



# Student Allowance

## January to September 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

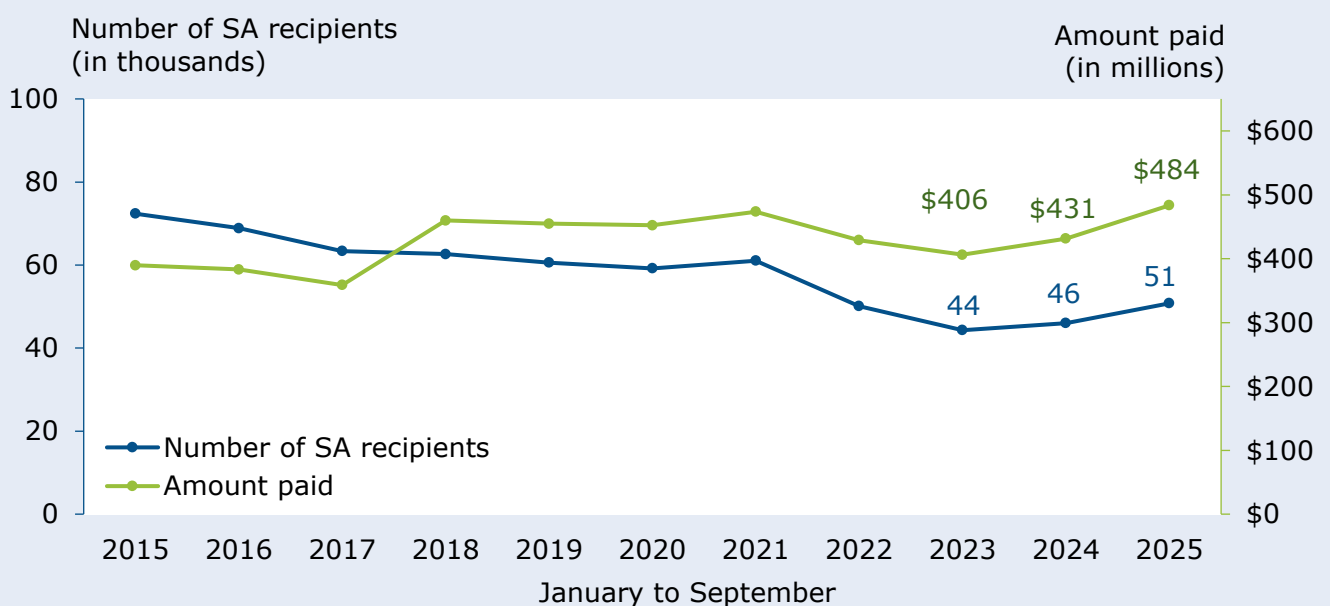
#### Number of recipients and amount paid

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

From January to September 2025, 50,817 students received financial assistance under the Student Allowances (SA) Scheme. This was a rise of 4,809 students (up 10.5 percent) when compared with the same period in 2024.

A total of \$483.6 million was paid for SA and Accommodation Benefit (AB) from January to September 2025, a rise of 12.1 percent when compared with the same period in 2024.

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





On average, students received \$8,489 in SA payments from January to September 2025. This was 2.0 percent more than students received, on average, in the same period in 2024.

From January to September 2025, students who were also entitled to AB received \$1,593 in AB on average. This was up 0.3 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 September			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023–24	2024–25
Student Allowance	44,325	46,008	50,817	3.8%	10.5%
Accommodation Benefit	30,495	30,618	32,742	0.4%	6.9%
<b>Total number of recipients</b>	<b>44,328</b>	<b>46,008</b>	<b>50,817</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>
Amount paid for Student Allowance	\$357,377,642	\$382,744,293	\$431,381,556	7.1%	12.7%
Amount paid for Accommodation Benefit	\$48,906,680	\$48,632,487	\$52,171,189	-0.6%	7.3%
<b>Total amount paid</b>	<b>\$406,284,322</b>	<b>\$431,376,780</b>	<b>\$483,552,745</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
Average Student Allowance	\$8,063	\$8,319	\$8,489	3.2%	2.0%
Average Accommodation Benefit	\$1,604	\$1,588	\$1,593	-1.0%	0.3%

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



## 2

### Education providers

From January to September 2025, 28,386 students received SA for study at University only. This was 1,857 more students (up 7.0 percent) when compared with the same period in 2024 (26,529).

