

FAQs for Schools

What is the program?

The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Education Experience Program is a Queensland Government subsidy program for Queensland schools to take students on school excursions which travel, explore and discover the GBR.

Why is this Program targeting the GBR?

The GBR is the world's largest coral reef system with some of the richest biodiversity on the planet. It is recognised as one of the world's most iconic tourism experiences and continues to be Australia's greatest natural attraction.

With the wealth of educational opportunities available across the GBR, this Program aims to further develop and promote these experiences to enable more students to visit, experience and learn about the unique environment and communities that make up the GBR region.

What are the aims of the program?

The Program aims to generate increased interest from schools to visit the GBR through the delivery of place-based learning activities which meet the Australian curriculum and support opportunities for students to participate in reef restoration and conservation activities.

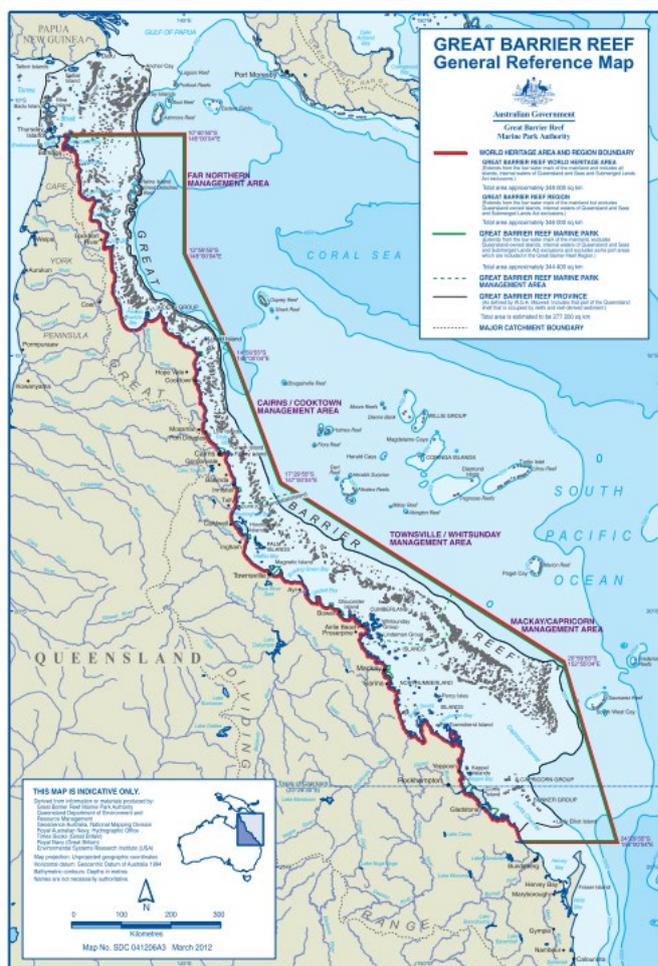
The program is designed to:

- Enable more students to experience the GBR through participation in school camps and excursions across the GBR region;
- Deliver place-based learning activities in the GBR that are tailored to meet student capabilities and competencies in line with the Australian school curriculum;
- Support opportunities for students to participate in reef restoration and conservation activities;
- Develop greater connections to reef systems and allow for more awareness and understanding of natural habitats and pressures facing the GBR
- Stimulate subsequent tourism visitation into the GBR region, supporting economic growth, encouraging repeat visitation and closing the gap between city and regional communities.

Great Barrier Reef Education Experience Program

What is the definition of GBR regions which are included in the Program?

The Great Barrier Reef extends from the top of Cape York to just north of Bundaberg. For the purposes of the program, the GBR region refers to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.



When will the Program commence?

Schools will be able to access the program from Term 3, 2021. Applications for the Program will open in June 2021 and the program will run for three years, or until funding is exhausted.

Who is eligible to apply for the Program?

The Program is available upon application to all primary and secondary Queensland schools, including schools of distance education, where students are participating in an eligible curriculum-related experience as part of their excursion.

Schools must apply on behalf of their enrolled students participating in the excursion. Subsidy payments will not be provided to an individual student or their family and can only be passed on as savings on the cost of the excursion.

Is the GBR Program aligned with the school curriculum?

The GBR Education Experience Program will align with the school curriculum and resources for schools and teachers will be developed to support visits to the region.

Great Barrier Reef Education Experience Program

How do I plan an itinerary to a GBR region?

Example itineraries will be available on the DTIS website that focus on specific GBR regions and highlight the education experiences offered by operators.

Will education resources be available for schools planning GBR trips?

Yes, a range of fact sheets and other resource materials are being developed and will be available on the DTIS website.

Is the GBR Program replacing the Outback Education Experience Program?

No, the Outback Education Experience Program has been very successful and will continue to be available to schools. The GBR Education Experience Program will complement the Outback Queensland Education Experience Program to provide an opportunity for all Queensland school students to have an outback and/or reef-based experience during their school years.

A specific subsidy rate is available to schools which undertake both an outback and a reef education experience.

How much is the subsidy?

The Program will provide subsidies of up to \$150 per student paid directly to the school to go towards the cost of the school excursion or camp.

Subsidies will be available for day trip excursions as well as excursions that involve overnight stays. Subsidy rates will be on a sliding scale, based on distance travelled from the school to the excursion/camp location.

Further details on the subsidy, including guidelines and subsidy rates, will be published on the DTIS website.

How is the subsidy paid?

The subsidy will be provided to participating schools who undertake school excursions or camps which meet the requirements of the program.

It is not paid directly to reef tourism operators, travel agents, tour agencies, students or parents.

How do school groups find a reef tourism operator or provider to book with?

Great Barrier Reef Education Experience Program

Details on reef experience providers that meet the minimum requirements for the program will be listed on the DTIS website.

What activities are ineligible under the subsidy?

Whilst a school itinerary may include the following activities, the subsidy cannot be claimed solely on expenditure for the following:

- Air travel
- Accommodation
- Catering/Meals
- Land-based transportation
- Fuel for school or privately-owned boats
- Mainland reef experiences (eg, aquarium, wildlife centre)

Does the Program incorporate accommodation and travel providers?

No, schools should make their own arrangements for booking suitable accommodation and transport direct which meet the requirements of their school excursion or camp.

How do I apply for the Program?

Details for schools on how to apply for the Program will be advised on the DTIS website in June 2021.