

Student Income Support Survey: August 2014

Introduction

In August 2014 the AASW conducted a survey of its 750 student members regarding income and its effect on their studies. One hundred and thirty-seven students responded, which was an 18 per cent response. Results will be used in the AASW's ongoing campaign to increase the payment rates for Government Allowances. Indeed this research indicates that there is a need to broaden the eligibility for Allowances as many students, both those who received government payments and those who did not, were struggling due to an inadequate income. This document summarises the major findings. Later documents will give a more fine-grained analysis.

Effect of a lack of money on social work students

There were a number of questions that explored the effect on students of a lack of money.

As a student have you ever had to skip a meal because you ran out of money?

	% of all survey participants	Number of participants	% of survey participants on allowance	Number of participants on allowances who answered question
Yes	31%	40	46%	19
No	69%	90	54%	22
Total answered		130		41

As a student have you had at any time insufficient money for any of the following?

	% of all survey participants	Number of participants who responded to question	% of survey participants on allowance	Number of participants on allowances who responded to question
Food	25%	34	43%	18
Clothing	30%	41	48%	20
Accommodation	20%	28	36%	15
Education Resources	50%	69	74%	31
Transport	30%	41	55%	23
Medication	22%	30	40%	17
At least one of the above	59%	81 out of a possible 137	88%	37 out of a possible 42

Does the amount of money you receive from the Government affect your ability to complete your studies in any of the following ways?

	% of all survey participants	Number of participants who responded to question	% of survey participants on allowance	Number of participants on allowances who answered question
Not enough money for all recommended texts or educational resources	37%	51	57%	24
Overtired from long working hours of paid employment	34%	47	40%	17
Need to skip classes in order to attend a paid job	19%	26	24%	10
Need to defer a course or reduce study load in order to work	30%	41	21%	9
Problem with accommodation caused by a lack of income	15%	20	26%	11
At least one of the above?	63%	86 out of 137	86%	36 out of 42