



Ministry of Education

**Outer Islands
Education
Assistance Scheme
Policy**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Terms of Reference

“NCEA” means National Certificate in Educational Achievement.

“NZQA” means New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

“Primary Caregiver” means, the person or persons with whom the student has resided in the capacity of parents throughout their education prior to the uptake of this grant.

1.2 Background

Secondary students resident in the outer islands are restricted in the level of schooling they are able to access. For most of the southern group islands, the last level of schooling on their island is either Year 11 or Year 12. The last level for students living in the northern group islands is either Year 10 or Year 11. Access to higher levels of schooling for students residing on these islands is either in the form of enrolment with the NZ Correspondence School or travel to Rarotonga or other islands that offer higher levels of education.

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of the Outer Island Education Assistance Scheme is to provide the opportunity for a student resident on an outer island and who has **completed one year of schooling** at the highest level that the outer island school is able to offer (see 1.4) to continue to receive higher education in a secondary school on Rarotonga (or another southern group island).

The Ministry of Education acknowledges that it can be financially difficult for parents to provide for their child’s access to levels of secondary education that are not available on their island of residence. The Ministry of Education accepts some of these responsibilities and will share them with primary caregivers and guardians of students supported by this scheme. However, the primary caregiver will continue to be responsible for the well being of their children while they are off island for education as though they were on their usual island of residence.

1.4 Scope

This policy applies to students who have completed one year of schooling at the last year level of education available on their island as listed in the following table:

| Southern Group Schools | Education Year Level | Northern Group Schools | Education Year Level |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Araura College | Year 12 | Lucky | Year 10 |
| Enuamanu | Year 12 | Niua | Year 11 |
| Mangaia | Year 12 | Nassau | Year 10 |
| Mauke | Year 11 | Omoka | Year 11 |
| Mitiaro | Year 11 | Rakahanga | Year 10 |
| | | Tauhunu | Year 11 |
| | | Tukao | Year 11 |

1.5 Eligibility Criteria

The Ministry of Education believes that students must be provided with opportunities to advance to the next level of schooling when they have satisfactorily completed a year at the highest level of education available on their island of residence and meets one or all of the following;

- (a) A student attending an accredited school and who has entered NCEA Level 1 on his/her home island, will need to have accumulated at least 80 Level 1 credits. Eight of these credits must be from numeracy credits and eight other credits must be from literacy credits.
- (b) A student attending an accredited school and who has entered NCEA Level 2 on his/her home island, will need to have accumulated at least 60 credits at Level 2 or above, plus 20 credits from Level 1 or above.
- (c) The student must meet the pre-requisites as set down in the student hand book of the new school. Where the pre-requisites are not offered by the students' current school, the principal of the "new" school may waive this requirement.
- (d) The student and his/her primary caregivers are Cook Islands citizens or Permanent Residents of the Cook Islands.

2. STAKEHOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Responsibilities of the Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education will assist the student through the provision of the following:

2.1.1 Fare

- a) The Ministry of Education will book and pay for a one way fare to Rarotonga or Araura College for the Northern Group students before the beginning of the school year OR; book and pay for a one way fare to Pukapuka from Nassau OR; book and pay for a one way fare to Manihiki from Rakahanga. A second fare will be paid to return the student back to his/her island of residence at the end of the school year OR; soon after NZQA examinations OR; on recommendation from the school to terminate his/her enrolment as a result of non or irregular attendance at school OR; other serious issues where it is considered in the best interest for the student/s to return.
- b) Air fares will be arranged for students from the southern group, and a boat fare for students from the northern group.
- c) The Ministry of Education will pay the equivalent of a boat cabin fare towards the one way air fare of a Northern Group student.
- d) Where no return transport is available for the student at the end of the year, the student will remain in Rarotonga or on the island of the school they are attending over the Christmas holiday period.
- e) ***Where transport is available, all Years 11-13 students are required to return to their homeland unless their parents' provide written approval for them to remain on Rarotonga.***

