



Student Allowance

January to December 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 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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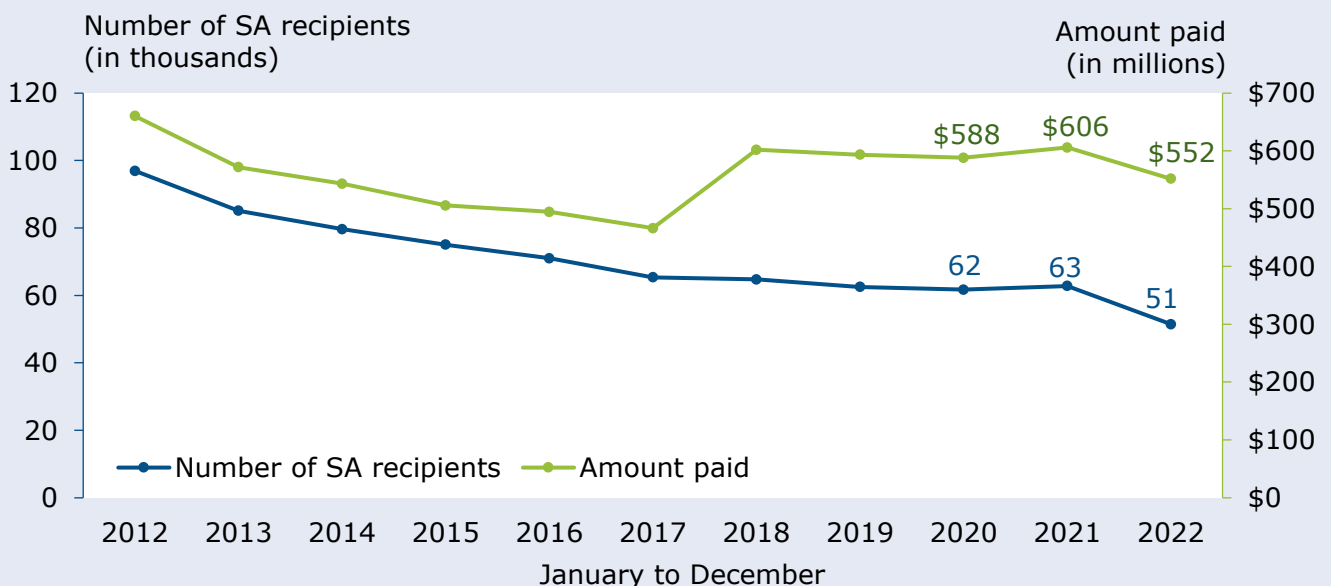
Number of recipients and amount paid

There were fewer Student Allowance recipients in 2022 than in 2021.

In 2022, 51,426 students received financial assistance under the Student Allowances (SA) Scheme. This was 11,388 fewer students (down 18.1 percent) when compared to 2021.

A total of \$551.7 million was paid for SA and Accommodation Benefit (AB) in 2022, a decrease of 8.9 percent from 2021.

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





On average, students received \$9,347 in SA payments in 2022.

This was 13.1 percent more than students received on average in 2021.

In 2022, students who were also entitled to AB received \$1,982 on average, down 0.7 percent from 2021.

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	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
Student Allowance	61,722	62,814	51,426	1.8%	-18.1%
Accommodation Benefit	42,243	43,419	35,838	2.8%	-17.5%
Total number of recipients	61,725	62,814	51,426	1.8%	-18.1%
Amount paid for Student Allowance	\$503,901,980	\$519,286,742	\$480,699,151	3.1%	-7.4%
Amount paid for Accommodation Benefit	\$84,158,471	\$86,608,678	\$71,040,494	2.9%	-18.0%
Total amount paid	\$588,060,451	\$605,895,420	\$551,739,645	3.0%	-8.9%
Average Student Allowance	\$8,164	\$8,267	\$9,347	1.3%	13.1%
Average Accommodation Benefit	\$1,992	\$1,995	\$1,982	0.2%	-0.7%

Note: Not every SA recipient is eligible for AB.





