

BROCHURE COVER: School trip subsidy changes

INNER PAGES

What's happening?

From 30 November 2016, the **School Drive Subsidy** will replace the **Private Vehicle Conveyance Subsidy (PVC)**.

These changes will make it fairer for everyone who drives their children to school or to the nearest public transport location.

If you're a parent or guardian currently receiving the PVC subsidy, you can choose to stay on it or switch to the new School Drive Subsidy after 30 November 2016.

What are the main changes?

If you're driving one or more children from the same household to the nearest transport pick-up point or school, the new School Drive Subsidy will be paid 'per trip' (for the complete school trip). This 'per trip' payment is different from the current PVC subsidy, which is paid 'per child'.

Other differences include:

- A flat per kilometre rate (indexed annually to the cost of living) will apply under the School Drive Scheme, unlike the flat payment per distance band in the current PVC scheme.
- The 300km per trip payment cap will be removed.
- The limit of eight trips per year for distance education students to attend mini-schools during term time will be removed.
- The PVC scheme subsidy rates will remain at 2017 levels in 2018 and beyond.
- Payments to third parties will stop (e.g. a bus operator hired by parents from 4 pooled resources).

Remember, you can't be on two schemes at the same time.

If you add new students after the 30th November 2016, all students will automatically go onto the new School Drive scheme, including existing PVC scheme students.

You can read about these changes in more detail at our website transportnsw.info/school-drive-subsidy.

Frequently asked questions

Which scheme will be better for me – PVC or School Drive Subsidy?

It depends on:

- How many children you have on the scheme.
- The type of school they attend (boarding school, day school or mini-school).
- The distance you need to drive.
- If you have children to add to your school trips in the future.

When to stay on the current PVC scheme

You should stay on the PVC scheme if:

- You're receiving a PVC subsidy for more than one child.
- You only have one child on the scheme and you currently claim for less than 25km.
- You make less than 9 trips per year to mini-schools during term with a distance-learning student.

When to switch to the new School Drive Subsidy

We recommend you switch to the new School Drive Subsidy if:

- You're only receiving a PVC subsidy for one child, and you travel more than 25km.
- The student is a distance-learning student, and you make more than 9 trips per year to attend mini-schools during term time.

Keep in mind, if you stay on the current PVC scheme, you won't be able to add new students after 30 November 2016 without switching the existing PVC students to the new School Drive scheme.

How do I check which scheme is better for me?

Check the comparison calculator at transportnsw.info/school-drive-subsidy.

What do I need to do?

If you want to stay on the existing PVC scheme, you don't need to do anything.

Assuming the school trip doesn't change, your payments will continue for all existing students until they reach the end of Year 6 or the end of Year 12.

When they reach Year 6 or Year 12, you will need to decide to switch any remaining students onto the new School Drive scheme or keep them on the PVC scheme. You can switch to the new scheme at any time.

If the school trip changes because you move homes or the student changes schools, you will need to reapply under the new School Drive scheme.

Remember, you can't re-apply for the PVC scheme after the 30th November 2016, but you can switch to the new School Drive scheme at any time.

If you want to switch to the new School Drive Subsidy, apply online at transportnsw.info/school-drive-subsidy.

Just like the PVC scheme, payments will be made twice a year in August and February, based on the student's school attendance for the preceding semester.

The online application process only takes about 10 minutes to complete.

If you don't have access to the internet, feel free to call **131 500** [WJ3] for assistance.

After you've applied and been approved for the School Drive Subsidy, payments will be made automatically into the bank account of your choice twice a year.

You won't have to reapply until a student reaches the end of their school year band, either at the end of Year 6 or the end of Year 12, Or until you next update any details — such as a change of school, school trip or address.

What happens if I stay on PVC now but want to add a new child later?

For new students, you can either:

- Add the new child into the new School Drive Subsidy and also switch the existing children to the new scheme.
- Or maintain the current PVC scheme, where existing students are covered but not add any new children and not receive any additional subsidy.

What are the new distance requirements?

School year band	Distance to school must exceed	Distance to nearest intersection with a bus route or train station must exceed
Infants and Primary students (Years K-6)	1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking distance	1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking distance
Secondary students (Years 7-12)	2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking distance	2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking distance

Need more information?

You can find out more, including examples of various school trips, at transportnsw.info/school-drive-subsidy or call **131 500**.