



Student Allowance

January to June 2025

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

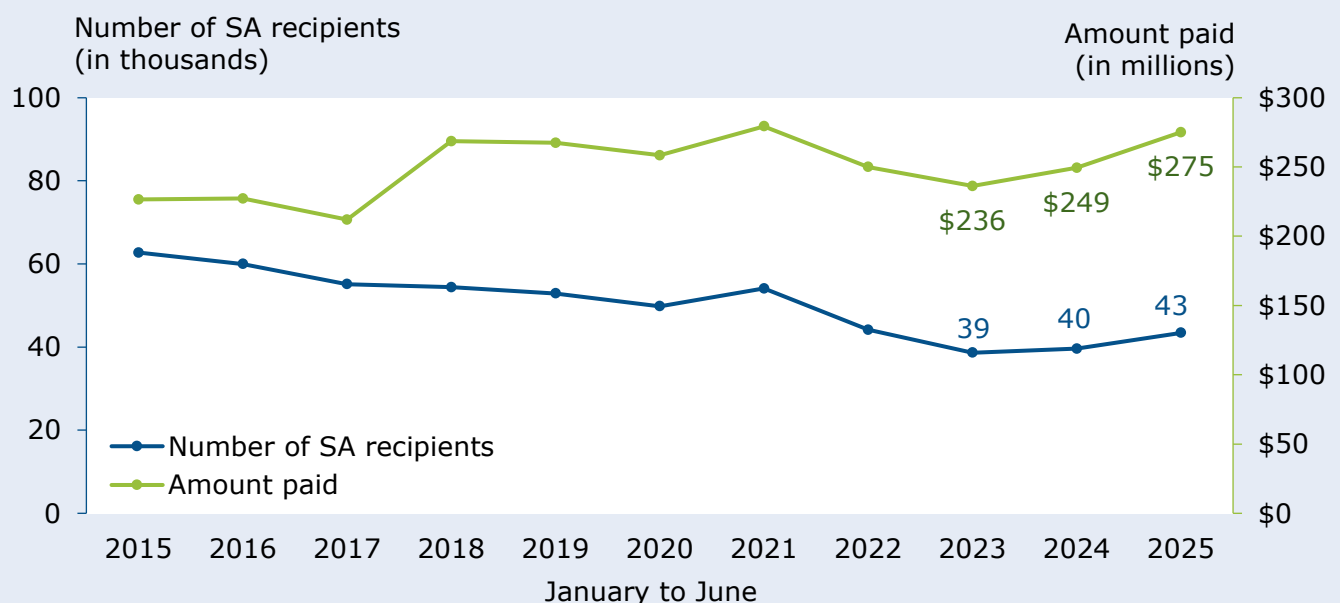
Number of recipients and amount paid

There were more Student Allowance recipients from January to June 2025 than in the same period in 2024.

From January to June 2025, 43,410 students received financial assistance under the Student Allowances (SA) Scheme. This was an increase of 3,789 students (up 9.6 percent) when compared with the same period in 2024.

A total of \$275.1 million was paid for SA and Accommodation Benefit (AB) from January to June 2025, an increase of 10.3 percent when compared with the same period in 2024.

Figure 1.1: Number of recipients and amount paid for SA and AB, January to June 2015–2025





On average, students received \$5,648 in SA payments from January to June 2025. This was 1.2 percent more than students received, on average, in the same period in 2024.

From January to June 2025, students who were also entitled to AB received \$1,066 in AB on average. This was down 0.6 percent from the same period in 2024.

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 June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
Student Allowance	38,661	39,621	43,410	2.5%	9.6%
Accommodation Benefit	26,616	26,445	28,035	-0.6%	6.0%
Total number of recipients	38,664	39,621	43,410	2.5%	9.6%
Amount paid for Student Allowance	\$207,447,786	\$221,056,297	\$245,182,313	6.6%	10.9%
Amount paid for Accommodation Benefit	\$28,766,091	\$28,348,605	\$29,891,938	-1.5%	5.4%
Total amount paid	\$236,213,877	\$249,404,902	\$275,074,252	5.6%	10.3%
Average Student Allowance	\$5,366	\$5,579	\$5,648	4.0%	1.2%
Average Accommodation Benefit	\$1,081	\$1,072	\$1,066	-0.8%	-0.6%

Note: Not every SA recipient is eligible for Accommodation Benefit.