2

Education providers

There were fewer SA recipients enrolled across all types of providers in 2022 than in 2021.

There were fewer students enrolled across all types of education providers in 2022 than in 2021.

In 2022, 29,271 students received SA for study at University only. This was 4,206 fewer students (down 12.6 percent) when compared to 2021 (33,477).

There were 13,473 students who received SA for study at Te Pūkenga only. This was 4,245 fewer students (down 24.0 percent) when compared to 2021 (17,718).

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

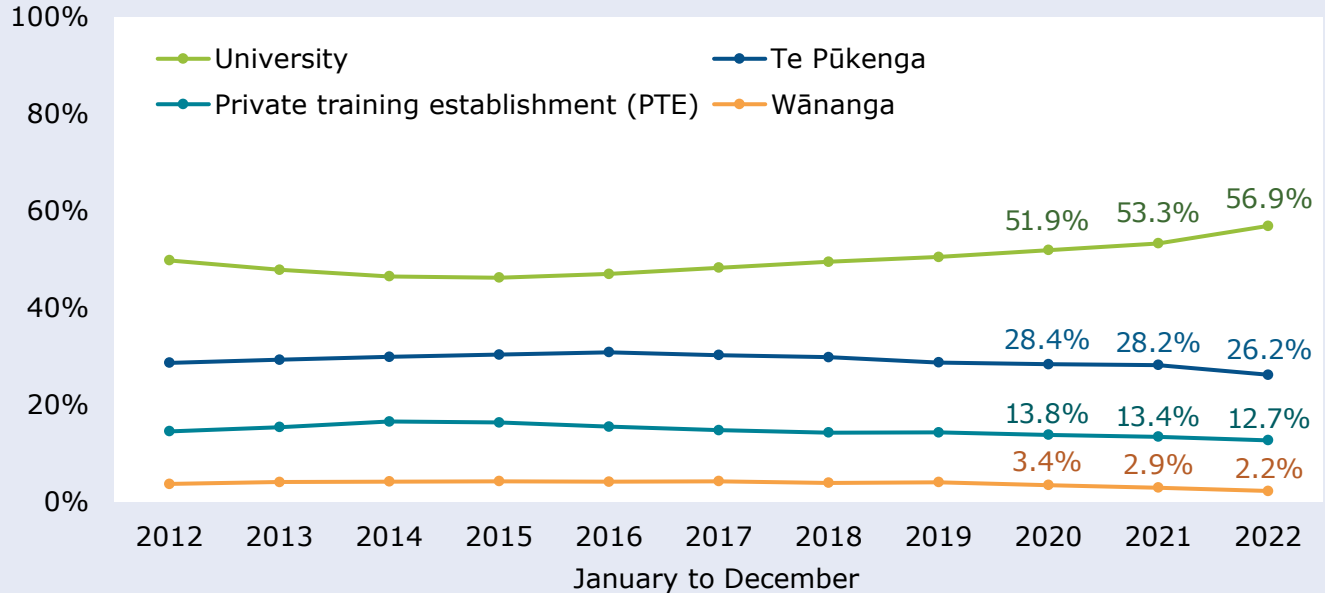
Type of provider	January to December			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020–21	2021–22
University	32,040	33,477	29,271	4.5%	-12.6%
Te Pūkenga	17,511	17,718	13,473	1.2%	-24.0%
Private training establishment (PTE)	8,511	8,418	6,525	-1.1%	-22.5%
Wānanga	2,109	1,821	1,128	-13.7%	-38.1%
Multiple and other providers	1,557	1,383	1,026	-11.2%	-25.8%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,725	62,814	51,426	1.8%	-18.1%

