



Student Allowance

January to September 2022

The [Student Allowance Scheme](#) provides financial assistance for 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 are 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 a base of 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

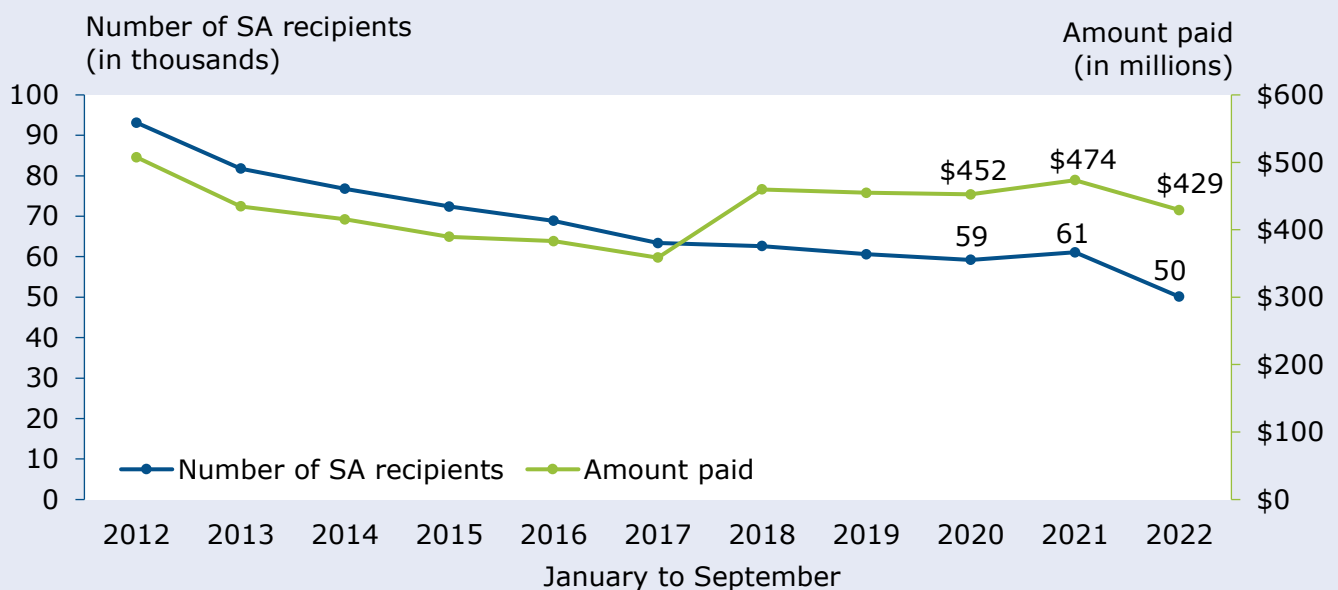
Number of recipients and amount paid

There were fewer Student Allowance recipients between January and September 2022, when compared to the same time last year.

From January to September 2022, 50,112 students received financial assistance under the Student Allowances (SA) Scheme. This was 10,959 fewer students (down 17.9 percent) when compared with the same period last year.

A total of \$429.1 million was paid for SA and Accommodation Benefit (AB) from January to September 2022, a decrease of 9.4 percent compared with the same period in 2021.

Figure 1.1: Number of recipients and amount paid for SA and AB, January to September 2012–2022





On average, students received \$7,454 in SA payments from January to September 2022. This was 12.2 percent more than students received, on average, in January to September 2021. From January to September 2022, students who were also entitled to AB received \$1,593 on average, down 1.4 percent when compared with the same period 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 September			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
Student Allowance	59,229	61,071	50,112	3.1%	-17.9%
Accommodation Benefit	40,413	42,084	34,863	4.1%	-17.2%
Total number of recipients	59,229	61,071	50,112	3.1%	-17.9%
Amount paid for Student Allowance	\$387,234,906	\$405,561,860	\$373,545,700	4.7%	-7.9%
Amount paid for Accommodation Benefit	\$65,150,701	\$68,001,194	\$55,542,081	4.4%	-18.3%
Total amount paid	\$452,385,606	\$473,563,054	\$429,087,781	4.7%	-9.4%
Average Student Allowance	\$6,538	\$6,641	\$7,454	1.6%	12.2%
Average Accommodation Benefit	\$1,612	\$1,616	\$1,593	0.2%	-1.4%

Note: Not every SA recipient is eligible for AB.





