



## Bulletin – Tertiary Students (Domestic)

25<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

### **COVID-19: Temporary income relief for eligible students**

The government has announced further support for income earners, which may offer you more support, based on your individual circumstances, while you remain studying,

The COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (CIRP) is designed to help people who have lost work between 1 March and 30 October 2020 due to the economic impact of Covid-19 and will be available from 8 June.

It will assist tertiary students who lose paid work of 15 hours or more to financially support themselves while studying.

The CIRP is a non-taxable grant of \$250 or \$490 per week, depending on the hours of work lost, for a period of up to 12 weeks.

### **Which students does the CIRP apply to?**

It applies to all domestic students studying at wānanga, the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology and its subsidiaries, universities, Transitional Industry Training Organisations and Private Training Establishments.

### **What are the eligibility criteria for the CIRP?**

A person must have experienced a loss of work between 1 March 2020 and 30 October 2020 due to the economic impact of COVID-19. The person must have been normally working 15 hours or more a week for 12 weeks or more immediately prior to the loss of work.

A full list of eligibility criteria is available here [COVID-19 Income Relief](#).

For more detailed information, click [detailed fact sheet](#).

### **Can people receiving a Student Allowance receive the CIRP?**

Yes. However:

- Those getting a Student Allowance can only receive the part-time rate of \$250/week to maintain equity with people in similar financial circumstances.
- For those getting Student Loan Living Costs, their rate of the income relief payment will depend on the numbers of hours worked.



- Student Allowance recipients who were previously working 30 hours or more may opt to receive the Student Allowance plus the \$250 CIRP, or can switch to the full-time rate of the income relief payment.
- If a student or their partner get Student Allowance, they may get the Income Relief Payment at the same time - but only at the part-time rate of \$250 per week.
- Students can receive the Income Relief Payment at the same time as receiving a Student Loan for living costs.

Students receiving support from StudyLink will still need to continue to meet their study requirements. Students can visit [studylink.govt.nz](https://studylink.govt.nz) or contact Studylink on 0800 88 99 00.

### **Why is the CIRP limited to people who work a minimum of 15 hours per week?**

This isn't just a requirement for students, it is the minimum weekly working hours requirement for everyone applying for CIRP.

### **Why are Student Allowance recipients only able to get the part-time rate of assistance (\$250 a week)?**

Single students can currently work just under 12 hours at the minimum wage (the Student Allowance personal income limit is \$224.58 per week) before their Student Allowance is reduced by their earnings. The \$250 per week payment rate would therefore roughly compensate individuals in part-time work for their net income reduction.

### **Will the CIRP payment have an impact on my Student Allowance or Loan?**

The payment will not be counted as income for assessing Student Allowance entitlements or Student Loan repayments.

Student Allowance recipients will also remain eligible for Accommodation Benefit to help meet their accommodation costs.

### **How can students apply for the CIRP?**

Applications can only be made after 8 June. Closer to the time, there will be information on [studylink.govt.nz](https://studylink.govt.nz) to help students apply.

### **Things change quickly so stay up to date by following the links below:**

For health advice, refer to the Ministry of Health's website

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

For official Government information about COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), including health advice and travel restrictions visit the All-of-Government website

<https://www.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/>

For more advice for students, visit the Ministry of Education website

<http://www.education.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-3/>