



# Young Carer Bursary Program – Information Pack

**Young Carers, their  
family and friends**

The Young Carers Network is a Carers Australia initiative.

This project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.



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# Carers Australia

If you care for a friend or relative or partner, but don't get paid for this work, Carers Australia is the organisation that looks out for you and your rights.

We lobby the government to try and make your life – and the lives of the people you care for – a little easier. We work with government and other organisations to develop programs that support the work of carers across Australia.

We work with the National Carer Network and other organisations to improve the lives of carers. There are 2.65 million carers in Australia – including 235,000 young carers – and we care about every one of them.

## Am I a young carer?

Young carers are people aged 12 to 25 years old who provide unpaid care and support to another person. They might care for people close to them who:

- Live with a disability
- Experience physical or mental illness
- have a drug or alcohol dependency
- Are aged

Some young carers may not identify as a carer. They may be supporting family members and not realise they are performing caring duties.

Young carers may do many things:

- provide emotional and advocacy support
- help with personal care
- look after household expenses
- Monitor medications
- do the everyday chores. They wash, they clean, they cook, they mow the lawn.

Young carers may be supporting:

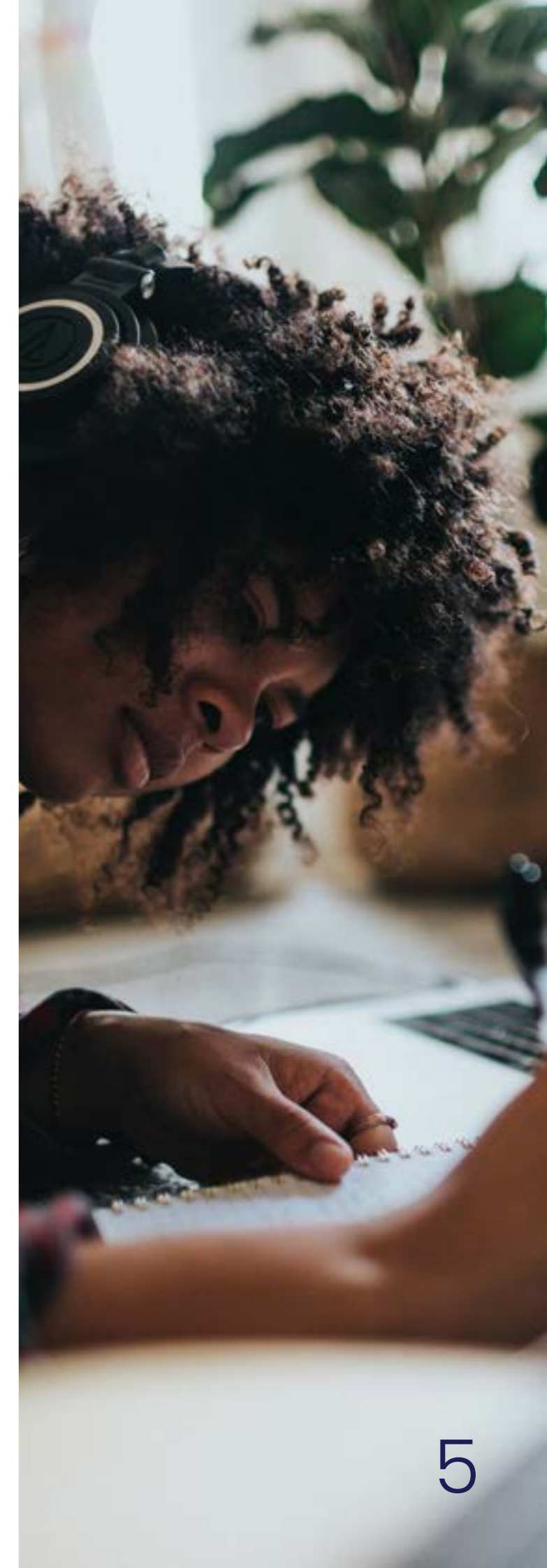
- Family members like parents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, or grandparents
- A friend
- A partner
- A child

Young carers may provide support every day, or every week, or only when they're needed.

## What is the Young Carer Bursary?

The Young Carer Bursary Program supports young carers to either continue, or return to, their education. The program will offer 1,592 bursaries in 2024. Each one is worth \$3,768.

The bursaries are not income tested. They are awarded on the basis of greatest need. The next round of applications will open on the **18 July and close on 12 September 2023.**







## Why should I apply?

As a young carer, keeping up with your education and caring for another person can be hard. Trying to do both at the same time can cause financial problems.

The Young Carer Bursary will help you to remain in education or training while undertaking your caring responsibilities.

You can use the Bursary to pay for educational and training expenses, such as:

- Laptops and software
- Uniforms
- Transport and accommodation
- Respite care
- Emotional support
- Extracurricular activities
- School fees

Please ensure you include the details of the person supporting you and that you give us your consent to discuss your application with them.

## How do I apply?

1. Visit [www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au](http://www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au)
2. Click on 'Sign Up' and complete form
3. Login details will be emailed to you
4. Click Sign In
5. Enter login details to access your My Profile page
6. Complete the online application form

To subscribe to the Young Carers Network and receive notifications about the Young Carer Bursary, as well as young carer events and opportunities, click the link below:

[www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au](http://www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au)

To subscribe to the Carers Australia newsletter and keep up to date on programs, news, and events for carers, click the link below:

[www.carersaustralia.com.au/news-media/our-newsletter](http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/news-media/our-newsletter)



## Who can support me to apply?

If you're a young carer and need assistance to apply for the Young Carer Bursary, you can talk to:

- Teachers
- Support workers
- Parents or guardians
- The staff at your local youth centre
- The staff at your local multicultural support service
- The staff at your local library
- Or your local carers support organisations.
- Make sure you give us consent to speak to them on your behalf

### Connect with the Carer Gateway

Carer Gateway can also help young carers to connect to a wide range of supports across Australia.

