

The Michael Schmaedicke Scholarship

2026 application 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.
- Applications are invited from young people aged 21 years or under who are from single-parent households and have a genuine desire and determination to engage in tertiary education.
- The Michael Schmaedicke Scholarship has been established through a one-off bequest from the Estate of Michael Schmaedicke. The scholarship honours Michael Schmaedicke's wishes by supporting the education and welfare of young people from single-parent households.
- The scholarship is intended to reduce financial barriers to tertiary education and support young people with demonstrated potential to access, participate in, and complete a meaningful tertiary education pathway.
- Scholarships of up to \$30,000 may be awarded to eligible recipients. Funding will be provided over a maximum period of three years and is subject to continued enrolment, ongoing eligibility, and compliance with these guidelines and conditions.
- Applications are open to eligible young people from Australia.
- First Nations young people and young people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must be aged 21 years or under at the time of application.
- Applicants must be from a single-parent household.
- Applicants must have a defined tertiary education goal. Applicants do not need to be enrolled in a tertiary course at the time of application but must demonstrate a clear intention and realistic pathway towards tertiary education.
- Applicants must demonstrate potential to benefit from the scholarship and progress toward their education goal.
- Applicants may be current or former Youth Off The Streets students, young people supported through Youth Off The Streets services, or external applicants who meet the scholarship purpose and eligibility criteria.
- For the purpose of this scholarship, a young person may be considered to be from a single-parent household where they have spent the majority of their time in a household with one active parent, or where one parent has carried the primary responsibility for their care, education, wellbeing, and day-to-day support. Youth Off The Streets recognises that family structures are complex and will consider each application with care.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against the approved Michael Schmaedicke Scholarship criteria.

Assessment will consider:

- alignment with the scholarship purpose and single-parent household context;
- clarity and strength of the applicant's tertiary education goal;
- demonstrated potential;
- likely impact of the scholarship and future contribution to society.

In making scholarship offers, the Selection Committee will have regard to any financial, practical, or structural barriers that may affect an applicant's ability to access, participate in, or complete tertiary education, and the extent to which scholarship funding may assist in addressing those barriers.

- "Demonstrated potential" means evidence that the applicant has the capacity, motivation, commitment, or readiness to benefit from the scholarship and pursue tertiary education. Potential is not limited to academic achievement.
- "Defined tertiary education goal" means the applicant has identified a clear tertiary education pathway. This may include university study, TAFE or technical college study, an institute-based qualification, an approved tertiary pathway program, or a bridging or enabling course connected to a tertiary pathway.

Application guidelines

- The application must be made by the young person themselves. However, assistance in completing the application is encouraged.
- Applications must be completed truthfully and accurately.
- Applicants must provide sufficient information for assessment against the eligibility and selection criteria.
- Applicants must truthfully advise Youth Off The Streets of any financial assistance they are already receiving or intend to receive from government or non-government agencies, including but not limited to study allowance, rental allowance, additional scholarships, or other education-related financial support.
- Applicants may be asked to provide evidence of age, identity, enrolment, course intention, financial need, or other relevant information. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, proof of age, school or enrolment records, course offers, Centrelink documentation, reference letters or other supporting material.
- Applicants may be asked to provide a referee or support person who can confirm their circumstances, education goal, financial or practical need, or suitability for the scholarship.
- A referee or support person may include, but is not limited to, a teacher, youth worker, case worker, school principal, mentor, coach, employer, community worker, or other appropriate adult.
- Youth Off The Streets may contact referees or support persons to obtain additional information in support of the application.

- Applications must be filled out correctly and completely. Incomplete applications may not be considered.
- Applications open on 30 July 2026 and close on 31 August 2026.
- Applications received after the closing date may not be considered.
- Youth Off The Streets will not return application forms or supporting documentation. Applicants are advised to keep copies for their own records.
- Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application using the contact details provided in the application form.

Application conditions

Scholarship selection

- Applications will be reviewed through the approved scholarship assessment and selection process.
- Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee that an applicant will receive a scholarship.
- The number of scholarships awarded will depend on available funding, applicant suitability, and approved program arrangements.
- The decision of the Youth Off The Streets Selection Committee is final.

Scholarship offer

- Successful applicants will be required to confirm acceptance of the scholarship within the timeframe stated in their offer letter.
- Failure to confirm acceptance within the required timeframe may result in the scholarship being offered to another applicant.
- Successful applicants may be required to sign a scholarship acceptance form or recipient agreement before any payments are made.

Scholarship support

- Scholarship recipients will have access to support from the Youth Off The Streets Scholarships team for the duration of their scholarship.
- Recipients may also be offered access to the Youth Off The Streets Mentoring Program, which partners young people with professionals from a range of sectors. Mentoring is dependent on available volunteers.
- Support may include regular check-ins, encouragement, guidance, referral to local services where appropriate, and monitoring of scholarship requirements.

- Recipients agree to maintain regular communication with the Scholarships team throughout the duration of the scholarship.
- Recipients may be required to participate in progress check-ins, provide updates, and advise Youth Off The Streets of any changes that may affect their scholarship.

