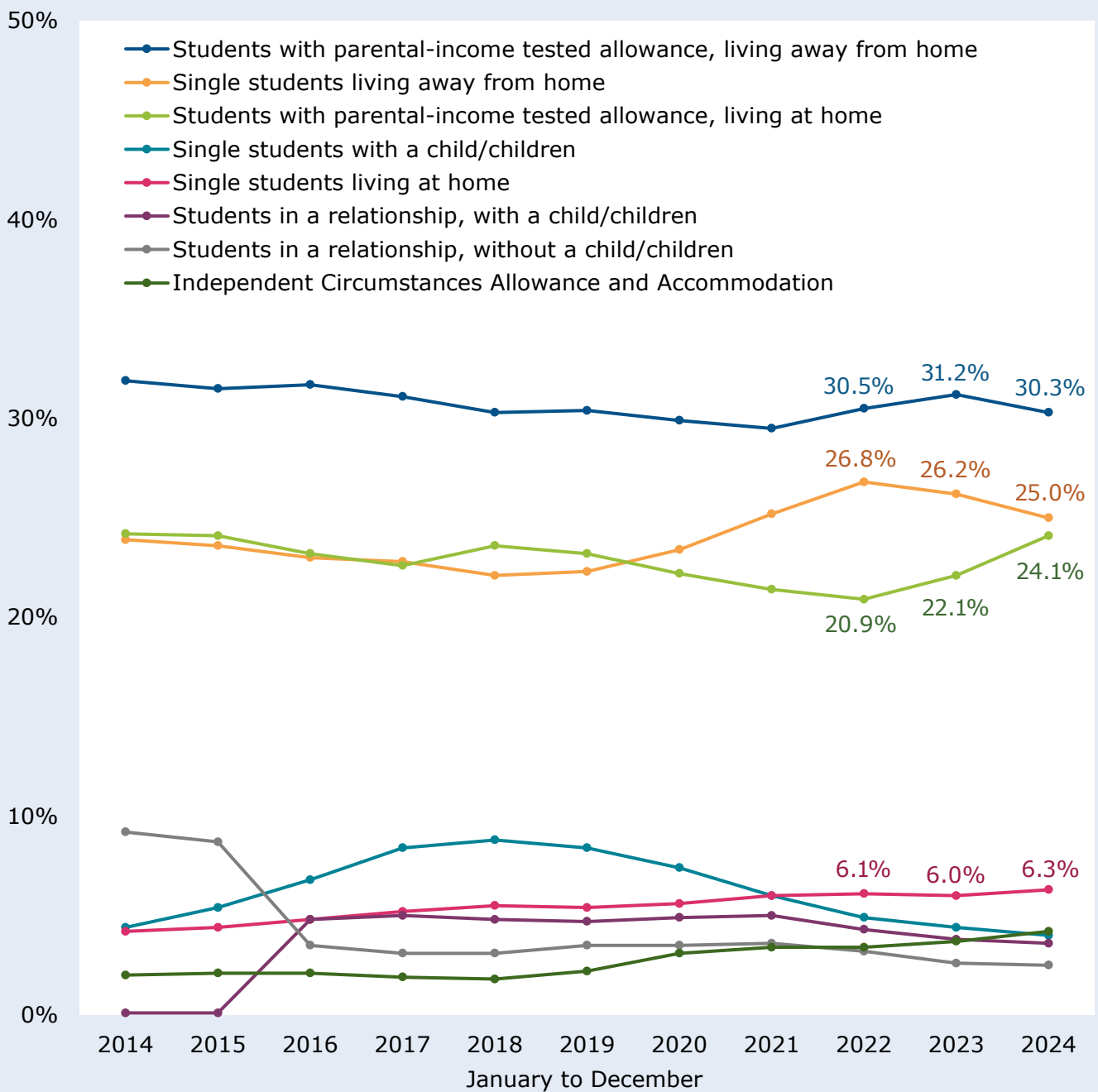




Table 3.1: Number of recipients based on personal and family circumstances

Personal and family circumstances	January to December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living at home	10,737	10,074	11,421	-6.2%	13.4%
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living away from home	15,663	14,238	14,397	-9.1%	1.1%
Single students living at home	3,132	2,742	3,000	-12.5%	9.4%
Single students living away from home	13,797	11,961	11,838	-13.3%	-1.0%
Single students with child/children	2,505	2,022	1,896	-19.3%	-6.2%
Students in a relationship, without a child/children	1,620	1,191	1,188	-26.5%	-0.3%
Students in a relationship, with a child/children	2,193	1,716	1,713	-21.8%	-0.2%
Independent Circumstances Allowance and Accommodation	1,773	1,680	1,986	-5.2%	18.2%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	51,426	45,627	47,442	-11.3%	4.0%

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 December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
16-17 years	42	42	69	0.0%	64.3%
18-24 years	30,867	28,395	30,276	-8.0%	6.6%
25-34 years	14,412	12,144	11,979	-15.7%	-1.4%
35-44 years	3,525	2,934	2,976	-16.8%	1.4%
45-54 years	1,539	1,305	1,362	-15.2%	4.4%
55 years and older	1,038	807	777	-22.3%	-3.7%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	51,426	45,627	47,442	-11.3%	4.0%

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 December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
Female	30,522	26,922	27,630	-11.8%	2.6%
Male	20,382	18,111	19,086	-11.1%	5.4%
Gender Diverse	522	597	726	14.4%	21.6%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	51,426	45,627	47,442	-11.3%	4.0%

Table 4.3: SA recipients by residential status

Residential status	January to December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
Citizen by birth	36,618	32,799	34,422	-10.4%	4.9%
Citizen	7,836	6,960	7,104	-11.2%	2.1%
Permanent resident	6,459	5,367	5,265	-16.9%	-1.9%
Other	513	501	654	-2.3%	30.5%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	51,426	45,627	47,442	-11.3%	4.0%

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

Table 4.4: SA recipients by relationship status

Relationship status	January to December			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
Single	47,016	42,141	43,986	-10.4%	4.4%
Married/Civil Union	2,880	2,283	2,217	-20.7%	-2.9%
Defacto	1,530	1,200	1,236	-21.6%	3.0%
Unknown	6	0	0	-100.0%	N.A.
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	51,426	45,627	47,442	-11.3%	4.0%

Note: ‘Unknown’ refers to students who have had a change in relationship status which needs to be confirmed. These students will not be receiving payments.



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 December			Annual Change	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-23	2023-24
European	28,887	25,593	25,611	-11.4%	0.1%
Māori	9,648	8,727	9,573	-9.5%	9.7%
Pacific Peoples	5,844	5,208	6,036	-10.9%	15.9%
Asian	12,600	11,685	12,342	-7.3%	5.6%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	2,208	2,091	2,244	-5.3%	7.3%
Other	291	249	249	-14.4%	0.0%
Total recipients with recorded ethnicity	50,451	45,114	46,923	-10.6%	4.0%
Not specified	972	510	522	-47.5%	2.4%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	51,426	45,627	47,442	-11.3%	4.0%

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

