



Student Allowance

January to June 2023

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 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

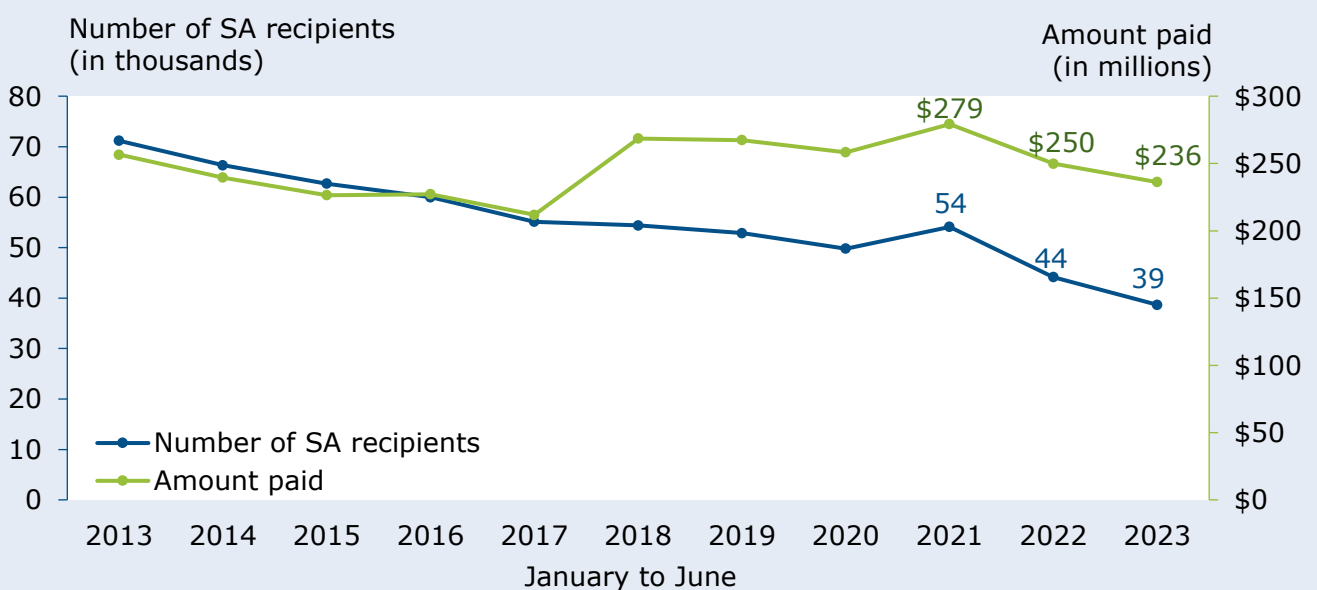
Number of recipients and amount paid

The number of SA recipients reduced across all education provider types.

From January to June 2023, 38,661 students received financial assistance under the Student Allowances (SA) Scheme. This was 5,484 fewer students (down 12.4 percent) when compared with the same period last year.

A total of \$236.2 million was paid for SA and Accommodation Benefit (AB) from January to June 2023, a decrease of 5.5 percent when compared with the same period in 2022.

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





On average, students received \$5,366 in SA payments from January to June 2023. This was 9.1 percent more than students received, on average, in January to June 2022.

From January to June 2023, students who were also entitled to AB received \$1,081 on average, up 0.7 percent from 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 June			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Student Allowance	54,108	44,145	38,661	-18.4%	-12.4%
Accommodation Benefit	37,092	30,651	26,616	-17.4%	-13.2%
Total number of recipients	54,108	44,145	38,664	-18.4%	-12.4%
Amount paid for Student Allowance	\$239,154,365	\$217,084,408	\$207,447,786	-9.2%	-4.4%
Amount paid for Accommodation Benefit	\$40,135,291	\$32,876,048	\$28,766,091	-18.1%	-12.5%
Total amount paid	\$279,289,656	\$249,960,456	\$236,213,877	-10.5%	-5.5%
Average Student Allowance	\$4,420	\$4,918	\$5,366	11.3%	9.1%
Average Accommodation Benefit	\$1,082	\$1,073	\$1,081	-0.8%	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 June 2023 period. Where the allowance rate reflects the living expenses of two adults, the increase is \$50 a week.

