

Factsheet

Information for New Applicants

Important changes to the New Applicant program in 2023

- It will be a shorter application period for students in high school.
- If you are in high school you are no longer required to nominate a teacher to provide an online recommendation to support your application.

About the Scholarships program

The Youth Development Scholarships (YDS) program is offering up to 1,400 scholarships to young people enrolled in education or training to help complete their studies in the 2023 school year.

Students who received a DCJ scholarship between school academic years 2017 to 2022 may be eligible to re-apply for a scholarship if they meet the eligibility requirements.

Who can apply for a Youth Development Scholarship?

You are eligible to apply if you are studying and:

- still living in social housing (which includes public, community or Aboriginal housing),
- are on the NSW Housing Register,
- receiving private rental subsidy from DCJ,
- living in supported accommodation,
- living in out-of-home care, or
- temporarily staying with friends or relatives

Note: Applicants living away from home or temporarily staying with family/friends need to be on a current social housing tenancy or have an active social housing application.

You are eligible to apply if you are doing one of the following in 2023:

- studying in Year 10, 11 or 12 at a NSW high school or a VET subject at school, or
- equivalent at a TAFE college including Pathways or OTEN, or
- completing a school based apprenticeship or traineeship, or
- home schooling and able to provide a Certificate of Home Schooling Registration.

How much is the Youth Development Scholarship?

Each scholarship for the 2023 school year is \$1,000 (no GST included as this is a grant payment).

What can I use the Youth Development Scholarship for?

The scholarship funds must be used for educational or support related costs to help you complete the school year.

Examples of items or services which can be purchased with the scholarship include (but not limited to):

Primary Support

- school uniform, including sports clothing and shoes
- course related or subject fees
- tutoring
- study camps and excursions
- text books, workbooks, study guides
- course related equipment, materials and clothing
- sporting equipment
- stationery
- computer desktop, laptop, tablet, chromebook
- printer, scanner, usb, cables, smart drives
- computer software and license
- internet access
- smart phone *
- study furniture (e.g. desk, chair)

** You will need to justify the need of a smart phone for educational purposes.*

Secondary Support

- transport costs (e.g. opal travel cards, driving lessons)
- medical and support needs (e.g. glasses, speech therapy)
- social inclusion (e.g. in-house sports and youth programs, formal tickets)
- training and employment (e.g. CV writing, job ready skills and job clothing for interview)

Important information

- Read the **Guidelines for New Applicants** before you apply. This will guide you through the online application process and help you answer important questions on the application form.
- You, the applicant (student) must apply, not your parent/guardian/teacher/support worker.
- Do not use a social media account (Facebook, Twitter or Google) or your school email address to register. Use a valid personal email address that you can access regularly to receive updates about your application.
- You can choose to add a Collaborator, someone that can help you with your application. They will need to provide you with their email address. You can vary a Collaborator's level of read and/or write access to your application.
- If you are having trouble receiving emails from SurveyMonkey Apply, check that noreply@mail.smapply.net has been added as a safe sender on your email inbox. Contact the Scholarships Team if you continue to have problems with emails.

How do I apply?

Applications are completed online.

Visit dcjnsw.info/YDS2023 to access the SurveyMonkey Apply application link.

Submitting your application

Make sure the following tasks are complete:

- Contact Information form
- New Applicant - Scholarship Application form
- Task: Out-of-home Care (*this applies to OOHC applicants*)
- Task: Confirmation of Enrolment (*this applies to TAFE, OTEN, Pathways or home schooled applicants*)

What happens once I've submitted my application?

You will receive an email from SurveyMonkey Apply noreply@mail.smapply.net confirming that your application has been submitted. Contact the Scholarships team if you do not receive a confirmation email.

You will receive another email to advise that your application has been reviewed and if you were successful in getting another year of scholarships.

How will my application be assessed?

DCJ will prioritise giving scholarships to students:

- who commit to achieving their Higher School Certificate and further studies
- who are currently overcoming difficult personal circumstances and financial hardships to stay in school
- who are assessed as having the greatest need.

You will be notified of the outcome of your application before the end of Term 1, 2023.

Your school will also be notified if you are awarded a scholarship.

Meeting the eligibility and selection criteria does not guarantee you a scholarship. Each year we receive more applications than available scholarships.

How will I receive funds?

For students in Year 10, 11 or 12 at high school:

DCJ will pay the scholarship funds to your school to administer on your behalf. You will need to discuss with your school how the funds will be spent. You have until the end of the school year to spend the funds.

For students doing equivalent at TAFE or home schooled:

DCJ will pay the scholarship funds directly into your bank account. You will need to retain receipts and keep a record of expenditure.

Where can I find out more information?

- Visit our website dcjnsw.info/YDS2023
- Call the Housing Contact Centre on 1800 422 322, press 2 for Housing Services then press 3 for General Enquiries.
- Email the Scholarships team on education@facns.nsw.gov.au