



Student Allowance January to March 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

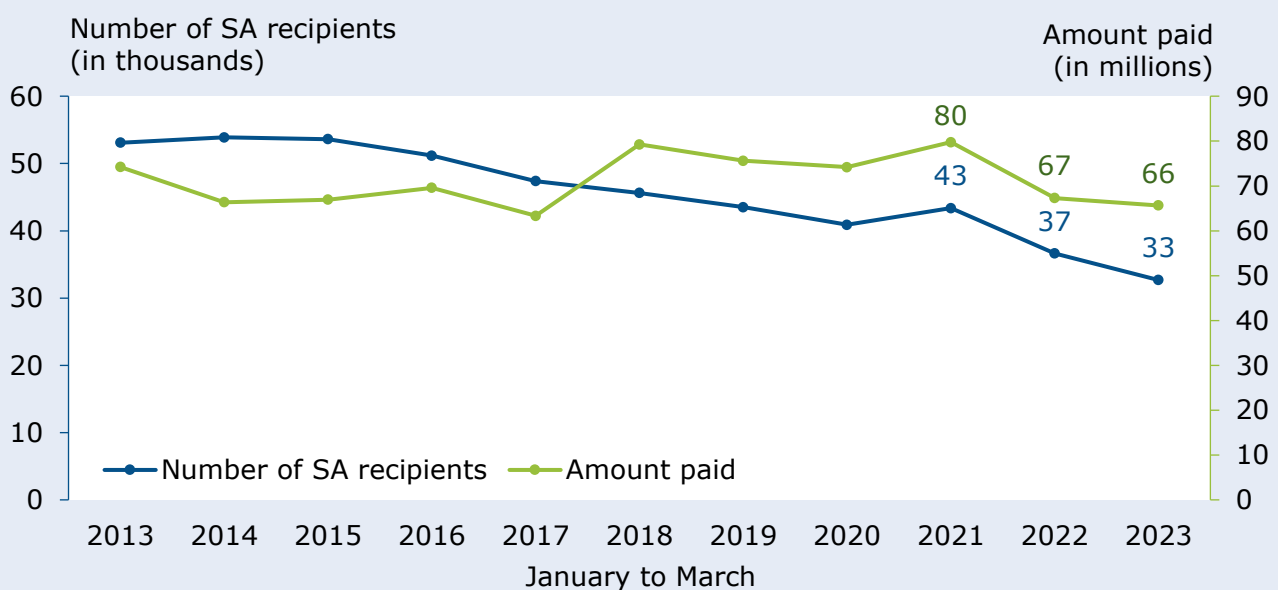
Number of recipients and amount paid

There were fewer Student Allowance recipients between January and March 2023 than in the same time last year.

From January to March 2023, 32,679 students received financial assistance under the Student Allowances (SA) Scheme. This was 3,954 fewer students (down 10.8 percent) when compared with the same period last year.

A total of \$65.7 million was paid for SA and Accommodation Benefit (AB) from January to March 2023, a decrease of 2.5 percent compared with the same period in 2022.

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





On average, students received \$1,749 in SA payments from January to March 2023. This was 11.5 percent more than students received, on average, in January to March 2022. From January to March 2023, students who were also entitled to AB received \$371 on average, down 2.1 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 March			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Student Allowance	43,368	36,633	32,673	-15.5%	-10.8%
Accommodation Benefit	30,534	25,980	22,914	-14.9%	-11.8%
Total number of recipients	43,368	36,633	32,679	-15.5%	-10.8%
Amount paid for Student Allowance	\$68,057,443	\$57,460,237	\$57,155,275	-15.6%	-0.5%
Amount paid for Accommodation Benefit	\$11,706,468	\$9,851,961	\$8,505,406	-15.8%	-13.7%
Total amount paid	\$79,763,911	\$67,312,198	\$65,660,681	-15.6%	-2.5%
Average Student Allowance	\$1,569	\$1,569	\$1,749	0.0%	11.5%
Average Accommodation Benefit	\$383	\$379	\$371	-1.0%	-2.1%

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 March 2023, in comparison to the same period in 2022. This was mainly driven by fewer Student Allowance (SA) recipients enrolled in University and Te Pūkenga.

From January to March 2023, 20,754 students received SA for study at University only. This was 1,461 fewer students (down 6.6 percent) when compared with the same period in 2022 (22,215).

There were 7,689 students who received SA for study at only Te Pūkenga. This was 1,503 fewer students (down 16.4 percent) when compared to the same period last year (9,192).