2.1.2 Living Allowance

- a) The guardian of the student will receive a living allowance of \$50.00 per week, paid fortnightly in arrears into the guardian's nominated bank account. The purpose of this allowance is to assist with the daily living expenses whilst the student is resident on Rarotonga or other southern group island and enrolled on the scheme.
- b) For a student to be eligible to have the living allowance paid on his/her behalf, he/she must not be residing with their primary caregiver (see Terms of Reference for definition of primary caregiver).
- c) Payment of the living allowance will begin at the start of the school year or upon the signing of all required documents, whichever is the earlier.
- d) Payment of the living allowance will be terminated at the end of the school year OR; when the student is no longer enrolled on the scheme.
- e) Students who are unable to return to their home island over the Christmas period due to no transport, will apply in writing to the Secretary of Education to have the allowance continued.
- f) ***Students are required to return home unless their parents' give approval in writing for them to remain in Rarotonga. The living allowance for Years 11-12 students will cease until they enrol and start attending school in the new year. The allowance for Year 13 students will cease indefinitely.***

2.1.3. Support

The Ministry of Education, in liaison with the Principal and staff of the designated school, will establish and provide student support/counselling network for students participating in this scheme, where possible.

2.2 Responsibilities of Primary Caregivers

The Ministry of Education acknowledges that the child's primary caregivers are those responsible for educating the child on another island. This scheme does not abrogate the primary caregivers from their responsibilities. Under this scheme, the Ministry of Education will assist primary caregivers with inter-island transport and a small part of the living cost. The primary caregivers will bear the remainder of the costs as though their child is resident with them. The primary caregivers will be responsible for the following:

- (a) arrange for their child's accommodation on Rarotonga or other island (see sec.2.1.1.a);
- (b) ensure their child has appropriate resources to enable them to fully participate in education while resident on Rarotonga or on another southern group island. This includes stationery, uniforms, workbooks etc;
- (c) arrange for on-island transport, if necessary;
- (d) arrange to provide for their child's daily needs while resident on Rarotonga or other island e.g. food, clothing etc;
- (e) payment of examination, assessment and other related fees;
- (f) provide to the Ministry of Education the required documentation requested in the Outer Islands Education Assistance application form. This includes:
 - the name of the designated guardian and evidence that the designated guardian has accepted responsibilities as guardian and;
 - ensure that the designated guardian provides the Ministry of Education with a bank account number for the purpose of depositing the living allowance.

2.3 Responsibilities of the Principal

This section is for the Principal of the school that the student from another island attends.

The Principal is required to:

- (a) forward to the Ministry of Education a copy of the regular end of (Term 1, Term 2, Term 3 and Term 4) progress reports for all students from the outer islands supported under this scheme;
- (b) forward to the primary caregivers a copy of the student's school reports;
- (c) immediately inform the Ministry of Education of any problems encountered with the student while at school which may adversely affect the student's learning, e.g. non attendance, non-co-operation in school activities, etc;
- (d) monitor student attendance and inform the Ministry of Education of any breaches to the contract.

2.4 Responsibilities of the Student

The student is required to:

- (a) comply with school rules and policies;
- (b) attend school on all school days unless the student is sick;
- (c) complete assignments and assessment units on time;
- (d) sit all examinations;
- (e) inform teacher or principal of any difficulties experienced at school and with their guardian;
- (f) maintain at least a satisfactory level of achievement.

2.5 Responsibilities of the Guardian

The guardian is required to:

- a) inform the Ministry of Education and the school that the student is no longer living with them and to provide the details of the new guardian;
- b) inform the Ministry of Education and the school that the student will no longer be attending school;
- c) inform the school if the student will be absent due to sickness, bereavement or other;
- d) inform the Ministry of Education and the school where there is a change in contact phone number, address and bank account details;
- e) inform the Ministry of Education if they are aware of other issues that are likely to impact on the student's achievement and/or attendance at school.

2.6 Exceptional Circumstances

The Secretary of Education will consider application requests for students who are not eligible to enrol on the scheme on a case by case basis.