



**Aboriginal  
Housing  
Office**



## AHO Tertiary Accommodation Grant Applicant FAQs.

### What is the AHO's Tertiary Accommodation Grant (TAG)?

TAG offers up to \$10,000 to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students studying at university or TAFE. It's here to help if you're having trouble affording a place to live, making it easier to focus on your studies and finish your course.

**Meeting the eligibility and selection criteria does not guarantee you a scholarship. Grants will be given until funding is exhausted.**

**Applications will close once all grants have been awarded.**

### How do I prepare for my application?

Please use these guidelines to check if you meet the criteria for TAG.

If you require any assistance in filling out the application, or wish to change any information, please don't hesitate to contact the TAG team at [TAG@aho.nsw.gov.au](mailto:TAG@aho.nsw.gov.au) or phone **0484 679 743**.

Questions that are marked with an asterisk needs to be completed before your application can be assessed.

You will need to provide evidence for some questions, if you do not submit the evidence required your application will not be "completed". (You can save your application and add evidence later)

### Am I eligible to apply?

**To be eligible to apply, you must meet the following criteria:**

You are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (and provide evidence as per the AHO's Eligibility of Service Policy)

You are living in NSW.

You are living independently (receiving independent allowance/rate from Centrelink, have your name on a lease or as an additional occupant).

You are paying more than 30% of your income for to rent.

You are studying a diploma or higher at TAFE or university.

You are studying full time or part time, on campus or online.



You can provide us with a brief statement outlining how TAG would help you continue your studies.

## Grant Funding

### How much is the grant?

The AHO can help take the pressure off your rent by paying a portion of it (up to \$10,000 limit). TAG is paid on a flat rate basis, depending on how much of your income (before tax) goes to rent.

See the table below:

Income to Rent	Funding Amount
Less than 30%	\$0.00
>30% - <50%	\$5,000.00
More than 50%	\$10,000.00

### How can the money be used?

The grant money helps cover your accommodation costs. AHO will pay it straight to your landlord, real estate agent, or student accommodation provider

### When can I use the money?

The application will be assessed within two (2) weeks of submitting your completed application. If you are successful, the grant funds will be available to you after the census date (for universities & TAFE).

You will need to send confirmation that you are still enrolled after Census date.

TAG is paid over two payments (normally 6-months apart), we will ask you to provide updated supporting documents to show you still meet TAG eligibility (income, rent ledger, completed units) to get your second payment.

*Please note, payment of TAG can take a few weeks, it is important to make sure you keep paying your rent until the money is paid to your housing provider.*

### How do I apply?

Applications are completed online via the SmartyGrants website. This application will be active from Monday 9:00am on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

\*Note, applications will stay open until funding runs out.

### Application process

#### **Task 1: Access the application form via SmartyGrants.**

Complete the disclaimer and contact information.

#### **Task 2: Grant eligibility.**

Complete the eligibility question section, in this section you will need to confirm if you identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and provide evidence.

If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, you will be unable to proceed any further with the application. If you are not sure if you meet the eligibility requirements, please contact the TAG team at [TAG@aho.nsw.gov.au](mailto:TAG@aho.nsw.gov.au) or phone **0484 679 743**, and someone will answer any questions you might have about your application.

### **Task 3: About you.**

Complete the questions about you and upload the relevant documents as evidence.

Contact information we need will be:

- Name
- DOB
- Address
- Email
- Phone

You will need to write a brief statement about you and how this grant could help with your studies.

### **Task 4: About your study.**

In this section you need to answer questions about your study, such as what course you are enrolled in, whether you are studying full time or part time, when you started studying, and when you will finish your course. You will need to provide evidence in this section.

### **Task 5: About your living situation.**

In this section you will need to provide evidence that you are living independently i.e. paying to live somewhere and how much rent you pay. You will need to provide proof of this, such as a residential tenancy agreement in your name.

### **Task 6: About your financial situation.**

You will need to provide proof you spend more than 30% of your income on rent, evidence can be a Centrelink income statement, payslips, PAYG etc.

*\*Note, we assess your income before tax.*

## Submitting your application

Once you have successfully submitted your TAG application via the SmartyGrants website, you will receive a confirmation from AHO via SmartyGrants.

## Student obligations

Successful applications will be required to:

- complete a student agreement,
- commits the student to complete a minimum of two (2) student surveys (after the first payment and before the second), and a final survey twelve (12) months after the first payment.
- let us know if your circumstance changes within those twelve (12) months (study, financial or housing).

## What happens next?

### **Review and assessment:**

Someone from AHO will contact you within 3 business days of submission, to confirm all necessary documentation has been provided and advise of next steps.

If you do not receive either confirmation email or contact from the AHO within 2 weeks, please check you have correctly submitted your application or contact AHO via [TAG@aho.nsw.gov.au](mailto:TAG@aho.nsw.gov.au) for further assistance.

Submitted applications will be checked against the eligibility criteria, you, your education provider or housing provider, may be contacted for further information.

Eligible applications will be progressed to the assessment stage.

**Application outcomes:**

You will be notified in writing within 2 weeks of submitting your completed application.

Make sure you regularly check your emails.

Your housing provider/ real estate will also be notified if you are successful.

**Where can I go for further information and support?**

Visit the TAG webpage: <https://www.aho.nsw.gov.au/TAG>

For more information and support, please email [TAG@aho.nsw.gov.au](mailto:TAG@aho.nsw.gov.au) or phone **0484 679 743**.