2

Education providers

There were fewer SA recipients enrolled across all types of providers, in comparison to the same time last year.

There were fewer students enrolled across all types of education providers between January and September 2022, in comparison to the same period in 2021.

From January to September 2022, 28,749 students received SA for study at University only. This was 4,170 fewer students (down 12.7 percent) when compared with the same period in 2021 (32,919).

There were 13,101 students who received SA for study at Te Pūkenga only (New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology, formerly Polytechnics and Institutes of Technology). This was 4,068 fewer students (down 23.7 percent) when compared to the same period last year (17,169).

Table 2.1 provides a summary of the number of SA recipients by the type of provider 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.

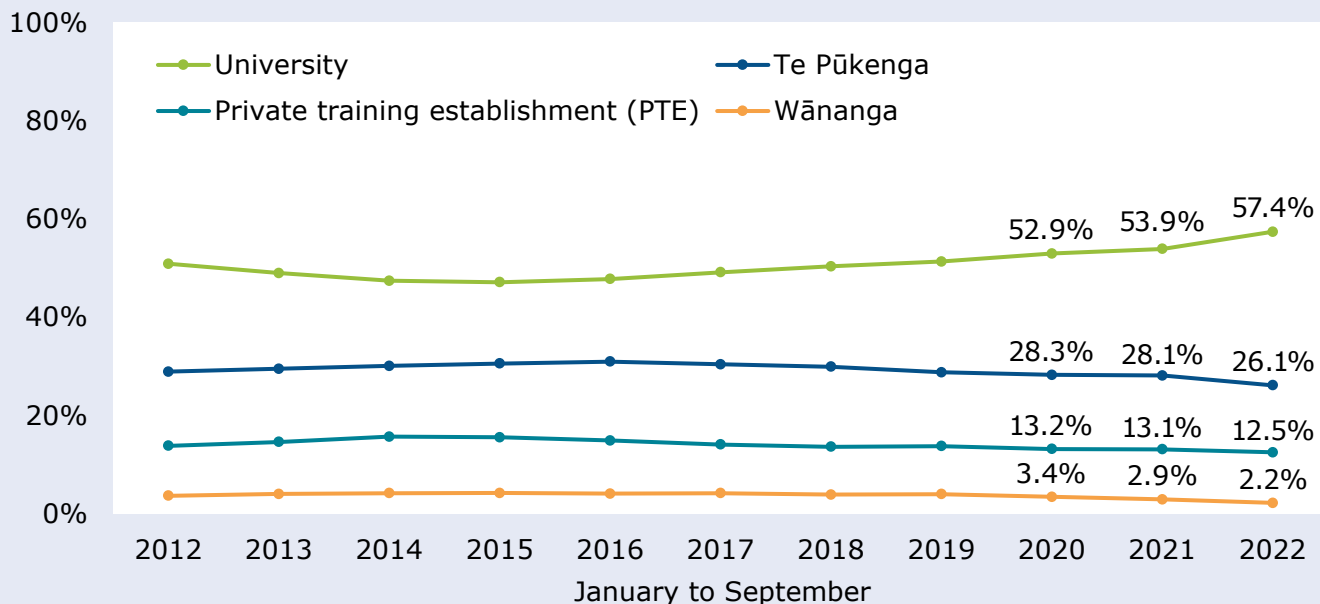
Table 2.1: Number of SA recipients by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to September			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020–21	2021–22
University	31,359	32,919	28,749	5.0%	-12.7%
Te Pūkenga	16,737	17,169	13,101	2.6%	-23.7%
Private training establishment (PTE)	7,812	7,998	6,252	2.4%	-21.8%
Wānanga	2,028	1,785	1,104	-12.0%	-38.2%
Multiple and Other providers	1,290	1,203	903	-6.7%	-24.9%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	59,229	61,071	50,112	3.1%	-17.9%

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.