There were 13,401 students who received SA for study at only Te Pūkenga. This was 1,743 more students (up 15.0 percent) when compared with the same period in 2024 (11,658).

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.

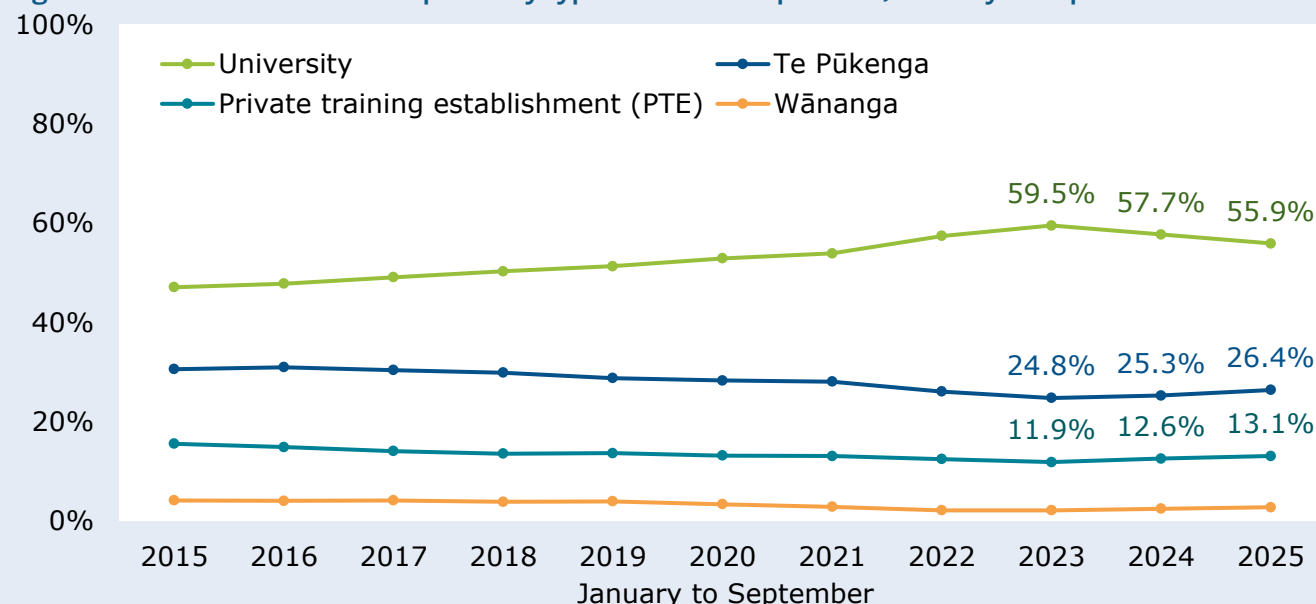
**Table 2.1: Number of SA recipients by type of education provider**

Type of provider	January to September			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
University	26,385	26,529	28,386	0.5%	7.0%
Te Pūkenga	10,986	11,658	13,401	6.1%	15.0%
Private training establishment (PTE)	5,280	5,778	6,666	9.4%	15.4%
Wānanga	957	1,173	1,398	22.6%	19.2%
Multiple and other providers	720	870	963	20.8%	10.7%
<b>Total number of Student Allowance recipients</b>	<b>44,328</b>	<b>46,008</b>	<b>50,817</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>

**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 55.9 percent of SA recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 26.4 percent.

