

# The Michael Schmaedicke Scholarship

## How to prepare your application

**This guide tells you what information to source and which documents to provide before you complete the scholarship application.**

As the scholarship applicant, you must submit the form yourself, but it's okay to ask someone to help you prepare your answers.

The Michael Schmaedicke scholarship supports young people who are experiencing certain barriers to accessing tertiary education. Therefore, as part of the application process, some questions ask about your personal circumstances and experiences. We recognise that reflecting on these experiences might feel difficult or emotional.

**Answer the application questions in enough detail that you're comfortable to share.** There are no right or wrong answers. We're interested in understanding your circumstances, goals and how this scholarship could support your journey.

You **can't save or pause** the application once you start. So, before you begin, make sure you have all your details and documents ready. Set aside plenty of time to complete the application – it will likely take at least an hour.

If you have questions about the process, email the Youth Off The Streets [Scholarships team](#).

## Your personal details

**As the young person applying for the scholarship, provide your personal and contact details:**

- First name
- Last name
- Email address
- Mobile number
- Current address
- Gender
- First Nations background (if applicable)
- Date of birth
- Country of birth

### Identify your current education provider

Name the school, institution, university, TAFE or other service you currently attend (if applicable).

**Have you ever been connected to a Youth Off The Streets school, service, program or support?**

- Yes
- No

### Which Youth Off The Streets service or program have you been connected to?

Examples may include a Youth Off The Streets school, residential service, community program, youth service, outreach support or mentoring program

## About your support person

You must identify an adult support person who can regularly consult with Youth Off The Streets on your progress if your application is successful. The support person can't be your application referee.

Choose a trusted adult who can stay in touch with us if needed. This could be a parent, guardian, case worker, teacher, youth worker, coach or other support worker.

Provide their details:

- their first name
- their last name
- their organisation (optional)
- their occupation (optional)
- their phone number
- their email address
- their relationship to you

## About your referee

You must nominate one or two referees who will provide a signed recommendation letter to support your application. Your referee must:

- be an adult (such as a teacher, youth worker or coach)
- not be related to you
- not be the same person as your nominated support person

Their recommendation letter can be uploaded within the application form and should:

- confirm the personal circumstances you have described in your application
- explain how your educational skills, abilities and achievements make you a suitable candidate for this scholarship
- be personally signed

If you advance to the next stage of the scholarship application process, Youth Off The Streets may contact your referee(s) for a reference check.

Provide their details:

- their first name
- their last name
- their organisation (optional)
- their occupation (optional)
- their phone number
- their email address
- their relationship to you

You may add a second referee's letter and details if desired.

### Documents to upload at this point

- ✓ Recommendation letter/s from 1–2 referees (up to two separate files can be uploaded here, maximum file size 10MB).

## About you – written questions

This is the longest section of the application. You'll need to prepare your answers in advance because the application form cannot be saved and returned to later.

Eligibility for this scholarship is assessed on several factors:

- alignment with the scholarship's purpose to support young people from a single-parent household
- clarity and strength of your tertiary education goals
- your demonstrated potential to achieve your education goals
- the likely impact of the scholarship on your future and your plans to contribute to society

### Describe your single-parent upbringing

Youth Off The Streets recognises that family structures are complex and so, to assess your eligibility for the scholarship, we need to understand your family circumstances.

Please briefly outline the structure of your single-parent household and the support available to you while growing up. Circumstances might include:

- being raised mainly by one parent
- experiencing the loss or absence of a parent
- family separation or breakdown
- another situation where one parent has carried the main responsibility for your care.

You only need to share information that you feel comfortable sharing. Detailed personal information is not required. We are looking to understand your circumstances rather than specific events or experiences.

*Maximum 2,000 characters.*

### What tertiary education pathway are you hoping to commence or continue on?

Choose between:

- University
- TAFE
- Technical college
- Institute
- Bridging or enabling course
- I am still deciding on my pathway
- Other approved tertiary education pathway

### What course do you plan to study?

Provide:

- the name of the course you intend to study (or have already commenced)
- the name of the institution that offers the course
- your expected start date
- the expected total tuition fees (provide an estimate if you don't know the exact amount)

### **What is your enrolment status?**

Choose between:

- I plan to apply
- I have applied and am waiting for my acceptance
- I have already been accepted
- I am currently enrolled
- I am continuing an existing course
- other

### **What are your education goals?**

Reflect on what you want to achieve by following this education pathway and how it connects to you interests, strengths, lived experience, career goals, family, community, culture or future plans.