2

Education providers

The number of SA recipients reduced across all education provider types.

There were fewer Student Allowance (SA) recipients in each type of education provider between January and June 2023 than there were in the same period in 2022.

The largest reductions in SA recipients were in University and Te Pūkenga (New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology, formerly Polytechnics and Institutes of Technology).

From January to June 2023, 24,102 students received SA for study at University only. This was 2,283 fewer students (down 8.7 percent) when compared with the same period in 2022 (26,385).

There were 9,018 students who received SA for study at Te Pūkenga only. This was 2,001 fewer students (down 18.2 percent) when compared to the same period last year (11,019).

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.

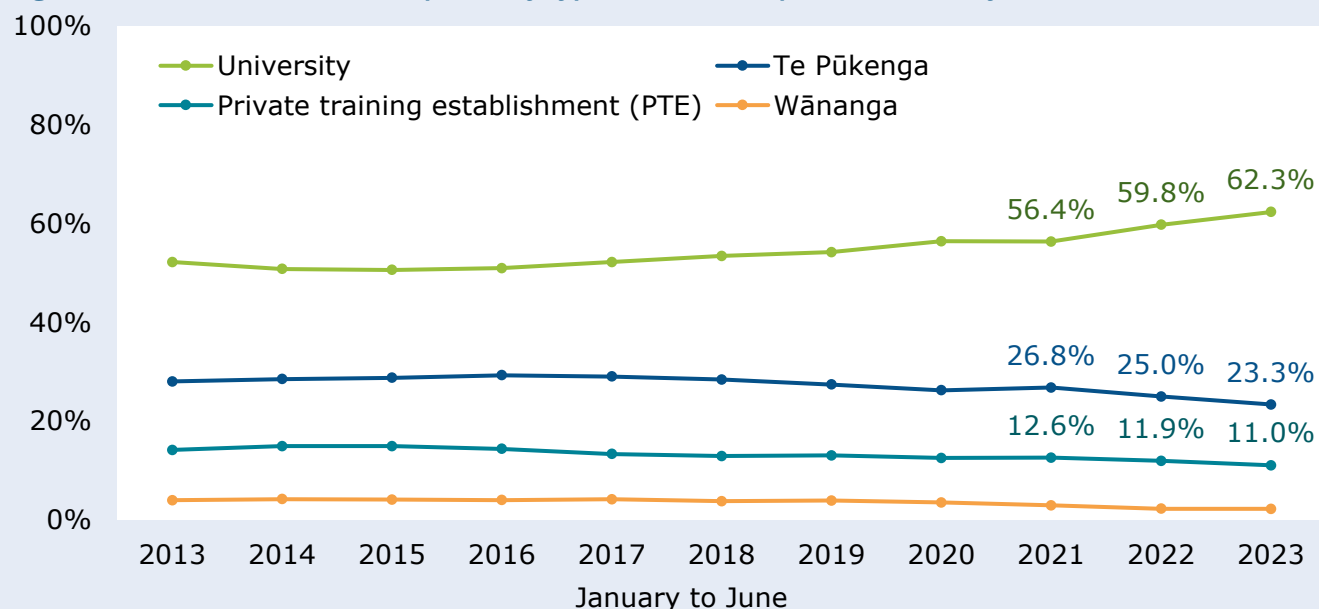
Table 2.1: Number of SA recipients by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to June			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
University	30,492	26,385	24,102	-13.5%	-8.7%
Te Pūkenga	14,487	11,019	9,018	-23.9%	-18.2%
Private training establishment (PTE)	6,804	5,259	4,260	-22.7%	-19.0%
Wānanga	1,569	975	840	-37.9%	-13.8%
Multiple and other providers	747	507	447	-32.1%	-11.8%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	54,108	44,145	38,664	-18.4%	-12.4%