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

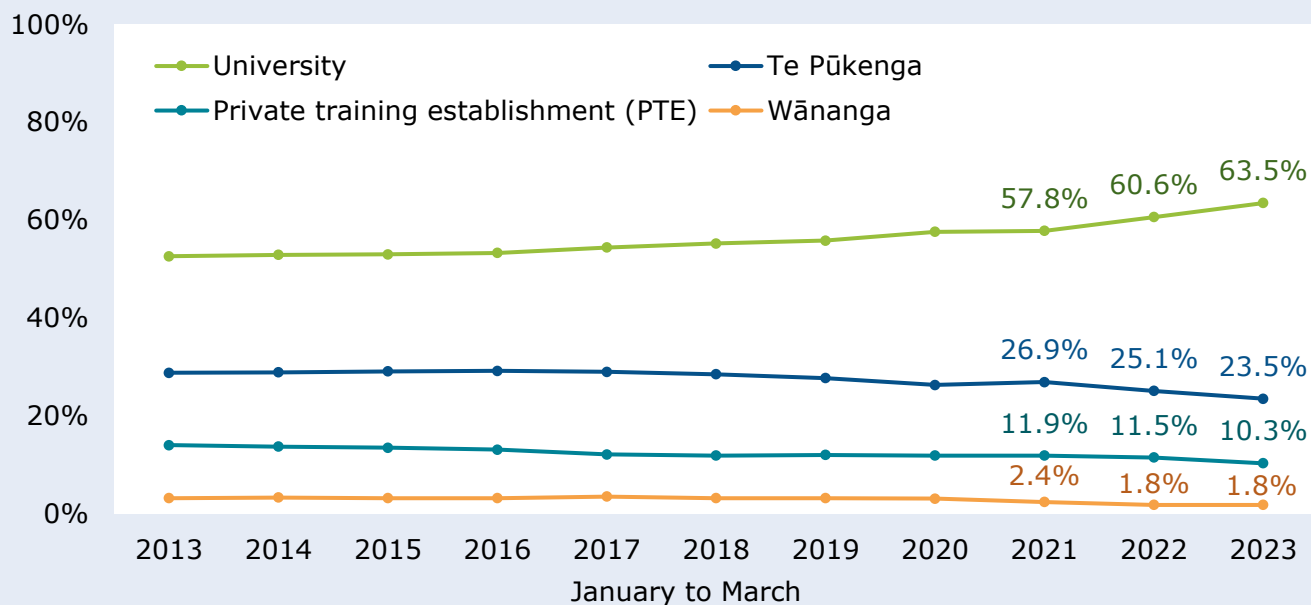
Type of provider	January to March			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
University	25,056	22,215	20,754	-11.3%	-6.6%
Te Pūkenga	11,646	9,192	7,689	-21.1%	-16.4%
Private training establishment (PTE)	5,169	4,203	3,360	-18.7%	-20.1%
Wānanga	1,023	675	582	-34.0%	-13.8%
Multiple and other providers	477	348	294	-27.0%	-15.5%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	43,368	36,633	32,679	-15.5%	-10.8%

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 63.5 percent of SA recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 23.5 percent.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of SA recipients by type of education provider, January to March 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 March			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021–22	2022–23
University	\$34,022,805	\$30,007,874	\$31,512,277	-11.8%	5.0%
Te Pūkenga	\$20,274,450	\$16,791,956	\$15,741,786	-17.2%	-6.3%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$10,800,630	\$8,582,211	\$7,984,804	-20.5%	-7.0%
Wānanga	\$1,652,915	\$1,075,866	\$1,062,014	-34.9%	-1.3%
Multiple and other providers	\$1,306,645	\$1,002,331	\$854,394	-23.3%	-14.8%
Total amount paid for Student Allowance	\$68,057,443	\$57,460,237	\$57,155,275	-15.6%	-0.5%

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 March 2023, when compared to the same period in 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.

From January to March 2023, 26.3 percent of SA recipients were single students who were living away from home. This proportion was 0.5 percentage points lower when compared with January to March 2022.

