

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *What is the purpose of the Young Carer Bursary Programme?*

The purpose of this programme is to assist young carers in greatest need, to continue to study and to relieve the financial pressure for them to undertake part-time work, in addition to their educational and caring responsibilities.

### *What is a young carer?*

For the purposes of this programme a young carer is a child or young person who helps care in families where someone has an illness, a disability, a mental health issue, is aged or who has an alcohol or other drug problem. For more information go to:

<http://bursaries.youngcarers.net.au/>

### *What is a bursary?*

For the purposes of this programme, a bursary is financial assistance. This will be paid to young carers to reduce the financial pressure on the family. It is not a loan so you do not have to repay it.

### *Who is eligible to apply?*

Those eligible to apply for a Young Carer Bursary for 2017 must:

- ✓ be a young carer
- ✓ be studying at **secondary school** level or above in 2017 (usually aged 12 or over)
- ✓ be studying or training an approved course either full-time or part-time in 2017
- ✓ not already be qualified with a Degree or Advanced Diploma
- ✓ be aged 25 years and under (be 25 for the whole of the bursary year so born in 1992 or later for 2017 bursaries)
- ✓ not be in receipt of another bursary or scholarship in 2017
- ✓ be an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident.

### *What is an approved course of study?*

Approved secondary courses include:

- ✓ an accredited secondary course through a secondary school, TAFE or other higher education institution or special school;
- ✓ home schooling approved by the relevant state or territory education authority;

- ✓ English as a second language course;
- ✓ preparatory courses for tertiary education;
- ✓ school based apprenticeship or traineeship; and
- ✓ some language, literacy and numeracy courses.

Approved vocational and educational training courses include:

- ✓ vocational education and training courses; and
- ✓ apprenticeships

Approved tertiary courses include:

- ✓ Statement of Attainment and other accredited training programs;
- ✓ tertiary level Open Learning courses;
- ✓ certificate and advanced certificate courses;
- ✓ diploma courses;
- ✓ undergraduate degree courses

### *How much are the bursaries?*

The Australian Government has committed \$1 million for bursaries in 2017. The Young Carer Bursary Programme will grant 333 Bursaries at \$3,000 each in 2017.

### *How long are the bursaries for?*

The bursaries will be for twelve months (calendar year) with a new application process each year.

### *How do I apply?*

Applications can be submitted through completion of an on-line application form linked to the Young Carer website at: <http://bursaries.youngcarers.net.au/>. The form will be available online **only** during the application open period.

### *Can I apply if I was successful in the 2016 bursary round?*

Yes you can. The fact that a young carer was successful or unsuccessful in 2016 neither advantages nor disadvantages them in the 2017 process. Even if you were successful in 2016, this does not guarantee you will be successful in 2017 as each year's assessment is a separate process.

### *When will applications open?*

The application process will be conducted once each calendar year with applications open for six weeks. Applications for the 2017 bursary year will open on **Tuesday 2 August** and close on **Wednesday 14 September 2016**.

### *What does the application form look like?*

The application form is a series of questions looking at things like how long you have been caring for, the impact of caring on you, where you live, your household income, your age and educational achievements and other similar factors. There are also two free text boxes

where you can tell us about your life as a carer and what difference it would make if you were to receive a bursary. Take your time to think about what to write in the text boxes, they are important in helping us gather information to work out who are the young carers most in need.

### ***If I need help with my application what should I do?***

If you are experiencing difficulties completing the application please ask your parent/guardian, a teacher or your young carer worker (if you have one) for help. If you still need help call 1800 756 238 or email Carers Australia at [ycbursaries@carersaustralia.com.au](mailto:ycbursaries@carersaustralia.com.au) Carers Australia staff will provide as much assistance as possible.

### ***Will it cost me money to call the 1800 number?***

No cost will be incurred by you from a landline.

### ***Will I need parental consent to apply?***

If you are under the age of 18 years you will need to obtain consent from your parent/guardian to receive a bursary. If you are shortlisted we will ask you to get your parent/guardian to complete and submit a consent form.

### ***How will the assessment process work?***

Applications will be sorted in a database using the weightings attached to some of the questions to assess for those young carers most in need. Recommendations will then be made to an Independent Selection Panel for final decision. The Independent Selection Panel is made up of three people: an academic specialising in working in the child, youth, family and community sector, a person who understands the challenges faced by young carers, and an experienced member of the public. The 333 young carers selected by the panel will be considered as 'shortlisted' and will be contacted to provide verification of eligibility. On the condition that verification is provided, these young carers will then be considered 'successful'.

### ***When will I be notified if I am shortlisted?***

It is anticipated that shortlisted applicants will be notified in November/December 2016.

### ***What will I need to provide if I am shortlisted?***

Shortlisted applicants will be required to provide some supporting evidence with regard to proof of identity, age, carer status, educational enrolment, and to establish Australian residency/citizenship status. How to do all of this will be explained if you are shortlisted.

### ***When will payments be made?***

Applicants who are successful in the 2017 bursary year will be paid quarterly instalments into their nominated bank account in February, April, August and October 2017.

### ***What can I spend the bursary money on?***

The Bursaries are intended to be spent on whatever helps you at school, university or with your training. The types of expenditure could include (but are not restricted to):

- ✓ Education costs, such as course fees, equipment and supplies, text books, tutoring, school uniforms and extra-curricular activities;
- ✓ Respite support to give you time to study and attend classes or training (if you are not already able to access respite);
- ✓ Accommodation or transport support to help you attend school, university or training;
- ✓ Financial support for the family, which would free up money for education or allow you to work less; and
- ✓ Emotional support.

If you are successful in getting a bursary it will be up to you and your family to decide how best to use this money to help you with your education or training.

### ***How will you make contact with me?***

Shortlisted and successful applicants will be contacted preferably by email but also by phone if necessary. You need to make sure you put your full contact details in the application form.

### ***Will I still be eligible if I change my course during the bursary year?***

You will continue to be eligible for bursary funding as long as the study/training course you are undertaking is considered to be an 'approved course of study' (as defined earlier).

### ***What are my obligations if I receive a bursary?***

It is the intention of the programme that bursaries will support young carers who are actively participating in study. Therefore, if an applicant is enrolled in an educational institution but has taken a "leave of absence" in the bursary year, they will be ineligible for the period they are not attending.

There is no requirement to acquit the funding or provide receipts to Carers Australia but the intent behind the funding is to support young carers with their education or training.

The Department of Social Services require all successful applicants to complete two on-line surveys – one at the six month mark and one at the end of the bursary year.

The six month survey is mandatory and will be conducted in June/July. It will reassess your ongoing eligibility and in some circumstances an updated proof of enrolment will be required. Young carers found to be ineligible in July will not receive the last two payments.

You will be considered ineligible if:

- You are no longer studying
- Your caring role ceased prior to this survey (in some circumstances)
- You are no longer a permanent Australian resident

- You receive another bursary or scholarship
- You do not complete this survey

If you are found ineligible in July, you will not have to pay back the first two payments.