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 56.9 percent of SA recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 26.2 percent.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of SA recipients by type of education provider, January to December 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 December			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020–21	2021–22
University	\$254,684,791	\$270,449,048	\$271,764,817	6.2%	0.5%
Te Pūkenga	\$145,373,585	\$149,960,085	\$126,719,740	3.2%	-15.5%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$62,746,767	\$63,859,404	\$56,037,378	1.8%	-12.2%
Wānanga	\$24,231,708	\$20,007,352	\$14,163,688	-17.4%	-29.2%
Multiple and other providers	\$16,865,129	\$15,010,853	\$12,013,527	-11.0%	-20.0%
Total amount paid for Student Allowance	\$503,901,980	\$519,286,742	\$480,699,151	3.1%	-7.4%

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

Single students living away from home had the highest proportional increase from 2021 to 2022.

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.

In 2022, 26.8 percent of SA recipients were single students who were living away from home. This proportion was 1.6 percentage points higher than in 2021.

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

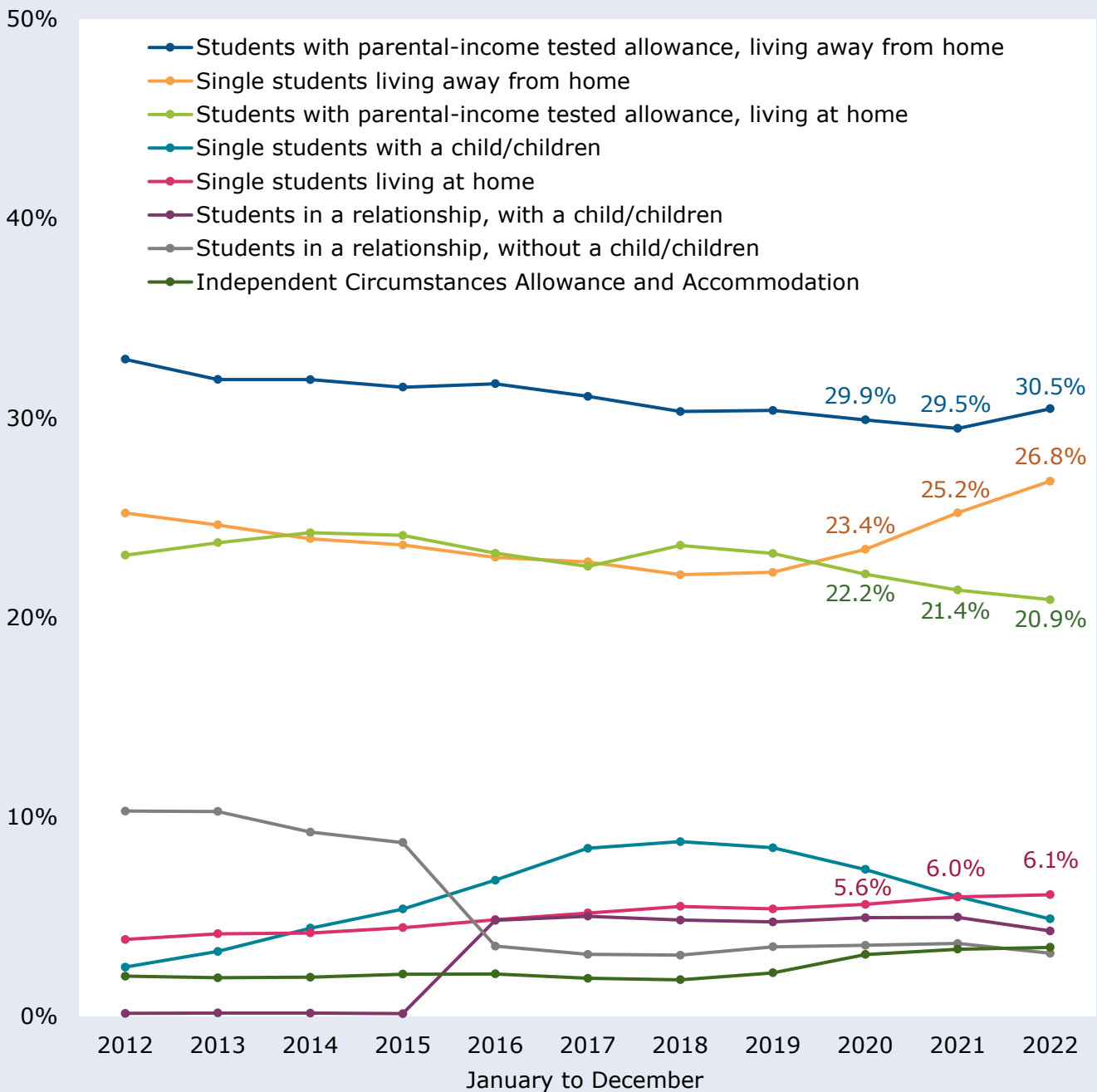




Table 3.1: Number of recipients based on personal and family circumstances

Personal and family circumstances	January to December			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020–21	2021–22
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living at home	13,683	13,422	10,737	-1.9%	-20.0%
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living away from home	18,456	18,513	15,663	0.3%	-15.4%
Single students living at home	3,459	3,753	3,132	8.5%	-16.5%
Single students living away from home	14,448	15,855	13,797	9.7%	-13.0%
Single students with child/children	4,539	3,765	2,505	-17.1%	-33.5%
Students in a relationship, without a child/children	2,190	2,286	1,620	4.4%	-29.1%
Students in a relationship, with a child/children	3,045	3,111	2,193	2.2%	-29.5%
Independent Circumstances Allowance and Accommodation	1,905	2,106	1,773	10.6%	-15.8%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,725	62,814	51,426	1.8%	-18.1%