Between January and September 2022, students attending only University accounted for 57.4 percent of SA recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 26.1 percent.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of SA recipients by type of education provider, January to September 2012–2022



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	
	2020	2021	2022	2020–21	2021–22
University	\$200,918,071	\$215,227,990	\$213,635,834	7.1%	-0.7%
Te Pūkenga	\$110,448,207	\$115,869,223	\$98,054,672	4.9%	-15.4%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$46,792,966	\$48,923,580	\$42,947,516	4.6%	-12.2%
Wānanga	\$17,771,437	\$15,203,425	\$10,579,822	-14.5%	-30.4%
Multiple and Other providers	\$11,304,225	\$10,337,642	\$8,327,857	-8.6%	-19.4%
Total amount paid for Student Allowance	\$387,234,906	\$405,561,860	\$373,545,700	4.7%	-7.9%

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.

Single students living away from home had the highest proportional increase between January and September 2022, when compared to the same period in 2021.

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

From January to September 2022, 26.5 percent of SA recipients were single students who were living away from home. This proportion was 1.5 percentage points higher when compared with January to September 2021.

Figure 3.1: Proportion of SA recipients based on personal and family circumstances

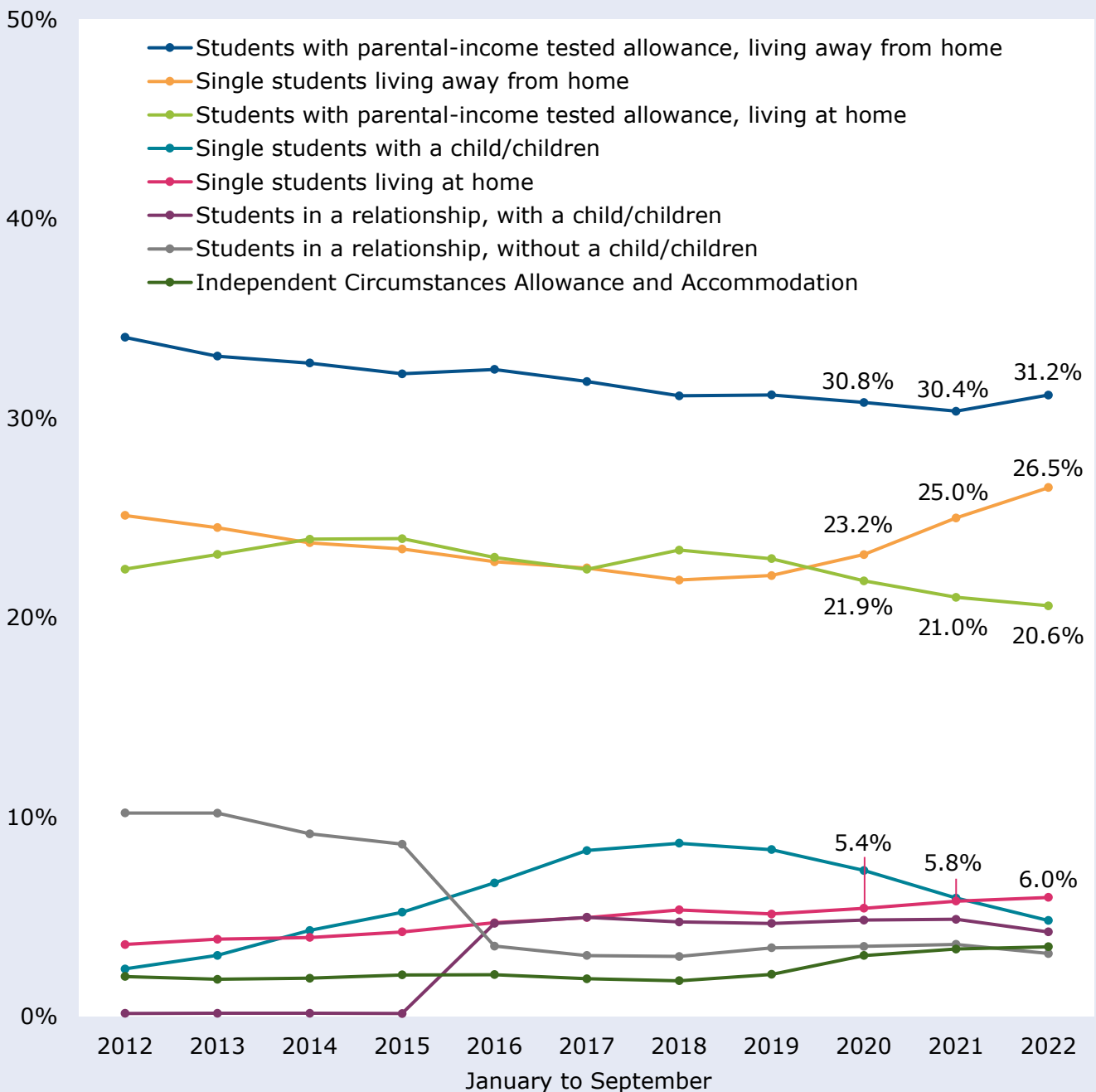




Table 3.1: Number of recipients based on personal and family circumstances

Personal and family circumstances	January to September			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020–21	2021–22
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living at home	12,942	12,840	10,323	-0.8%	-19.6%
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living away from home	18,240	18,537	15,618	1.6%	-15.7%
Single students living at home	3,216	3,534	2,994	9.9%	-15.3%
Single students living away from home	13,722	15,270	13,293	11.3%	-12.9%
Single students with child/children	4,338	3,630	2,415	-16.3%	-33.5%
Students in a relationship, without a child/children	2,085	2,211	1,584	6.0%	-28.4%
Students in a relationship, with a child/children	2,865	2,979	2,127	4.0%	-28.6%
Independent Circumstances Allowance and Accommodation	1,815	2,070	1,755	14.0%	-15.2%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	59,229	61,071	50,112	3.1%	-17.9%

4

Demographics of Student Allowance recipients

