

CHILD CARE

SCHOLARSHIPS



■ For further information regarding the scholarships program, you can either write to:

Early Childhood Australia –
Tasmania Branch Inc.
PO Box 306
Sandy Bay TAS 7006

Or email: ecatas@earlychildhood.org.au

■ Information on the scholarship process is also available on the ECA – TAS Branch Inc webpage:
www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/tasmania_branch

■ ECA – Tasmania Branch Inc administers the scholarship program on behalf the Tasmanian Department of Education to assist individuals gain early childhood qualifications that meet the Government Licensing Standards. The scholarship program has been in place since 1999.

*The information about the Child Care Standards can be found on the Child Care Unit's website: www.childcare.tas.gov.au.



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- ◆ Do you, or would you like to, work in child care?
- ◆ Are you looking to gain a qualification in child care?
- ◆ Do you have a qualification in child care and are interested in developing your skills through further education?

Children in care deserve to have skilled carers who are committed to providing high-quality care. Carers can gain the necessary skills through study for a relevant, approved childcare qualification.

The qualifications approved by the Child Care Unit, in consultation with the childcare sector, are outlined in the Tasmanian Child Care Standards*.

Gaining an approved qualification will enable you to be employed in a qualified position in:

- ▶ Centre-based Long Day Care
- ▶ Home-based Care
- ▶ Occasional Care
- ▶ Outside School Hours Care
- ▶ Family Day Care Schemes

A childcare scholarship will help you with costs associated with gaining your qualification.

There are two types of scholarship available:

- 1) General scholarships – open to people currently employed in child care in Tasmania who wish to obtain an approved qualification or gain an additional qualification.
- 2) VET scholarships – open to students who wish to pursue a childcare career in Tasmania and gain a childcare qualification. VET students can contact their VET Coordinator for more information.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

Are you working in the childcare sector, and:

1. in charge of other staff and undertaking a role that requires an approved qualification?
2. undertaking a role that requires an approved qualification?
3. wishing to undertake training or study in order to gain an approved qualification?
4. hold a relevant qualification, but are wishing to gain further qualifications or upgrade your existing qualification?

If you can answer YES to one of the above, you should consider applying for a scholarship.

*The information about the Child Care Standards can be found on the Child Care Unit's website: www.childcare.tas.gov.au.

What if I have previously applied for a scholarship?

You are welcome to reapply, regardless of whether you were successful with a previous application or not.

What costs will the scholarship cover?

The scholarship can only be used for course or module costs, and enrolment fees. This is outlined in more detail in the Scholarship Application Kit.

If I am successful, when must I actually start the course?

If an offer of a scholarship is made, you will need to enrol in an approved course within six months from the date of the grant for your scholarship. If this is not possible, you are required to seek written approval for a late enrolment from the Scholarships Sub-Committee.

The scholarship covers a specified two-year study/course period, that is, you can access the funds over that two-year period. So, even if you do have a temporary halt to your study, you can continue to access the scholarship when/if you return to study within that two year period.

When/how do I access the scholarship monies?

Scholarship payments are made to you progressively, as reimbursement for costs you have incurred. After enrolling in a course, you should forward the *original* receipt (please make and keep a copy) to ECA – Tas Branch, who will then forward you a cheque for that amount.

As each scholarship period covers a two-year period (January to December), you can continue to apply for reimbursement over that period, or until you reach the total amount awarded in your scholarship, whichever occurs first.

What if I am awarded a scholarship but, after commencing study, decide the course isn't for me?

You should contact ECA – Tas Branch as soon as possible to notify that you have withdrawn from the course. ECA will consider these situations on a case-by-case basis. You will be required to return to ECA – Tas Branch Inc any monies which are refunded to you by the training provider.

What if I do not access the total amount awarded in the scholarship within the specified scholarship period?

The remaining monies will be returned to the 'central' scholarship fund. Remember – you are welcome to reapply in future years!

Is there likely to be a problem if my organisation receives training money for me from another organisation or government body?

The employer of any person considering applying for a scholarship must NOT be in receipt of any other training monies, e.g. a traineeship.

I am thinking of moving interstate in a few years' time.

Do my plans affect the likelihood of obtaining a scholarship?

These scholarships have been designed to support quality children's services in Tasmania. All applicants will be required to undertake their scholarship training or study in Tasmania and demonstrate an ongoing commitment to developing a career in children's services in Tasmania.