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	
	2020	2021	2022	2020–21	2021–22
16–17 years	75	63	42	-16.0%	-33.3%
18–24 years	37,389	37,440	30,867	0.1%	-17.6%
25–34 years	16,107	17,232	14,412	7.0%	-16.4%
35–44 years	4,479	4,524	3,525	1.0%	-22.1%
45–54 years	2,202	2,031	1,539	-7.8%	-24.2%
55 years and older	1,467	1,518	1,038	3.5%	-31.6%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,725	62,814	51,426	1.8%	-18.1%

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	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
Female	36,942	37,482	30,522	1.5%	-18.6%
Male	24,579	24,909	20,382	1.3%	-18.2%
Gender Diverse	201	423	522	110.4%	23.4%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,725	62,814	51,426	1.8%	-18.1%

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 December			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
Citizen by birth	44,025	44,754	36,618	1.7%	-18.2%
Citizen	9,213	9,507	7,836	3.2%	-17.6%
Permanent resident	7,863	7,938	6,459	1.0%	-18.6%
Other	624	615	513	-1.4%	-16.6%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,725	62,814	51,426	1.8%	-18.1%

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 December			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
Single	55,503	56,490	47,016	1.8%	-16.8%
Married/Civil Union	3,969	4,029	2,880	1.5%	-28.5%
Defacto	2,247	2,283	1,530	1.6%	-33.0%
Unknown	3	15	6	400.0%	-60.0%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,725	62,814	51,426	1.8%	-18.1%

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 December			Annual Change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020–21	2021–22
European	32,058	34,494	28,887	7.6%	-16.3%
Māori	12,471	12,513	9,648	0.3%	-22.9%
Pacific Peoples	6,936	7,266	5,844	4.8%	-19.6%
Asian	13,506	14,388	12,600	6.5%	-12.4%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	2,409	2,490	2,208	3.4%	-11.3%
Other	378	357	291	-5.6%	-18.5%
Total recipients with recorded ethnicity	57,954	60,831	50,451	5.0%	-17.1%
Not specified	3,768	1,980	972	-47.5%	-50.9%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	61,725	62,814	51,426	1.8%	-18.1%

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