The following tables provide a summary profile of SA recipients for January to September, in the last three years. 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	
	2020	2021	2022	2020–21	2021–22
16–17 years	117	102	81	-12.8%	-20.6%
18–24 years	36,621	37,221	30,810	1.6%	-17.2%
25–34 years	14,880	16,104	13,437	8.2%	-16.6%
35–44 years	4,149	4,266	3,348	2.8%	-21.5%
45–54 years	2,076	1,941	1,455	-6.5%	-25.0%
55 years and older	1,383	1,437	981	3.9%	-31.7%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	59,229	61,071	50,112	3.1%	-17.9%

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	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
Female	35,535	36,543	29,769	2.8%	-18.5%
Male	23,541	24,150	19,851	2.6%	-17.8%
Gender Diverse	153	378	492	147.1%	30.2%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	59,229	61,071	50,112	3.1%	-17.9%

Note: In December 2019, forms and online applications were updated to include Gender Diverse.

Table 4.3: SA recipients by residential status

Residential status	January to September			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
Citizen by birth	42,225	43,545	35,712	3.1%	-18.0%
Citizen	8,832	9,222	7,605	4.4%	-17.5%
Permanent resident	7,557	7,701	6,291	1.9%	-18.3%
Other	609	603	504	-1.0%	-16.4%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	59,229	61,071	50,112	3.1%	-17.9%

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

Table 4.4: SA recipients by relationship status

Relationship status	January to September			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
Single	53,361	54,993	45,801	3.1%	-16.7%
Married/Civil Union	3,717	3,852	2,751	3.6%	-28.6%
Defacto	2,148	2,217	1,557	3.2%	-29.8%
Unknown	3	9	3	200.0%	-66.7%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	59,229	61,071	50,112	3.1%	-17.9%

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	
	2020	2021	2022	2020–21	2021–22
European	30,582	33,462	28,143	9.4%	-15.9%
Māori	11,742	12,057	9,354	2.7%	-22.4%
Pacific Peoples	6,525	7,050	5,673	8.0%	-19.5%
Asian	12,864	13,935	12,282	8.3%	-11.9%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	2,298	2,409	2,142	4.8%	-11.1%
Other	357	342	279	-4.2%	-18.4%
Total recipients with recorded ethnicity	55,122	58,974	49,113	7.0%	-16.7%
Not specified	4,104	2,097	999	-48.9%	-52.4%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	59,229	61,071	50,112	3.1%	-17.9%

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