Education pathway plan

- Scholarship recipients may be required to submit or update an education pathway plan.
- The education pathway plan should show the recipient's education goal, intended course or qualification, key milestones, and how the scholarship will support their participation in tertiary education.
- Youth Off The Streets may use the education pathway plan to support check-ins, mentoring, and scholarship monitoring.

Scholarship funds

- Scholarship recipients may receive up to \$30,000 over a maximum period of three years.
- The scholarship amount 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.
- Scholarship funds will generally be paid twice yearly, up to \$5,000 per payment.
- Scholarship funds are subject to continued enrolment, ongoing eligibility, and compliance with these guidelines and conditions.
- Scholarship funds may be used for full tuition fees for an approved tertiary qualification. A minimum 80% of scholarship funds must contribute directly to tuition fees.
- Scholarship funds may also be used for approved related educational costs and essential living costs that directly support participation in tertiary education up to \$2000 per year
- Approved costs may include, but are not limited to, course fees, student contribution fees, textbooks, learning resources, technology, equipment, tools, placement costs, transport, internet, accommodation support, professional registration, and other approved course-related expenses.
- The full scholarship payment, annual amount, or total scholarship value may be used for tuition fees and compulsory tertiary study costs where required.
- Youth Off The Streets may pay funds directly to an education provider, accommodation provider, supplier, or other approved organisation where appropriate.
- Recipients will be required to keep a record of transactions and provide tax invoices, receipts, enrolment records, or other evidence of expenditure to Youth Off The Streets as requested.
- Failure to provide requested records or receipts may result in scholarship funds being suspended until the required records are provided.

- If scholarship funds are expended inappropriately, Youth Off The Streets reserves the right to suspend further payments and may request repayment of funds.
- If recipients do not expend their allocated funds within the approved scholarship period, Youth Off The Streets may reallocate the remaining funds to support other eligible scholarship recipients or education-related purposes consistent with the scholarship.

Ongoing eligibility

- Recipients must remain enrolled in an approved tertiary qualification or approved tertiary pathway.
- Recipients must provide evidence of enrolment as requested.
- Recipients must notify Youth Off The Streets if they withdraw, defer, change course, change provider, reduce study load, complete their course, or experience any change that may affect their scholarship.
- Where a recipient completes, withdraws from, defers, or ceases study and does not commence another approved tertiary qualification, scholarship payments will cease.
- Scholarship payments will not continue beyond the maximum scholarship value of \$30,000.

Media and marketing

- Recipients may be invited to participate in media coverage, promotion, publications, fundraising materials, social media, photography, video, presentations, or other communications relating to the Michael Schmaedicke Scholarship or Youth Off The Streets.
- Participation in media or marketing activities is voluntary.
- Written consent will be obtained before any identifying information, photographs, videos, or personal stories are published.
- Recipients should not engage with the media about the scholarship or speak on behalf of Youth Off The Streets without prior written consent from Youth Off The Streets program staff.

Privacy

- Youth Off The Streets will collect, store, and use applicant and recipient information for the purpose of administering the Michael Schmaedicke Scholarship.
- Personal information may be shared with staff, committee members, referees, support persons, education providers, or other relevant parties where necessary to assess, administer, monitor, or evaluate the scholarship.
- Personal information will be managed in accordance with relevant privacy obligations and Youth Off The Streets policies.

Complaints

- Youth Off The Streets is committed to a fair, transparent, and equitable scholarship process.
- Applicants and recipients may raise concerns about the administration of the scholarship process in accordance with the Youth Off The Streets Complaint Management Policy.
- Complaints will be managed in a timely, impartial, confidential, and procedurally fair way.
- The Selection Committee's assessment of the comparative merit of eligible applications is final. Complaints about the administration of the process may be reviewed, but this does not guarantee reconsideration of an application or scholarship decision.

Terms

- By submitting an application, the applicant consents to Youth Off The Streets contacting the applicant, support person, referee, education provider, or other relevant parties to verify information or obtain additional information relevant to the application.
- Successful applicants must confirm acceptance of the scholarship within the timeframe specified by Youth Off The Streets. Failure to do so may result in the scholarship being offered to another applicant.
- Youth Off The Streets reserves the right to suspend, vary, or cease scholarship payments where a recipient no longer meets eligibility requirements, does not comply with these guidelines and conditions, provides false or misleading information, or uses scholarship funds for unapproved purposes.
- Youth Off The Streets reserves the right to amend these guidelines and conditions where reasonably necessary to comply with law, regulatory requirements, governance obligations, or the approved purpose of the scholarship.
- Youth Off The Streets accepts no responsibility for personal injury, loss, or damage sustained by recipients during the course of their study or participation in the scholarship program.
- Recipients are responsible for obtaining independent taxation advice regarding any taxation obligations or implications associated with scholarship funding. Youth Off The Streets does not provide taxation advice.
- Nothing in these guidelines and conditions creates an entitlement to future scholarship funding beyond the approved scholarship period or the maximum scholarship value.