



# YOUNG CARERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2020

Over 71,600 young people in Victoria are believed to have significant care responsibilities. They may be supporting a mother, father, sister, brother, or grandparent who has a disability, chronic or mental illness or who is an older person with care needs.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications are open to secondary school students in Victoria who give care and support to a family member with a disability or illness. The scholarship should contribute to helping students to develop their skills, participate in activities and assist with educational learning.

Applications will be accepted from young people with caring responsibilities, providing they have the knowledge and consent of a parent or guardian.

Applications will also be accepted from parents, teachers, friends or service providers on a young person's behalf and with their input.

Caring can be a very positive experience; helping a young person to develop skills and build strong relationships. But it can also have some negative effects on a young person's health and wellbeing. Many young carers are at risk of dropping out of school, or have difficulty establishing social networks and participating in activities their peers enjoy.

Over the last 12 years the Young Carers Scholarship Program has provided support for hundreds of young carers attending secondary school in Victoria.

The scholarships give young carers the opportunity to participate in school or community based activities that enhance their skills, educational achievement and abilities, or that help them to participate more fully in their community.

## PRIORITY

Highest priority will be given to applications from young people who are:

- the main carer in the family
- from low income families and families with high care costs
- providing care to more than one family member
- juggling additional caring responsibilities for siblings
- living in rural and regional areas
- from Indigenous or culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

## WHAT CAN BE APPLIED FOR?

Scholarships are up to \$500.

Scholarships can be awarded for:

- school or community based classes/ activities, such as camps, excursions
- school trips, or sporting club participation fees
- tutoring
- skills-based activities and lessons such as dance, music, fitness or driving
- club memberships
- direct educational expenses such as compulsory fees, books, uniforms, and fares.

The following applications will be accepted but given a lower priority:

- previous scholarship recipients
- applicants who receive other funding and respite support such as scholarships, grants or bursaries
- applications from members of the same family.

### What will NOT be funded?

Voluntary school fees.

### Ineligibility

Applications from recipients of the Young Carer Bursary Programme will be deemed ineligible (online application via [www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au/young-carer-bursary](http://www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au/young-carer-bursary) where funds distributed 2020).

### HOW DO I APPLY?

Complete an Application Form and send to:

Young Carers Scholarship Program  
PO Box 2204  
Footscray VIC 3011

All applications due by 5:00pm Friday 24 April 2020.

Letters of support are encouraged from school staff or other family members.

Application forms can be found on the Carers Victoria website:  
[www.carersvictoria.org.au/youngcarers](http://www.carersvictoria.org.au/youngcarers)

### Other information you need to know

- Not all applications are guaranteed to be awarded a scholarship.
- The number of scholarships awarded is dependent on available funding.
- Letters of support (no more than two A4 pages) from school staff or other family members are encouraged – but are not compulsory. Letters should help demonstrate how caring affects the young person in their daily life.
- All scholarship payments are made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) directly to the nominated bank account of the young carer, their parent, or supplier (business, club or school).
- The correct bank account details must be supplied on the application form and Carers Victoria must be notified immediately of any changes.
- All applicants will be notified.
- Scholarship payments will be issued in late June 2020.
- Successful applicants will be required to complete a feedback form at the end of 2020.
- Young carers who are awarded scholarships will be invited to attend an awards ceremony in the July school holidays.
- Scholarships are for one year only; a new application must be completed each year.
- Changes to applications must be provided via phone on 1800 514 845 or email [events@carersvictoria.org.au](mailto:events@carersvictoria.org.au)

### FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT YOUNG CARERS

For information and advice about services and support contact the Carer Advisory Line on 1800 514 845 (weekdays from 8:30am to 5:00pm) Free call except from mobile phones.

To find out more about young carers' resources visit [www.carersvictoria.org.au](http://www.carersvictoria.org.au)

The logo for Young Carers, featuring the word 'YOUNG' in a multi-colored font (yellow, green, blue, red) above the word 'CARERS' in a solid blue font.

**APPLICATIONS OPEN**  
MONDAY 9 MARCH 2020

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE**  
FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2020

### QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUNG CARERS SCHOLARSHIPS CAN BE DIRECTED TO

Young Carer Scholarship Program  
P 1800 514 845  
E [events@carersvictoria.org.au](mailto:events@carersvictoria.org.au)