

## What is STAS?

STAS is:

- one of the largest assistance programs provided by the Queensland Government
- a scheme to provide assistance to eligible students travelling to primary and secondary schools
- administered by Queensland Transport

## Who is eligible?

Primary and secondary students may be eligible for assistance under STAS if they:

- have parents/guardians who are Australian citizens or permanent Australian residents
- attend an approved school on a full-time basis
- are younger than 19 years of age
- are seeking transport assistance to and from one address only
- are travelling more than 1 trip per week.

Students must also meet specific criteria that applies to the type of transport assistance sought.



## What types of transport assistance are there?

### • Bus transport assistance

Students using their designated service who satisfy the general conditions previously listed may be eligible for bus travel assistance to and from school if they also meet the criteria below.

#### Distance eligible students

To be eligible for distance based assistance:

- primary school students must live more than 3.2 km from the nearest state primary school;
- secondary school students must live more than 4.8 km from the nearest state secondary school;
- students attending non-state schools must live more than the distance criteria from both the nearest state and non-state school of the type attended.

All measurements are by the shortest trafficable route and are based on the nearest school which offers the required year level.

#### Safety-net eligible students

To be eligible for safety-net assistance:

- primary school students must live 3.2 km or less from the nearest state primary school;
- secondary school students must live 4.8 km or less from the nearest state secondary school;
- students attending non-state schools must live less than the required distance from either the nearest state or non-state school of the type attended.

In addition a student must be listed on a:

- Health Care Card issued by Centrelink; or
- Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink; or
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card;

#### **OR**

- be a student placed under a Care and Protection Order by the Department of Child Safety.

All measurements are by the shortest trafficable route and are based on the nearest school which offers the required year level.

### • Conveyance allowance

In some areas it is necessary for parents to make private arrangements for the transport of their students to and from school, or to and from a bus stop or train station. In certain circumstances these families may be eligible for the payment of conveyance allowance to assist with the cost of this travel.

To be eligible for conveyance allowance:

- primary school students must live more than 3.2 km from the nearest state primary school;
- secondary school students must live more than 4.8 km from the nearest state secondary school;
- students attending non-state schools must live more than the distance criteria from both the nearest state and non-state school of the type attended.

All measurements are by the shortest trafficable route and are based on the nearest school which offers the required year level.

Conveyance allowance may also be available for students who live outside the Greater Brisbane area and who attend non-state schools irrespective of the distance to the nearest state school. Additional conveyance allowance is also available for eligible students who live on a drought declared primary producing property.

Eligibility for conveyance allowance is dependant on other factors such as the types of bus services operating in the area and the distance to the nearest bus service.

### • Rail travel assistance

All students are eligible for travel at reduced fares on the Citytrain network.

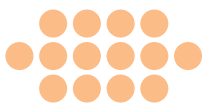
Some students may be eligible for a fully funded rail ticket if they qualify for safety-net assistance.

To be eligible for this a student must be listed on a:

- Health Care Card issued by Centrelink, or
- Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink, or
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card;

#### **OR**

- be a student placed under a Care and Protection Order by the Department of Child Safety.



## • Assistance for isolated students

Increased assistance under STAS is available for students in isolated parts of the state.

To be eligible for assistance under this package, students must:

- live in an isolated area as designated by the Director-General, Queensland Transport, and
- live more than 16 kms from the nearest state school; and
- live more than 16 kms from the nearest approved bus service which can transport the student to school.

## • Assistance for English as a Second Language (ESL) students

ESL students who are enrolled full-time in an ESL course may be eligible for assistance to the nearest ESL facility for 12 months from the original date of enrolment in an ESL facility.

## • Assistance for students with disabilities

Students with disabilities may be eligible for transport assistance to their recommended placement.

All enquiries about transport assistance for these students should be directed to the school attended or the relevant Department of Education and the Arts district office.

## How do I apply for assistance?

### • Bus transport assistance

Applications for assistance are available at [www.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/PubTrans.nsf/index/assishome](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/PubTrans.nsf/index/assishome)

Alternatively, contact your local bus operator who can give you the appropriate application form. Applications will only be accepted for the current school year.

### • Conveyance allowance

Applications for assistance are available at [www.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/PubTrans.nsf/index/assishome](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/PubTrans.nsf/index/assishome)

Alternatively, contact your local Queensland Transport office, as shown on the next page, to obtain an application form. Applications will only be accepted for the current school year.

### • Rail travel assistance

Discount student tickets can be purchased from any Citytrain station.

Safety-net eligible students should obtain a Rail Travel Assistance Application from their school or nearest station. Applications will only be accepted for the current school year.

## Where can I get further information?

The information contained in this brochure:

- is intended as a guide only
- does not tell you everything you need to know about STAS.

If you need more information or wish to obtain a complete copy of the School Transport Assistance Scheme:

- go to [www.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/PubTrans.nsf/index/assishome](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/PubTrans.nsf/index/assishome)
- contact your local Queensland Transport office listed below

Brisbane	3863 9849
Cairns	4040 6386
Gold Coast	5630 8857
Ipswich	3813 8613
Mackay	4951 8313
Maryborough	4121 8315
Mooloolaba	5477 8400
Rockhampton	4931 1539
Roma	4622 9522
Toowoomba	4639 0896
Townsville	4758 7562

# • The School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS)

Information for parents and guardians



~ helping you get your children to school ~