*Maximum 2,000 characters.*

### **What steps have you already taken, or do you plan to take, to achieve your education goals?**

These might include applying for a course, attending information sessions, completing school or previous study, seeking advice, arranging transport, organising accommodation, speaking with a teacher or mentor or preparing for study.

*Maximum 2,000 characters.*

### **What support helps you stay on track with your education goals?**

'Protective factors' are the things that help you keep going, especially when life or study becomes difficult. These might include supports, strengths, relationships, routines or personal qualities like:

- family members, friends or community
- teachers and mentors
- youth workers
- culture
- faith
- creative pursuits
- sport
- work
- routines
- personal values
- problem-solving skills
- past experiences of overcoming challenges
- and other sources of motivation

You don't need to have all of these supports in place. We're interested in understanding what helps you to feel steady, connected and able to keep working toward your goals.

*Maximum 2,500 characters.*

**Tell us about yourself and your education journey so far.**

Tell us about the things that have shaped your educational progress so far: your relevant interests, strengths, achievements, challenges, responsibilities or other experiences.

*Maximum 2,000 characters.*

**What financial, practical, or other barriers currently make it hard for you to access, participate in, or complete tertiary education?**

Costs that could inhibit your ability to continue your studies include:

- course fees
- textbooks and equipment
- technology
- transport
- accommodation
- placement costs

You may also include other barriers such as:

- reduced capacity to work while studying
- housing instability
- caring responsibilities
- limited family financial support
- family breakdown
- health
- distance
- digital access
- or other circumstances

You only need to share information that is relevant to your application.

*Maximum 2,000 characters.*

## **Planning your scholarship fund budget**

This section asks you to think ahead: how might you spend the scholarship funds?

The total fund awarded to each recipient will be determined by Youth Off The Streets based on demonstrated need, study requirements, available funding and the outcome of the assessment process. Not all recipients will necessarily receive the same funding amount.

**Explain how this funding would help you access and complete your tertiary education pathway.**

*Maximum 2,000 characters.*

## How would you use the scholarship funds?

Propose a simple budget outlining how you intend to use the scholarship funds, using the following table as a guide.

Scholarship funding is available for up to \$10,000 per year, amount to \$30,000 in total.

A **minimum of 80%** of your requested amount must be allocated directly to tertiary education fees.

The remaining funds may be used for related educational and essential living costs, such as books, equipment, technology, transport or housing support where applicable, provided these expenses directly support your ability to participate in and successfully complete your tertiary studies.

| Proposed expense                                                               | Estimated cost over three years | Why this is needed |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Course or tuition fees<br>(Compulsory – at least 80% of your requested amount) |                                 |                    |
| Textbooks or learning materials                                                |                                 |                    |
| Laptop, technology or software                                                 |                                 |                    |
| Equipment, tools or uniform                                                    |                                 |                    |
| Transport                                                                      |                                 |                    |
| Accommodation or housing support                                               |                                 |                    |
| Placement costs                                                                |                                 |                    |
| <b>Total estimated cost</b>                                                    |                                 |                    |

Your budget should reflect your own course costs and circumstances. If you do not yet know the exact costs, please provide your best estimate and explain how you calculated it.