2

Education providers

From January to June 2025, 25,746 students received SA for study at University only. This was 1,539 more students (up 6.4 percent) when compared with the same period in 2024 (24,207).

There were 10,659 students who received SA for study at only Te Pūkenga. This was 1,323 more students (up 14.2 percent) when compared with the same period in 2024 (9,336).

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.

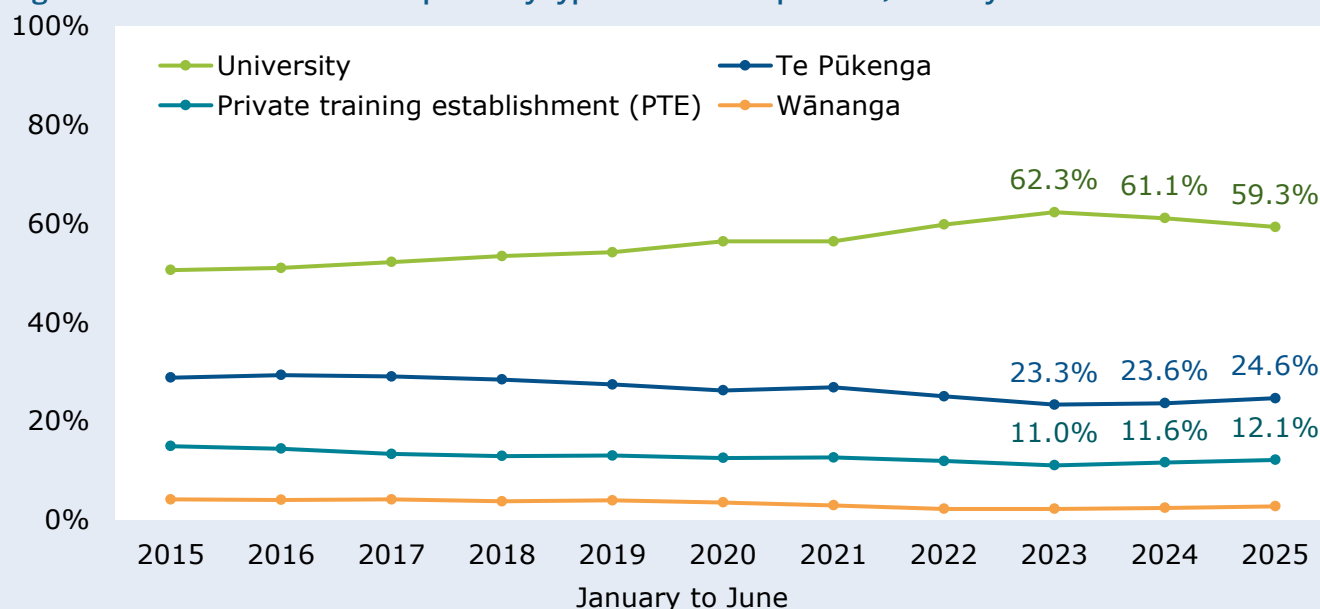
Table 2.1: Number of SA recipients by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
University	24,102	24,207	25,746	0.4%	6.4%
Te Pūkenga	9,018	9,336	10,659	3.5%	14.2%
Private training establishment (PTE)	4,260	4,593	5,262	7.8%	14.6%
Wānanga	840	963	1,167	14.6%	21.2%
Multiple and other providers	447	522	576	16.8%	10.3%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	38,664	39,621	43,410	2.5%	9.6%

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 59.3 percent of SA recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 24.6 percent.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of SA recipients by type of education provider, January to June 2015–2025



