

# GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

## SPECTACLES ASSISTANCE SCHEME 2015

### ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS AND ENTITLEMENTS

Eligibility for assistance is based on a parent/guardian or independent student's income test. Assistance is available for the provision of spectacles for full-time students from kindergarten through to senior secondary level who attend a State or registered non-government school or college, or be a school aged child provided with home education where the parent is registered as home educator.

Approved applicants will receive assistance with the cost of only one pair of **standard** prescribed lenses and **standard** frames in any 12 month period unless special circumstances apply (eg. prescription change). **If other than standard frames and lenses are chosen, the additional cost is payable by the applicant to the optometrist.** Contact lenses may be provided only if an optometrist or eye specialist certifies that they are required for medical reasons.

**Assistance is only available through optometrists participating in the scheme and applicants should establish this at the time of consultation or phone 1800 816 057 for the location of participating optometrists.**

Application forms are available from optometrists participating in the scheme and the Department of Education, Finance and Business Services, phone 1800 816 057.

### LODGEMENT OF APPLICATION

Following consultation with an **optometrist** participating in the scheme, complete the Application Form and forward it to **Finance and Business Services, Department of Education, via email to [fau@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:fau@education.tas.gov.au), by mail to GPO Box 169, Hobart 7001, or by fax to 6233 7720** for assessment. All details must be fully completed. Please make sure that your application is signed at the bottom of the form and, if required, proof of income is attached before forwarding it to the Department.

### NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANTS

- Applicants will receive written notification from the Department as to the approval or reasons for non-approval of their application.

- The optometrist will also receive official advice from the Department and a purchase authority will be issued directly to the optometrist after the application is approved.

### INCOME TEST

The income test is used to determine eligibility:

- The total parental taxable income for the 2013-14 financial year must be below the figures in the taxable income table to be eligible for assistance. Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY payments for **dependent** students **do not** have to be included.

### INCOME ASSESSMENT

You and your partner's (if applicable) combined taxable income must be no more than the figures as shown in the taxable income table.

Your application will be assessed on the basis of you and your partner's taxable income for the 2013-14 financial year. If you or your partner's circumstances have changed since last financial year, your application can be assessed based on current circumstances.

***Your information is subject to verification with Centrelink.***

If you have been approved for the Student Assistance Scheme (STAS) in the current school year, you will be approved for spectacles assistance.

If you do not receive Student Assistance, **you and your partner must both provide a copy of:**

- A Taxation Notice of Assessment for 2013-14
  - A Centrelink payment summary for 2013-14
- OR
- A minimum of two consecutive pay slips

### INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

Independent students are generally: not living at home; supporting themselves; receiving a Centrelink payment and meet the Centrelink independence criteria. In special circumstances certification of a student's independent status may be provided by a college student counsellor or school social worker.