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 62.3 percent of SA recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 23.3 percent.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of SA recipients by type of education provider, January to June 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 June			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021–22	2022–23
University	\$125,400,944	\$122,296,118	\$121,834,687	-2.5%	-0.4%
Te Pūkenga	\$69,559,505	\$58,765,611	\$53,147,084	-15.5%	-9.6%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$30,854,203	\$26,495,293	\$23,875,042	-14.1%	-9.9%
Wānanga	\$8,842,075	\$6,109,228	\$5,451,669	-30.9%	-10.8%
Multiple and other providers	\$4,497,638	\$3,418,158	\$3,139,304	-24.0%	-8.2%
Total amount paid for Student Allowance	\$239,154,365	\$217,084,408	\$207,447,786	-9.2%	-4.4%

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

From January to June 2023, 25.1 percent of SA recipients were single students who were living away from home. This proportion was 0.4 percentage points lower when compared with January to June 2022.

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

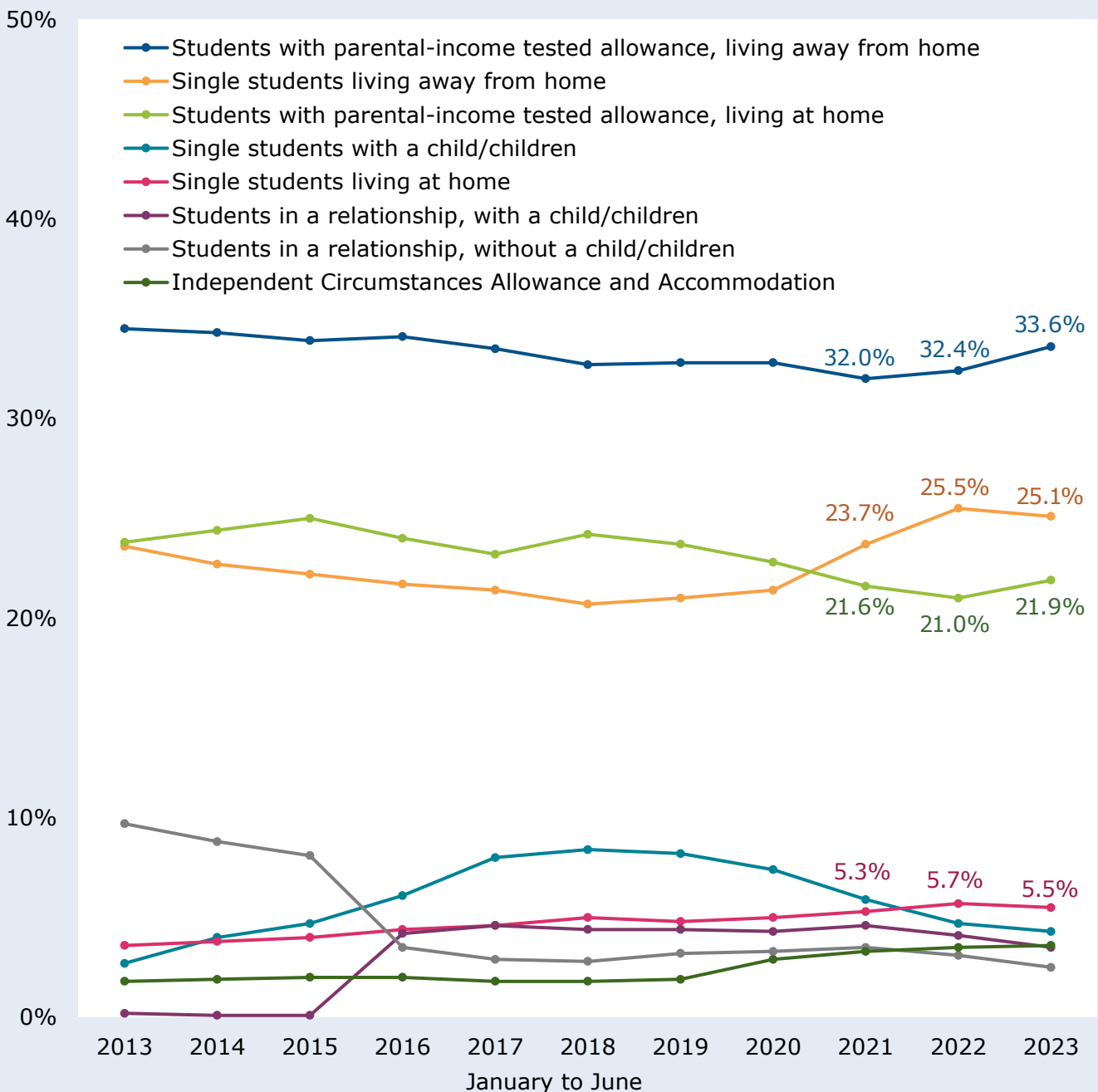




Table 3.1: Number of recipients based on personal and family circumstances

Personal and family circumstances	January to June			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living at home	11,709	9,270	8,484	-20.8%	-8.5%
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living away from home	17,307	14,322	12,990	-17.2%	-9.3%
Single students living at home	2,892	2,505	2,124	-13.4%	-15.2%
Single students living away from home	12,813	11,262	9,705	-12.1%	-13.8%
Single students with child/children	3,210	2,079	1,665	-35.2%	-19.9%
Students in a relationship, without a child/children	1,872	1,368	960	-26.9%	-29.8%
Students in a relationship, with a child/children	2,496	1,803	1,356	-27.8%	-24.8%
Independent Circumstances Allowance and Accommodation	1,809	1,530	1,380	-15.4%	-9.8%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	54,108	44,145	38,664	-18.4%	-12.4%

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	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