**Figure 2.1: Distribution of SA recipients by type of education provider, January to September 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 September			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023–24	2024–25
University	\$212,221,352	\$222,398,225	\$241,134,253	4.8%	8.4%
Te Pūkenga	\$89,404,224	\$95,801,221	\$113,697,999	7.2%	18.7%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$39,175,887	\$43,965,634	\$51,587,916	12.2%	17.3%
Wānanga	\$9,395,753	\$11,971,329	\$15,118,929	27.4%	26.3%
Multiple and other providers	\$7,180,427	\$8,607,884	\$9,842,459	19.9%	14.3%
<b>Total amount paid for Student Allowance</b>	<b>\$357,377,642</b>	<b>\$382,744,293</b>	<b>\$431,381,556</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>12.7%</b>

**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.

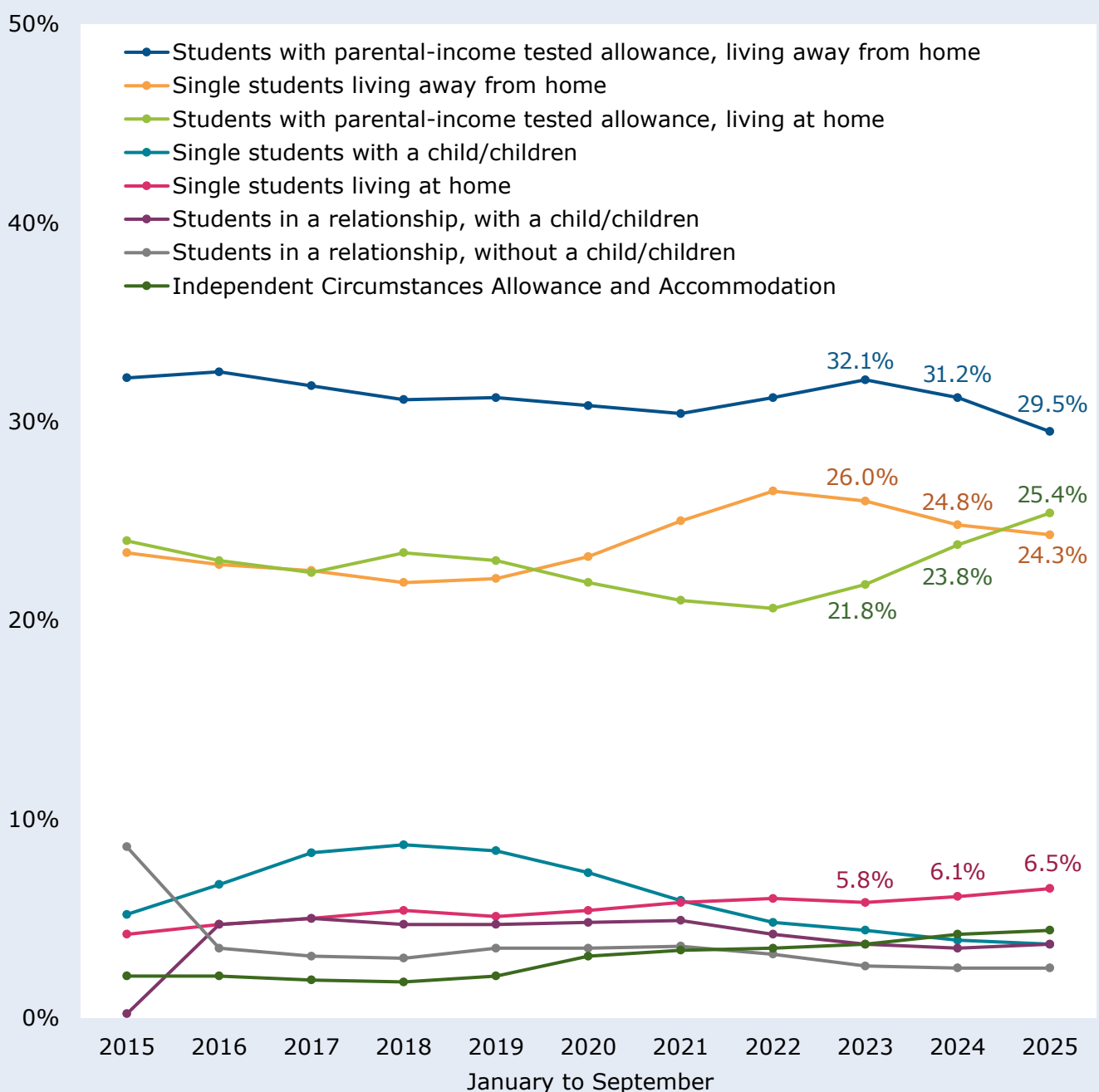
## 3

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 September 2025, 24.3 percent of SA recipients were single students who were living away from home. This proportion was 0.5 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 September 2015–2025**





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

Personal and family circumstances	January to September			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2025	2022-23	2023-24
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living at home	9,642	10,935	12,909	13.4%	18.1%
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living away from home	14,220	14,355	15,012	0.9%	4.6%
Single students living at home	2,580	2,814	3,318	9.1%	17.9%
Single students living away from home	11,514	11,388	12,336	-1.1%	8.3%
Single students with child/children	1,941	1,815	1,881	-6.5%	3.6%
Students in a relationship, without a child/children	1,149	1,155	1,254	0.5%	8.6%
Students in a relationship, with a child/children	1,635	1,614	1,887	-1.3%	16.9%
Independent Circumstances Allowance and Accommodation	1,650	1,929	2,223	16.9%	15.2%
<b>Total number of Student Allowance recipients</b>	<b>44,328</b>	<b>46,008</b>	<b>50,817</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>

**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 September			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
16-17 years	78	114	126	46.2%	10.5%
18-24 years	28,203	30,003	33,183	6.4%	10.6%
