

FEE WAIVER GUIDELINES

1 Severe financial hardship definition

A person is considered to be in severe financial hardship only where they are unable to provide food, accommodation, clothing, medical treatment, or other basic necessities for themselves and/or their dependants. Forms of entertainment or recreation are not basic necessities.

2 Financial hardship assessment

The assessment of whether an applicant qualifies for a fee waiver is to be made on the basis of their individual circumstances and those of any dependent family members.

Subject to the exceptional circumstances outlined below, a fee waiver cannot be given unless **ALL** of the following criteria are met.

Where these criteria are not met, instalment plans are appropriate and extended payment periods may also be considered.

Criteria for severe financial hardship			
1	The student's income must not exceed the Services Australia income thresholds for the low income health care card, as outlined below.		
	Status	Weekly income	Total income in the eight-week period prior to applying
	Single, no children	\$797	\$6,376
	Couple combined, no children	\$1,362	\$10,896
	Single, one dependent child	\$1,362	\$10,896
	Couple combined, one child	\$1,396	\$11,168
	For each additional child add	\$34	\$272
2	The student does not have the disposable income to pay the fees via instalments without compromising their ability to meet their basic living needs or those of their dependents.		
3	There is no basis for concluding that the student's financial circumstances are likely to change within a reasonable period (e.g. 12 months).		