

YOUNG CARER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2026

More than 62,400 young people in Victoria are believed to have significant care responsibilities. They may be supporting a mother, father, sister, brother, or grandparent who has a disability, mental illness, chronic health issue or an older person with care needs.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications are open to secondary school students in Victoria who gives care and support to a family member with a disability, mental illness, chronic health issue or an older person with care needs. The scholarships can be used for further education, joining in school or community activities or helping young carers to further their creative or sporting passions.

Applications will be accepted from young people with caring responsibilities, who have consent of a parent or guardian. Applications will also be accepted from parents, teachers, friends or service providers on a young persons behalf and with their input.

WHAT CAN BE APPLIED FOR?

Scholarships are up to \$500 and can be awarded for:

- school or community based classes/ activities, such as camps and excursions
- sporting club participation fees
- tutoring
- skills-based activities and lessons such as: dance, music, fitness or driving
- club memberships
- direct educational expenses such as compulsory fees, books and uniforms

Caring can be a very positive experience; helping a young person to develop skills and build strong relationships. But it can also have some negative effects on a young person's health and wellbeing. Many young carers are at risk of lower educational outcomes, or have difficulty maintaining social networks and participating in activities with their peers.

Over the last 18 years the Young Carer Scholarship Program has provided support to over 2,400 young carers attending secondary school in Victoria.

The scholarships give young carers the opportunity to participate in school or community based activities that enhance their skills, educational achievement and abilities, or that help them to participate more fully in their community.

PRIORITY

Highest priority will be given to applications from young people who are:

- living in rural and regional areas.
- from a First Nations background.
- from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.
- impacted by natural disasters.

Previous scholarship recipient applications will be accepted but may be given a lower priority.

WHAT WILL NOT BE FUNDED?

Voluntary School fees.

INELIGIBILITY

Applications from recipients of the Young Carer Bursary will be deemed ineligible if the applicant received funds in the 2026 calendar year (online applications made via: www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au/bursary/young-carer-bursary).

HOW DO I APPLY?

Complete an online application form from our website: <http://www.carersvictoria.org.au/youngcarersprogram> or scan QR Code.

HOW WILL I RECEIVE MY SCHOLARSHIP?

- The Scholarship will be paid as a **Prezzy Visa Digital Gift Card** which will be emailed to a nominated Australian email address.
- The electronic device which receives the gift card must have an Australian IP address.
- Your gift card can be used online or in-store anywhere Visa is accepted within Australia.
- To use your gift card in store you will need to add it to your Apple or Google wallet.

OTHER KEY INFORMATION

- Not all applications are guaranteed to be awarded a scholarship.
- The number of scholarships awarded is dependent on available funding.
- All applicants will be notified.
- Scholarship payments will be issued by:
Friday 10 July 2026.
- Successful applicants will be required to complete a feedback form later in the year.
- Young carers who are awarded scholarships will be invited to attend an awards ceremony later in the year.
- Scholarships are for one year only; a new application must be completed each year.
- If you are unable to apply via the online form, please contact our **Grants** team to request an alternative application form at:
 - Email: grants@carersvictoria.org.au or
 - Phone: 1800 514 845
- Changes to applications must be provided to our **Grants** team by contacting:
 - Email: grants@carersvictoria.org.au or
 - Phone: 1800 514 845

FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR
TO APPLY FOR A
YOUNG CARER
SCHOLARSHIP



Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://www.carersvictoria.org.au/information-and-impact/grants-and-scholarships/>

APPLICATIONS OPEN

FRIDAY 1 MAY 2026

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

SUNDAY 31 MAY 2026

QUESTIONS

Young Carer Scholarship Program

Phone 1800 514 845

Email grants@carersvictoria.org.au

www.carersvictoria.org.au

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT YOUNG CARERS

For information on Young Carer Supports including Dream Experiences, tutoring, mentoring and holiday programs, visit <https://www.littledreamers.org.au/>

For Young Carer Supports please contact Carer Gateway on 1800 422 737.

For general advice around caring and supports please contact Carers Victoria on 1800 514 845 or visit <https://www.carersvictoria.org.au/>

For information on financial supports for families at school, visit <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/financial-help-families/resources>

2026 Young Carer Scholarships are proudly presented by Carers Victoria