



ac.care SCHOLARSHIP FOR LOCAL HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE

GUIDELINES

AIM OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ac.care recognises that a sound education is one significant factor upon which a young person's long term future can be developed. A good education provides improved employment potential, which in turn helps to break the cycle of homelessness and other social disadvantage. The aim of this scholarship program is to provide encouragement, financial assistance and support to young homeless people living in rural communities so they will continue with existing education and training or undertake new opportunities in the near future.

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TERM *homeless* ?

For the purpose of this scholarship a young person is considered to be homeless if any of the following applies to nominee :-

PRIMARY HOMELESSNESS is experienced by young people without conventional accommodation (e.g. sleeping rough or in improvised dwellings).

SECONDARY HOMELESSNESS is experienced by young people who frequently move from one temporary shelter to another (e.g. emergency accommodation, supported accommodation, youth refuges, "couch surfing" between friends and family).

TERTIARY HOMELESSNESS is experienced by people staying in accommodation where the accommodation option may be terminated at short notice. (E.g. boarding house, Caravan Park, back packer facility etc.).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?

This scholarship is only open to young people aged 12 to 25 years who are homeless and living continuously in one of the following regions* of the state for a **minimum of 2 months** prior to acceptance of the scholarship. *(Riverland /Murraylands/South East)

The young person may be living independently or as a member of a family or extended family.

Young people under the care or guardianship of the Minister for Family and Community Services are not eligible for the scholarship, as they are able to access other learning support.

The young person may have an income from other sources (i.e. from paid employment, Centrelink benefit, endowment etc.) but at the time of acceptance must not be in receipt of any other education based scholarship of a value of \$1,000 or more.



WHAT IS THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR?

The current value of each scholarship is \$1,000. The funds will be held in trust by ac.care and released to meet educational and associated expenses as they occur. At the discretion of ac.care the funds may be paid either directly to the scholarship holder or by direct payment to the education institution or supplier of goods and services upon presentation of appropriate documentation. i.e. Invoice, receipt or other evidence acceptable to ac.care.

The scholarship funds are for use only by the successful candidate. The scholarship benefits are not transferrable and the scholarship cannot be deferred.

The scholarship is only for support to access accredited courses of a minimum length of 6 months and provided by Government or Non Government School, TAFE or University.

The Scholarship holder must be currently attending or plan to attend the nominated Education or Training Organisation during the next 6 months and all scholarship funds must be expended within 12 months of the date of acceptance of the scholarship. Any funds remaining after 12 months will be distributed at the discretion of ac.care.

WHAT ARE THE FUNDS FOR?

Funds will be allocated for full and part time courses, correspondence courses, distance learning programs but the scholarship holder must provide upon request, evidence of ongoing commitment to the course.

THE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS ARE TO BE USED FOR :

School / course fees and charges

Purchase / hire of books and stationery

Approved excursions

Uniforms / clothing and footwear appropriate for school wear

Other equipment, tools or items considered appropriate for education and course work.

At the discretion of ac.care the funds may also be used for travel expenses in order to access education and training.

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PERSONAL SUPPORT

The successful nominee(s) will be individually assessed and personal support provided based upon priorities agreed with the young person and taking into account the availability of resources in the region.

Personal support may include assistance and advocacy to secure accommodation, mentoring support to assist with education /training, referral and support to access other community services.

At the discretion of ac.care, personal support may extend beyond the 12 month period of the scholarship.

HOW WILL THE SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER BE SELECTED?

The successful scholarship holders will be selected by a panel of not less than 3 people who have an understanding of the issues faced by homeless young people, particularly in rural regions. The panel will be nominated by the ac.care's Manager Accommodation and Youth Services.

The Panel will select the successful nominees based on the information supplied by the Nominator and Nominee in their written application. The panel may choose to verify any information supplied to ensure it is correct and accurate.

Nominations will only be accepted on the scholarship form and must not include any attachments, accompanying letters etc.

This panel will not base their decision solely on academic ability. Achievements in sport, community work, how the nominee has dealt with trauma, life challenges, a tragedy or overcome other significant barriers in their life will be weighted in the final decision.

Nominations received after the advertised closing date will not be considered.

The decision of the panel is final.

ac.care reserves the right not to award a scholarship for any reason and to change or modify the value of the scholarship, conditions or guidelines at any time without prior notice.

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HOW WILL I KNOW THE OUTCOME OF MY NOMINATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP ?

Once a decision has been made the successful nominees will be offered the scholarship in writing by ac.care and asked to confirm their acceptance in writing within 10 business days. Upon acceptance of the scholarship offer the unsuccessful nominees will be notified in writing using the contact details provided in the nomination form.

If no formal acceptance is received or the nominee rejects the offer ac.care reserves the right to withhold the scholarship or make an offer to another nominee.

WILL THERE BE ANY PUBLICITY USING MY NAME AND DETAILS?

ac.care reserves the right to promote the scholarship program using both electronic and print media, agency web site and other publications. Confidentiality of individual nominees and the successful Scholarship holder(s) will be maintained. No details including photographs of nominees will be used without the prior consent of the nominee (parent or guardian where appropriate).

HOW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE CAN I NOMINATE?

There are no limits to the number of young people who can be nominated but the nomination must come from a person representing a not for profit community organisation or government department/agency. Self nominations or nominations by a family member or friend will not be accepted.