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 June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023–24	2024–25
University	\$121,834,687	\$128,532,917	\$136,353,838	5.5%	6.1%
Te Pūkenga	\$53,147,084	\$55,667,158	\$65,606,623	4.7%	17.9%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$23,875,042	\$26,463,256	\$30,665,989	10.8%	15.9%
Wānanga	\$5,451,669	\$6,875,676	\$8,498,504	26.1%	23.6%
Multiple and other providers	\$3,139,304	\$3,517,291	\$4,057,360	12.0%	15.4%
Total amount paid for Student Allowance	\$207,447,786	\$221,056,297	\$245,182,313	6.6%	10.9%

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 most students aged under 24 years, relationship status, and other circumstances.

From January to June 2025, 23.0% percent of SA recipients were single students who were living away from home. This proportion was 0.8 percentage points lower than it was in the same period in 2024.

Figure 3.1: Proportion of SA recipients based on personal and family circumstances, January to June 2015–2025

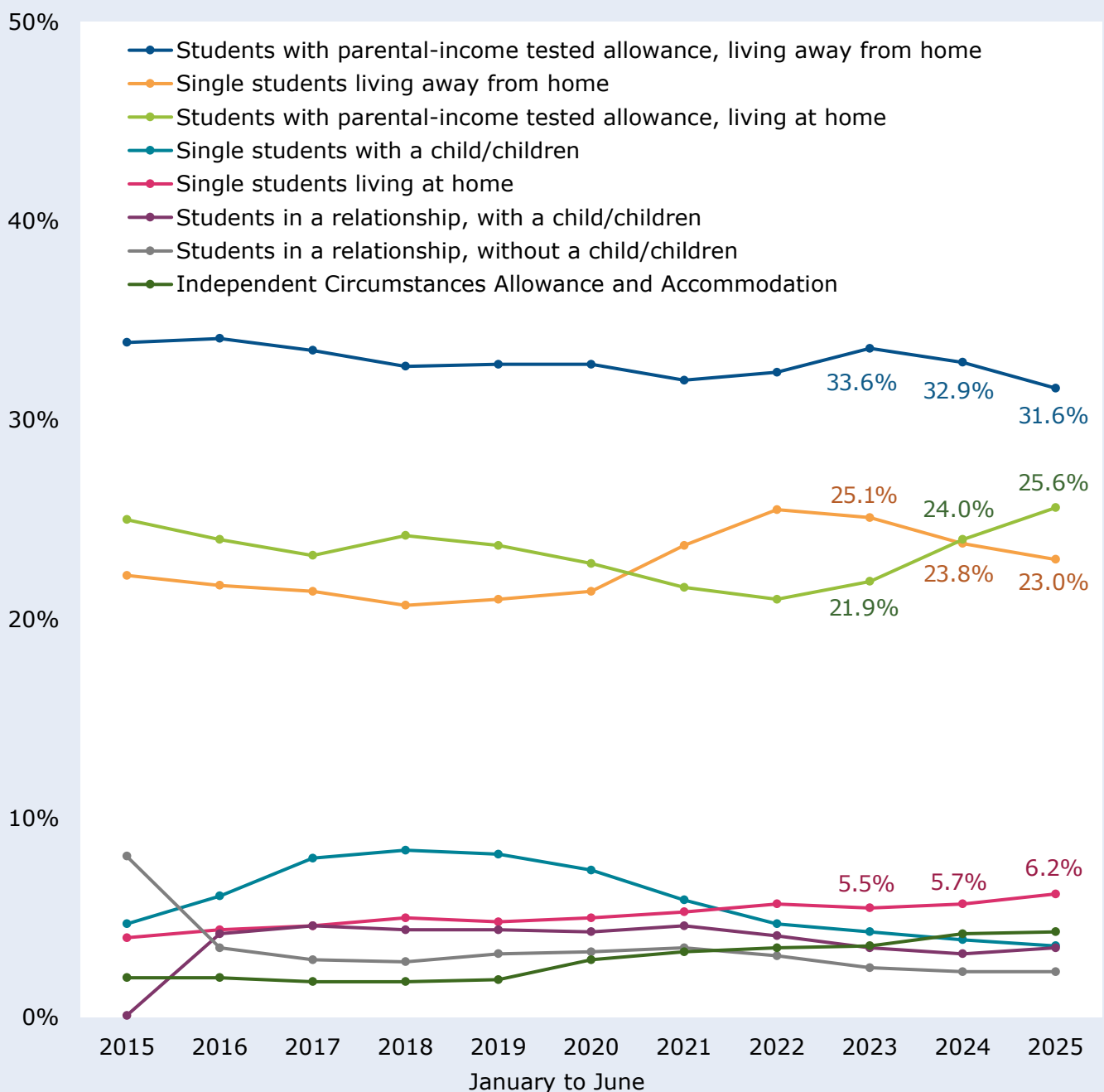




Table 3.1: Number of recipients based on personal and family circumstances

Personal and family circumstances	January to June			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2025	2022-23	2023-24
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living at home	8,484	9,510	11,115	12.1%	16.9%
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living away from home	12,990	13,041	13,701	0.4%	5.1%
Single students living at home	2,124	2,265	2,679	6.6%	18.3%
Single students living away from home	9,705	9,432	9,972	-2.8%	5.7%
Single students with child/children	1,665	1,530	1,566	-8.1%	2.4%
Students in a relationship, without a child/children	960	927	999	-3.4%	7.8%
Students in a relationship, with a child/children	1,356	1,263	1,503	-6.9%	19.0%
Independent Circumstances Allowance and Accommodation	1,380	1,647	1,878	19.3%	14.0%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	38,664	39,621	43,410	2.5%	9.6%

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 June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
16-17 years	90	123	144	36.7%	17.1%
18-24 years	25,185	26,631	29,196	5.7%	9.6%