Here are some example budgets:

### Example 1 (requesting the full \$30,000)

**Note:** In this example, **\$8,000 (80%)** is allocated to tuition fees, meeting the requirement that at least 80% of the requested scholarship amount be directed to tertiary education fees.

| Proposed expense                 | Estimated cost over three years | Why this is needed                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Course or tuition fees           | \$24,000                        | Student contribution fees and course costs required to enrol and participate in a Bachelor of Nursing. |
| Textbooks or learning materials  | \$650                           | Required textbooks, online learning resources and study materials.                                     |
| Laptop, technology or software   | \$1,600                         | One-off purchase of a reliable laptop to complete assessments, online learning and research.           |
| Equipment, tools or uniform      | \$650                           | Clinical uniform, shoes and required equipment for practical placements.                               |
| Transport                        | \$450                           | Travel to university campus and placement locations throughout the course.                             |
| Accommodation or housing support | \$2,000                         | One-off assistance with housing-related costs to support participation in tertiary study.              |
| Placement costs                  | \$650                           | Costs associated with mandatory professional placements.                                               |
| <b>Total estimated cost</b>      | <b>\$30,000</b>                 |                                                                                                        |

### Example 2 (requesting \$22,500 over three years)

**Note:** In this example, **80% of the requested amount** (\$18,000 over three years) is allocated to tuition fees, with the remaining funds supporting other education-related costs.

| Proposed expense                 | Estimated cost over three years | Why this is needed                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Course or tuition fees           | \$18,000                        | Student contribution fees and course costs required to enrol and participate in a Bachelor of Nursing (\$6,000 per year). |
| Textbooks or learning materials  | \$600                           | Required textbooks, online learning resources and study materials.                                                        |
| Laptop, technology or software   | \$1,200                         | One-off purchase of a reliable laptop to complete assessments, online learning and research.                              |
| Equipment, tools or uniform      | \$500                           | Clinical uniform, shoes and required equipment for practical placements.                                                  |
| Transport                        | \$400                           | Travel to university campus and placement locations.                                                                      |
| Accommodation or housing support | \$1,500                         | One-off contribution towards housing costs to support participation in tertiary education.                                |
| Placement costs                  | \$300                           | Costs associated with mandatory professional placements.                                                                  |
| <b>Total estimated cost</b>      | <b>\$22,500</b>                 |                                                                                                                           |

## Impact of the scholarship

This section asks you to reflect on the future: how will the scholarship make a difference to your life and the impact you hope to make in the community?

### What difference would this scholarship make for you?

Describe how the scholarship would affect your education, wellbeing, confidence, stability, family responsibilities, future options or ability to stay engaged in study?

*Maximum 2,000 characters.*

### How do you hope to use your education in the future? Max. 300 words.

Describe how your study may help you make a positive impact to your family, community, culture, profession, field, or society over time.

This impact doesn't need to be formal. It may include helping others, giving back, mentoring, caring for family, creating change, building a career or strengthening your community.

*Maximum 2,000 characters.*

## Priority considerations

The selection committee may prioritise certain considerations when applicants are closely ranked in eligibility for the scholarship.

This section is optional. You may choose to tell us if any of the following apply to you.

| Priority consideration                                                                                | Yes / No / Prefer not to say |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| I am experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.                                            |                              |
| I am connected to Youth Off The Streets services, schools, programs or supports.                      |                              |
| I am experiencing significant financial hardship.                                                     |                              |
| I have limited access to family, school, or community support.                                        |                              |
| I would be the first in my family to pursue tertiary education.                                       |                              |
| My education has been disrupted by family, housing, health, caring, cultural or social circumstances. |                              |
| My study goal has a clear link to future contribution to community or society.                        |                              |

### Is there anything you would like the selection committee to understand about these priority considerations?

Use this space to provide context to your responses in the above table.

*Maximum 2,000 characters.*

## Documents to upload

Please provide copies of the following:

- ✓ A current photo ID (such as a student ID, passport or driver's licence)
- ✓ Proof of your Australian citizenship or permanent residency (such as an Australian birth certificate, Australian citizenship certificate, Australian passport, foreign passport or ImmiCard linked to visa)
- ✓ Your latest academic transcript or report from your most recent education institution

Optional: you can upload additional documents that help demonstrate your academic or extracurricular performance, such as:

- ✓ A reference from a teacher, mentor, case worker, youth worker, employer, community leader or support person
- ✓ Confirmation of enrolment, offer, application or course information from a tertiary institution
- ✓ Training records from school, TAFE or university
- ✓ A personal statement
- ✓ Evidence of costs, such as course fees, equipment lists, technology needs, accommodation or transport estimates

You can upload up to five documents, with a maximum size per file of 10MB.