

# NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## 2023 NOMINATION GUIDELINES & CONDITIONS

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- The promoter is Youth Off The Streets Ltd (ABN 29 100 388 412) of 28 Bowden Street, Alexandria, NSW 2015, Australia.
- Nominations are invited from young people with a genuine talent, ability and determination in any education or training course, including (but not limited to): academic skills; visual or performing arts; sport; trade skills; and music.
- Scholarship recipients will be required to develop a Pathway Plan, which clearly shows their goals and how the scholarship money would be used.
- Approximately 25 scholarships of \$6,000 each will be awarded throughout Australia. Scholarships will be awarded on the merit of each application and numbers will differ between states.
- At the discretion of the CEO, a minimum number of scholarships will be awarded to current clients and/or graduates from Youth Off The Streets programs/services and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. If appropriate recipients aren't found from these sources, then these scholarships will be awarded to the next short-listed nominees. The decision of the CEO is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds are encouraged to apply.
- Nominations are open to eligible young people from all Australian states and territories.

### NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

- Nominees must be between aged 16 to 21 (inclusive) as at 20 September 2023.
- Nominees must be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand (evidence will be required).
- The young person nominated must have a clear need for financial assistance and be studying in Australia for the two year period of the program.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

- "Talent, skill or ability" - for the purposes of nomination refers to evidence of a demonstrated ability/capacity or potential to succeed in a given area. Ability may be current or future potential as identified by a referee.
- "Need for financial assistance" - for the purpose of nomination refers to the nominee's current personal and family financial circumstances limiting development of talent, skill or ability and progress towards their goals.
- The nomination form needs to show a clear outline of how the young person would use their scholarship funds which should show that the young person has set realistic goals that can be achieved with financial assistance.
- "Goal" - for the purposes of nomination refers to a specific aspiration/ambition and a plan (including clear targets).

### NOMINATION GUIDELINES

- The nomination must be made by the young person themselves. However, assistance in completing the nomination is encouraged.
- A young person may only be nominated for one scholarship per year.
- Current and previous scholarship recipients are ineligible to nominate for a period of two years after graduating from the program.

- The nominee must truthfully advise of any financial assistance which they are already receiving or intend receiving by government or non-government agencies which includes (but is not limited to); rental allowance; study allowance; additional scholarships and unemployment benefits.
- Successful nominees must have a support person who is an adult e.g. parent/guardian, case worker, teacher, youth worker or coach who can regularly consult with the staff on the nominee's progress.
- The support person cannot also be a referee for the young person.
- All nominations must include at least one reliable, independent referee letter which confirms the personal circumstances and talent, skill or ability of the young person nominated. This letter must be signed by the referee.
- The referee must be an adult. This includes (but is not limited to) a teacher, youth worker, school principal or coach. The referee cannot be related to the nominee.
- The referee and support person need to be available via phone as they may be contacted for a reference check by July/August, 2023.
- Nomination forms must be filled out correctly and completely. Unsigned nominations will not be considered.
- Nominations must be received by **4pm, Friday 12 May, 2023**.
- The only method to apply is to complete the scholarship nomination form online on our website at;   
<https://youthoffthestreets.com.au/get-support/national-scholarship-program/>
- Youth Off The Streets will not return nomination applications. Applicants are advised to keep copies for their own records.
- All nominees will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application by end September 2023 to the email address provided on the nomination form.

## **NOMINATION CONDITIONS**

### **National Scholarship Program – Awards Ceremony**

- Successful scholarship recipients will be required to submit a short 'thank you' video presentation and other information to include in the awards ceremony and awards booklet. All attendees will be sent a link to watch the pre-recorded ceremony at a designated time and date. Nominees from Sydney and Greater Sydney areas may be invited to attend a live ceremony. Details of the ceremony will be confirmed by end October 2023.

### **Community Mentor**

- Recipients will be matched up with a Mentor for the two year duration of the scholarship. Mentors will be assigned to each recipient to provide support and guidance. If a mentor relationship breaks down during the two years, Youth Off The Streets (at their discretion) will make every effort to establish another relationship for the recipient.
- Where possible, those recipients based within a reasonable distance of Sydney will be matched with a face-to-face Mentor. For others based outside of the Sydney area, Mentors will use alternate forms of communication.

### **Communication with Scholarship Team**

- Recipients agree to communicate with program staff and submit bi-annual progress reports throughout the duration of the program.
- Failure to do so (despite repeated requests) may result in the scholarship funds being suspended. Should funds be expended inappropriately (ie. not as per the budget template and pathway plan), Youth Off The Streets reserves the right to request the recipient to repay these funds.

### **Pathway Plan**

- Scholarship recipients will be required to identify a Pathway Plan, which clearly shows their goals and how scholarship funds will be used. Pathway Plans must provide an outline for the use of scholarship funds during the two year period.

### **Scholarship Funds**

- Scholarship funds will primarily be paid in advance on a quarterly basis. Funding can also be accessible as expenses arise over the two year period depending on the individual requirements.
- Recipients will be required to keep a record of all transactions and provide these records and tax invoice receipts to program staff as requested. Failure to do so may result in suspension of funds.
- Program staff will support recipients to use all their allocated funds according to their 'Pathway Plan'. If however this is not possible, Youth Off The Streets at its discretion will allocate the remainder of the funds to other student's education/learning.

### **Media and Marketing**

- Recipients may be invited to participate in media coverage for promotion of the Scholarship Program. This may be in the form of press releases, updates on YOTS Social Media Platforms such as Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook etc., and includes publishing of photographs. Recipients may also be requested to take part in media coverage including on radio and television. Consent from the recipient will be sought prior to the release of any of the media coverage outlined above. Recipients should not engage with the media about the program without prior consent (in writing) from Youth Off The Streets program staff.

### **TERMS**

- The decision of the Youth Off The Streets Selection Committee is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- By submitting a nomination, you consent to Youth Off The Streets contacting the nominee, support person and referee directly. Successful nominees will be required to confirm acceptance of the scholarship within a week of being notified of their selection. Failure to do so forfeits that right and Youth Off The Streets reserves the right to offer the scholarship to an alternative nominee.
- Details (excluding any identifying information) of the successful nominees may be published on the Youth Off The Streets website [www.youthoffthestreets.com.au](http://www.youthoffthestreets.com.au) and other YOTS Social media channels.
- Youth Off The Streets accepts no responsibility for personal injury sustained by recipients during the course of the program.
- In certain circumstances, recipients may be required to declare scholarship assistance on their individual tax declaration. It is the responsibility of individuals to discuss this with their tax advisor or the Australian Tax Office.

**END OF DOCUMENT**