



**FARZIAN ZAINAL  
ADMINISTRATOR OF  
CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND THE  
COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS**



**THE HON DR TONY BUTI  
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,  
ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS,  
CITIZENSHIP AND  
MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES FAMILIES BENEFIT FROM STUDENT ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS**

Families with school-aged children in the Indian Ocean Territories are now benefiting from hundreds of dollars in financial support, thanks to the Australian and Western Australian Governments.

The governments have worked in partnership to extend the Cook Government's new WA Student Assistance Payment (WASAP) to Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands, supporting families to pay for the extra costs of their child's schooling in the current economic environment.

The payment provides cost-of-living relief payments of \$250 for each secondary student and \$150 for primary and kindergarten students, helping to pay for school essentials, such as books, IT equipment, uniforms, stationery, sports and music – as well as food and groceries.

Eligibility will be validated through the student's unique WA student number (WASN), which can be found on a student's school report or NAPLAN results. The ServiceWA app is the fastest and most convenient way to claim the payment for all students from kindergarten to Year 12 who are enrolled in a school on island.

Parents and carers can log into the app using their Digital Identity (myGovID), with applications closing on 28 June. For support in downloading and using the ServiceWA app, head to [WA.gov.au/servicewaapp](https://WA.gov.au/servicewaapp)

For more information about the WA Student Assistance Payment, including eligibility criteria, visit: [education.wa.edu.au/wasap](https://education.wa.edu.au/wasap)

#### **Quotes attributable to Administrator of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Farzian Zainal:**

“For eligible families across Christmas Island and Cocos, these payments will make a real, tangible difference to children and their carers.”

“The extra costs of schooling our kids can place real pressure on household budgets.

“Families should not have to choose between buying school textbooks and putting groceries on the table, which is why the Australian Government has worked with the WA Government to extend their student assistance payment scheme to the IOT.

“This is another clear demonstration of this Government’s commitment to making sure the Indian Ocean Territories have access to rebate and assistance schemes.”

**Quotes attributable to Education Minister Dr Tony Buti:**

“Our Government is pleased to extend this important initiative to the Indian Ocean Territories.

“This payment helps ease the burden of school costs on families at a time when cost of living pressures are making it hard for so many to afford things like camps and excursions, while also needing to put food on the table.

“Education is so vital for children, and we want to make sure that students in the Indian Ocean Territories – from primary to secondary school – have when they need, regardless of their financial situation.”

***ENDS***

**13 May 2024**

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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**MINISTER BUTI – Clint Thomas**