25-34 years	9,462	9,027	9,834	-4.6%	8.9%
35-44 years	2,310	2,235	2,457	-3.2%	9.9%
45-54 years	987	1,020	1,167	3.3%	14.4%
55 years and older	633	582	615	-8.1%	5.7%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	38,664	39,621	43,410	2.5%	9.6%

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 June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
Female	22,917	23,265	25,167	1.5%	8.2%
Male	15,258	15,762	17,505	3.3%	11.1%
Gender Diverse	489	594	738	21.5%	24.2%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	38,664	39,621	43,410	2.5%	9.6%

Table 4.3: SA recipients by residential status

Residential status	January to June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
Citizen by birth	27,879	28,908	31,347	3.7%	8.4%
Citizen	5,883	5,877	6,537	-0.1%	11.2%
Permanent resident	4,506	4,326	4,845	-4.0%	12.0%
Other	393	507	681	29.0%	34.3%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	38,664	39,621	43,410	2.5%	9.6%

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 June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
Single	35,916	37,011	40,407	3.0%	9.2%
Married/Civil Union	1,803	1,641	1,818	-9.0%	10.8%
Defacto	945	963	1,179	1.9%	22.4%
Unknown	3	0	3	-100.0%	N.A.
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	38,664	39,621	43,410	2.5%	9.6%

Note: ‘Unknown’ refers to students who have had a change in relationship status which needs to be confirmed. These students will not receive further payments until their relationship status is 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 June			Annual Change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023–24	2024–25
European	22,011	21,744	23,121	-1.2%	6.3%
Māori	7,113	7,719	8,562	8.5%	10.9%
Pacific Peoples	4,188	4,734	5,544	13.0%	17.1%
Asian	10,029	10,485	11,724	4.5%	11.8%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	1,755	1,845	2,187	5.1%	18.5%
Other	207	207	204	0.0%	-1.4%
Total recipients with recorded ethnicity	38,178	39,189	42,915	2.6%	9.5%
Not specified	483	432	495	-10.6%	14.6%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	38,664	39,621	43,410	2.5%	9.6%

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

