Student Travel Subsidies Policy

Policy Statement

The Department of Transport (DoT) is committed to assisting eligible students living in Western Australia in overcoming geographical isolation from schools and other educational institutions. The On-demand Transport business unit of the Department of Transport administers a Student Travel Subsidy scheme which provides travel assistance in the form of a fares allowance and/or a road travel subsidy subject to a number of eligibility criteria being met.

Principles

- The Student Travel Subsidies are available to eligible students who:
  - hold Australian Citizenship or permanent residency status; and
  - are below the age of 26; and
  - are dependant financially on their parent(s)/guardian(s); and
  - are not receiving Youth Allowance or Abstudy; and
  - had a gap of no more than 12 months between secondary and tertiary study.

- To be eligible for a fare allowance, the student and parents must ordinarily reside in the Defined Remote Area of Western Australia.

- The Scheme is designed to assist parents with the cost of travel to and from educational institutions only, and during the academic year. It should not be used to subsidise the cost of extended family visits or holidays, or to travel back to Perth for the purpose of vacation employment.

- Travel dates should reflect term/semester dates. Subsidised travel on dates which lie more than four weeks outside the end or start of the relevant secondary or tertiary academic year may be approved only at the Department’s discretion.

Objectives

- To reduce the amount of time that children are outside parental supervision when travelling between home and educational institutions.

- To alleviate the difficulties associated with access to secondary/tertiary education related transport in regional and remote WA.

- To ensure integrity and efficiency in the delivery of the schemes through a policy and a robust governance framework.

- To consider any initiatives which will lead to a better, fairer distribution of benefits among eligible families and ensure the taxpayer funded scheme is contemporary, equitable and transparent.

Review date

11 February 2020