

Youth Off The Streets National Scholarship Program

2026 nomination guidelines and 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 desire and determination to engage in any education or training course, including (but not limited to): academic; visual or performing arts; sport; trades; and music.
- Approximately 40 scholarships of \$6,000 each will be awarded to eligible recipients throughout Australia. Scholarships will be awarded on the merit of each application and numbers will differ between states.
- At the discretion of program staff, a minimum number of scholarships will be awarded to current clients and/or graduates from Youth Off The Streets schools/programs/services and to First Nations 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 program staff is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- First Nations 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 aged between 16 to 21 years old (inclusive) as at 20 September 2026.
- Nominees must be **Australian citizens** or **permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand** (evidence will be required).
- Nominees must have a clear need for financial assistance and be studying in Australia for the two year duration of the program, (2027 and 2028).

SELECTION CRITERIA

- "Need for financial assistance" - for the purpose of nomination, refers to the nominee's **current** personal and family financial circumstances limiting their opportunities to continue their studies and progress towards achieving their goals as outlined in their pathway plan.
- "Genuine desire and determination" - for the purposes of nomination, refers to evidence of a demonstrated capacity or potential to succeed in a given area.
- "Goal"(educational pathway plan) - for the purposes of nomination, refers to a specific aspiration/ambition and a plan (including clear targets) which should show that the young person has set realistic goals that can be achieved with financial assistance.

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 Youth Off The Streets 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 scholarship 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, their need for financial assistance and endorse the young person's education pathway plan.
- 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 may be contacted by scholarship staff should they need to obtain additional information in support of the nomination.
- Nomination forms must be filled out correctly and completely. Unsigned nominations will not be considered.
- Nominations must be received by **4pm, Friday 15 May, 2026**.
- The only method to apply is to complete the scholarship nomination form online on our website at; youthoffthestreets.com.au/get-support/national-scholarship-program
- Youth Off The Streets will not return nomination application forms. 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 2026 to the email address provided on the nomination form.

NOMINATION CONDITIONS

National Scholarship Program – Awards Ceremony

- Successful scholarship recipients will be required to attend the awards ceremony which will be held in Sydney. For those travelling from interstate or rural NSW, Youth Off The Streets will bear the cost associated with flights, taxi fares, accommodation (if necessary) and meals (if necessary). Details of the awards ceremony will be confirmed by the end of September 2026.

Community Mentor

- Recipients will be matched up with a mentor (should they choose to opt in) 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 local mentor. For others based outside of Sydney and are from rural areas or interstate, mentors will use alternate forms of communication.

Communication with Scholarship Team

- Recipients agree to maintain regular communications and engage with program staff and submit a bi-annual sponsor update (progress report) throughout the duration of the program.

- Failure to do so, may result in the scholarship funds being suspended. Furthermore, should funds be expended inappropriately, Youth Off The Streets reserves the right to request the recipient to reimburse these funds.

Pathway Plan

- Scholarship recipients will be required to submit a pathway plan, which clearly shows their educational goals and objectives.

Scholarship Funds

- Scholarship funds will primarily be paid in advance on a six-monthly basis. Funding can also be accessible as expenses arise over the two year period depending on the individual's 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 until such time these records/receipts are submitted.
- Program staff will support and encourage recipients to use all their allocated funds according to their budget within the two year duration of the program. If recipients do not expend their allocated funds within the two year duration, Youth Off The Streets at its discretion will re-allocate the remainder of the funds to other students 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 Youth Off The Streets 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 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 two weeks 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 youthoffthestreets.com.au and other Youth Off The Streets Social media channels. Written consent will be obtained prior to any such publication.
- 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 funding on their individual tax declaration. It is the responsibility of recipients to discuss any tax implications with their tax advisor or the Australian Taxation Office.