16-17 years	135	96	90	-28.9%	-6.3%
18-24 years	34,113	27,936	25,185	-18.1%	-9.8%
25-34 years	13,476	11,298	9,462	-16.2%	-16.3%
35-44 years	3,528	2,775	2,310	-21.3%	-16.8%
45-54 years	1,632	1,200	987	-26.5%	-17.8%
55 years and older	1,221	843	633	-31.0%	-24.9%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	54,108	44,145	38,664	-18.4%	-12.4%

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	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Female	32,607	26,475	22,917	-18.8%	-13.4%
Male	21,195	17,277	15,258	-18.5%	-11.7%
Gender Diverse	303	390	489	28.7%	25.4%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	54,108	44,145	38,664	-18.4%	-12.4%

Note: In December 2019, forms and online applications were updated to include Gender Diverse, which was not available previously.

Table 4.3: SA recipients by residential status

Residential status	January to June			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Citizen by birth	38,682	31,527	27,879	-18.5%	-11.6%
Citizen	8,193	6,666	5,883	-18.6%	-11.7%
Permanent resident	6,693	5,523	4,506	-17.5%	-18.4%
Other	540	429	393	-20.6%	-8.4%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	54,108	44,145	38,664	-18.4%	-12.4%

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 June			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Single	48,993	40,446	35,916	-17.4%	-11.2%
Married/Civil Union	3,249	2,358	1,803	-27.4%	-23.5%
Defacto	1,860	1,335	945	-28.2%	-29.2%
Unknown	3	3	3	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	54,108	44,145	38,664	-18.4%	-12.4%

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 June			Annual Change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
European	29,700	24,882	22,011	-16.2%	-11.5%
Māori	10,497	8,079	7,113	-23.0%	-12.0%
Pacific Peoples	6,045	4,845	4,188	-19.9%	-13.6%
Asian	12,465	10,956	10,029	-12.1%	-8.5%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	2,124	1,857	1,755	-12.6%	-5.5%
Other	294	237	207	-19.4%	-12.7%
Total recipients with recorded ethnicity	52,077	43,209	38,178	-17.0%	-11.6%
Not specified	2,031	936	483	-53.9%	-48.4%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	54,108	44,145	38,664	-18.4%	-12.4%

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