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

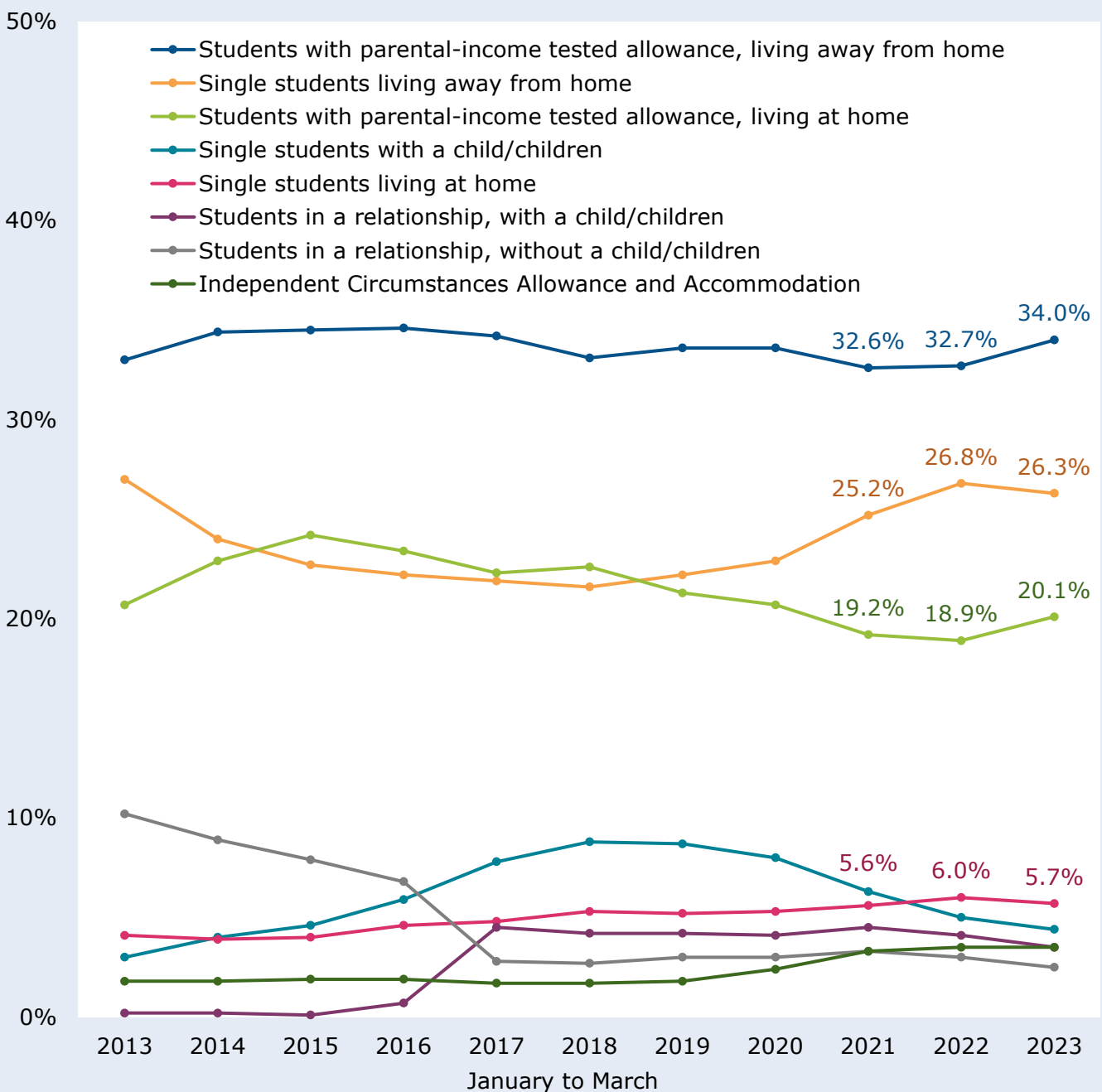




Table 3.1: Number of recipients based on personal and family circumstances

Personal and family circumstances	January to March			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living at home	8,328	6,939	6,558	-16.7%	-5.5%
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living away from home	14,151	11,982	11,112	-15.3%	-7.3%
Single students living at home	2,442	2,190	1,866	-10.3%	-14.8%
Single students living away from home	10,926	9,807	8,601	-10.2%	-12.3%
Single students with child/children	2,748	1,818	1,431	-33.8%	-21.3%
Students in a relationship, without a child/children	1,413	1,110	825	-21.4%	-25.7%
Students in a relationship, with a child/children	1,941	1,491	1,137	-23.2%	-23.7%
Independent Circumstances Allowance and Accommodation	1,419	1,296	1,146	-8.7%	-11.6%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	43,368	36,633	32,679	-15.5%	-10.8%

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 March			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
16-17 years	408	306	324	-25.0%	5.9%
18-24 years	26,574	22,611	20,772	-14.9%	-8.1%
25-34 years	11,373	9,729	8,256	-14.5%	-15.1%
35-44 years	2,832	2,325	1,968	-17.9%	-15.4%
45-54 years	1,329	978	843	-26.4%	-13.8%
55 years and older	855	687	513	-19.6%	-25.3%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	43,368	36,633	32,679	-15.5%	-10.8%

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 March			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Female	26,628	22,302	19,539	-16.2%	-12.4%
Male	16,533	14,025	12,729	-15.2%	-9.2%
Gender Diverse	207	306	411	47.8%	34.3%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	43,368	36,633	32,679	-15.5%	-10.8%

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 March			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Citizen by birth	31,122	26,244	23,610	-15.7%	-10.0%
Citizen	6,609	5,496	4,962	-16.8%	-9.7%
Permanent resident	5,214	4,545	3,774	-12.8%	-17.0%
Other	426	351	330	-17.6%	-6.0%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	43,368	36,633	32,679	-15.5%	-10.8%

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 March			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Single	39,411	33,597	30,360	-14.8%	-9.6%
Married/Civil Union	2,472	1,929	1,536	-22.0%	-20.4%
Defacto	1,485	1,101	783	-25.9%	-28.9%
Unknown	3	3	0	0.0%	-100.0%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	43,368	36,633	32,679	-15.5%	-10.8%

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 March			Annual Change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
European	24,717	21,363	19,209	-13.6%	-10.1%
Māori	8,205	6,573	5,898	-19.9%	-10.3%
Pacific Peoples	4,350	3,684	3,195	-15.3%	-13.3%
Asian	9,600	8,880	8,286	-7.5%	-6.7%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	1,695	1,494	1,476	-11.9%	-1.2%
Other	228	198	177	-13.2%	-10.6%
Total recipients with recorded ethnicity	41,586	35,814	32,274	-13.9%	-9.9%
Not specified	1,785	819	405	-54.1%	-50.5%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	43,368	36,633	32,679	-15.5%	-10.8%

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