25-34 years	11,289	11,067	12,144	-2.0%	9.7%
35-44 years	2,778	2,793	3,132	0.5%	12.1%
45-54 years	1,227	1,293	1,461	5.4%	13.0%
55 years and older	756	738	774	-2.4%	4.9%
<b>Total number of Student Allowance recipients</b>	<b>44,328</b>	<b>46,008</b>	<b>50,817</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>

**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	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
Female	26,196	26,838	29,304	2.5%	9.2%
Male	17,562	18,474	20,682	5.2%	12.0%
Gender Diverse	570	699	831	22.6%	18.9%
<b>Total number of Student Allowance recipients</b>	<b>44,328</b>	<b>46,008</b>	<b>50,817</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>

**Table 4.3: SA recipients by residential status**

Residential status	January to September			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
Citizen by birth	31,875	33,393	36,480	4.8%	9.2%
Citizen	6,744	6,864	7,572	1.8%	10.3%
Permanent resident	5,226	5,133	5,952	-1.8%	16.0%
Other	486	618	816	27.2%	32.0%
<b>Total number of Student Allowance recipients</b>	<b>44,328</b>	<b>46,008</b>	<b>50,817</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>

**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 September			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
Single	41,004	42,714	47,118	4.2%	10.3%
Married/Civil Union	2,151	2,085	2,283	-3.1%	9.5%
Defacto	1,170	1,206	1,416	3.1%	17.4%
Unknown	0	3	3	N.A.	0.0%
<b>Total number of Student Allowance recipients</b>	<b>44,328</b>	<b>46,008</b>	<b>50,817</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>

**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 September			Annual Change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
European	24,903	24,846	26,652	-0.2%	7.3%
Māori	8,394	9,213	10,365	9.8%	12.5%
Pacific Peoples	5,007	5,781	6,795	15.5%	17.5%
Asian	11,373	12,000	13,551	5.5%	12.9%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	2,025	2,169	2,553	7.1%	17.7%
Other	243	243	234	0.0%	-3.7%
<b>Total recipients with recorded ethnicity</b>	<b>43,788</b>	<b>45,462</b>	<b>50,205</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>
Not specified	543	546	612	0.6%	12.1%
<b>Total number of Student Allowance recipients</b>	<b>44,328</b>	<b>46,008</b>	<b>50,817</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>

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

