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# Fact Sheet for Education and Support Staff 2025

## About the Scholarships program

The Youth Development Scholarships (YDS) program is offering over 1,600 scholarships to young people enrolled in education or training to help complete their studies in the 2025 school year.

## Who is eligible to apply for a Youth Development Scholarship?

New applicants – students who have not previously received a scholarship.

Returning applicants – students who have received a scholarship between 2017 and 2024 can reapply.

A student can apply if they are studying at one of the following in 2025:

- Year 10, 11 or 12 at a NSW high school or equivalent at TAFE or a TVET/EVET subject;
- completing a school based apprenticeship or traineeship (SBAT) and provide a signed contract agreement from a Registered Training Provider (RTO);
- home schooling and provide a Certificate of Home Schooling Registration.

The student must also be either a social housing client or living in out-of-home-care. This can include:

- living in public housing, including Aboriginal housing
- being on the NSW Housing Register (wait list)
- receiving a private rental subsidy from DCJ (not Centrelink)
- living in community housing/Aboriginal community housing
- living in housing provided by a Local Aboriginal Land Council
- living in supported, crisis or temporary accommodation
- living in statutory, supported or voluntary out-of-home care.

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.

## How much is the Youth Development Scholarship?

Each scholarship for the 2025 school year is \$1,000 per students (no GST included as this is a grant payment).

## When do applications open?

The application period for high school students includes the school holidays:

**Open:** 9.00 am on **Monday, 21 October 2024**

**Close:** 5.00 pm on **Friday, 21 February 2025**

## How does a student apply?

Applications are completed online through [SurveyMonkeyApply](#).

The link will be activated at 9am, 21 October 2024.

## How are applications assessed?

Homes NSW 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 remain in school
- who are assessed as having the greatest need.

Application outcomes will be available before the end of Term 2, 2025. The school will also be notified if a student is successful.

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

## What is a Collaborator?

A student can choose to add a Collaborator, someone to help with their application. A student can vary a Collaborator's level of read and/or write access to their application.

If you are requested to be a Collaborator, you must provide your direct school email address.

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Do not use the generic school email address. You will receive an invitation email from SurveyMonkey Apply to register or sign in if you have an existing account.

### **What is my role as an education or support worker or school staff member?**

Education staff play an important role supporting and encouraging eligible students to apply for the scholarship and promoting the program at school.

The student is required to nominate a school point of contact. The nominee must provide their direct school email address and respond to enquiries regarding administration of the funds and the student scholarship.

### **Administering the scholarship funds**

The school's role is to:

- take responsibility to administer the full scholarship funds on behalf of the student
- work closely with the student/parent/guardian to determine the student's needs and how the funds can best help them with their studies
- the school will be provided with a scholarship expenditure guide which outlines items and cost limits per category
- maintain records of purchases
- the school may be asked to participate in a survey detailing how the scholarship funds were expended
- unspent funds will be returned to DCJ if a student disengages from their studies or withdraws from the program.

Once the funds are available at the school, contact the student to complete a plan to expend the funds by the end of the school year. Please take into consideration that social housing clients are under great financial stress and cannot afford to purchase items upfront. Where possible, order or purchase items through school vendors or using in-house systems.

### **What can the Youth Development Scholarship be used 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*

- Uniform, shoes and specialist clothing (including apron, sports equipment, safety shoes etc.)
- Course costs, subject/elective fees
- Materials/equipment for elective (e.g. music, art, food technology, hospital, science equipment etc.)
- Tutoring
- School organised excursions, study camps, school sporting activities
- Textbooks, workbooks, study guides
- Stationery (notebooks, folders, pens etc.)
- Technology (e.g. laptop, personal computer, tablet, printer, scanner etc.)

#### *Secondary Support*

- Internet
- Furniture (e.g. study desk, chair, footrest etc.)
- Transport costs (e.g. Opal card, driving lessons, fuel voucher etc.)
- Health and wellbeing costs (e.g. glasses, mobility aids, speech therapy and devices, counselling etc.)
- Social inclusion (e.g. formal attire, formal ticket)
- Training and employment (e.g. CV writing, interview skills, clothing for work etc.)

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### **What can't the Youth Development Scholarship be used for?**

The funds cannot be used to:

- purchase mobile phones, smart watches, gaming equipment and other wireless communication devices
- pay for school fees, but can be used towards resources, elective or course costs
- pay for items that can be provided through other financial assistance programs offered by the school
- pay for any expenses relating to siblings who are not scholarship recipients
- transfer remaining funds to another student.

### **How will a student receive their Youth Development Scholarship funds?**

For public high schools: the scholarship funds will be paid via the Department of Education's EDConnect directly to schools account.

For private and independent schools: the scholarship funds will be paid directly to schools account via Electronic Funds Transfer.

### **When do I notify DCJ of student changes?**

Schools must notify DCJ in writing to [education@homes.nsw.gov.au](mailto:education@homes.nsw.gov.au) of any changes to the scholarship recipient's circumstances:

- disengages with studies
- poor attendance
- changes school
- takes up employment

Where a student has regular absences and poor attendance during Term 1 and 2, the school should withhold the funds and contact the Scholarships team to discuss options.

### **Where can I find out more information?**

- Visit our website [dcjnsw.info/scholarships](http://dcjnsw.info/scholarships)
- 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@homes.nsw.gov.au](mailto:education@homes.nsw.gov.au)