**Phone:** 1800 422 737

**Website:** [www.carergateway.gov.au](http://www.carergateway.gov.au)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/carergateway/](http://www.facebook.com/carergateway/)

### Connect with the Carers Australia Young Carers Team

**Email:** [ycteam@carersaustralia.com.au](mailto:ycteam@carersaustralia.com.au)



## Language services

If you need to contact Carers Australia with the support of an interpreter:

- The Translation Information Service offers an immediate phone interpreting service on 131 450.
- For more information about The Translation Information Service, have a look at their website.

If you would like to view the online application form in your own language, you can use free online tools, including:

- **Google Translate:** [translate.google.com](http://translate.google.com)
- **Microsoft Translator:** [translator.microsoft.com](http://translator.microsoft.com)
- **ITranslate:** [www.itranslate.com](http://www.itranslate.com)
- **Linguee:** [www.linguee.com](http://www.linguee.com)

## Services for the deaf or hard of hearing

If you require assistance because you are deaf or hard of hearing, contact the National Relay Service on:

- **Voice Relay number:** 1300 555 727
- **TTY number:** 133 677
- **SMS relay number:** 0423 677 767

For more information about the National Relay Service, have a look at their website:

- [www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs](http://www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs)



# Frequently Asked Questions



## 1 How do I know I am eligible?

To be eligible for the Young Carer Bursary Program, you must be:

- Providing unpaid care and support to a family member or friend with a disability, a physical or mental illness, a substance dependency, or who is aged
- Aged between 12–25 for the entire time you are receiving bursary
- An Australian citizen, or permanent resident living in Australia
- Studying at high school, TAFE, private college, university, or other tertiary education institute

Young Carers are not eligible for the Bursary if they hold an advanced diploma, bachelor's degree or above, or if they are currently receiving another bursary or scholarship.

## 2 Is the Young Carer Bursary Program income tested?

No, although we do ask a question about household income as these are reviewed by the Panel.

## 3 Am I an unpaid carer if I receive Carer Allowance or Carer Payment?

Yes. These payments are not considered income as you are not employed as a carer.

## 4 What if I am under 18?

If you are conditionally approved for a bursary, we will ask for parent/guardian consent. An exemption can be applied in exceptional circumstances.

## 5 Can my other family members, including siblings apply too?

Yes, your family members, including siblings (aged 12–25) can apply, even if you are caring for the same person.

## 6 How will I know when applications open?

Applications for the 2024 Young Carer Bursary Program open on 18 July and close on 12 September 2023.

To receive notifications about the Young Carer Bursary, subscribe to the Young Carers Network by clicking on the link below:

[www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au](http://www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au)

To keep up to date about programs, news, and events for carers, you can subscribe to the Carers Australia newsletter by clicking on the link below:

[www.carersaustralia.com.au/news-media/our-newsletter](http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/news-media/our-newsletter)

## 7 If I have applied in the past, can I apply again?

Yes. You can apply every year that you meet the eligibility requirements.

## 8 What will I be asked in the application?

- Besides being asked for your contact details, we'd like you to tell us:
- A little bit about you
- Details about your course or courses
- Information about your caring role
- The impact that caring for another person has had on your ability to study or attend classes.

Please provide as much information in your answers as possible to give us a clear picture of your life as a young carer as this will help with the assessment of your application.

## 9 Is there a paper-based application form?

No. The application form is only available online via the Young Carers Network website. If you would like support to complete the online application, please see the Who can support me to apply? section.

## 10 What if I cannot access the internet?

If you do not have internet access at home, please phone Carer Gateway, or contact a school counsellor, a teacher, or a support worker, for assistance. They will be able to provide access to the Young Carers Network website and support you while completing the application.

There are also many ways to access the internet by using Wi-Fi at:

- School
- Libraries
- Local businesses
- Museums
- Youth groups
- Mobile hotspot
- Shopping centres.

If you are in a rural or regional area and are having issues accessing the internet, please contact the Carers Australia Young Carers Team on 1800 756 238 and they will support you to connect to a local organisation.

## 11 Can someone else enquire about my application on my behalf?

- Yes, if you are under 18, your parent or guardian can contact us and enquire about your application on your behalf
- If a support worker, teacher, or health professional, is listed as a contact person on your application, they will also be able to enquire on your behalf and make changes to your record.
- The best approach would be to call together, so that you are available to provide verbal consent as we can't speak to someone else without your consent

## 12 I am a young carer who lives with a disability or mental illness, can I have a support person listed on my application?

- A support worker, teacher, or health professional can be listed as a contact person on your application. They will be able to enquire about the progress of your application, but we will not provide any of your personal information to them without you present.
- The best approach would be to call together, so that you are available to provide verbal consent

## 13 What if I am over 18 and need support?

- If you are over 18 and need help, a support worker, teacher, or health professional can be listed as a contact person on your application. They will be able to enquire about the progress of your application, but we will not provide any of your personal information to them without you present.



- The best approach would be to call together, so that you are available to provide verbal consent.

**14 What happens if I do not have my own bank account?**

You can nominate to have the bursary paid into the bank account of a parent or guardian

**15 What happens if I was unable to lodge my application due to extenuating circumstances?**

The Carers Australia Young Carers Team will look at extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

**16 I have applied for another scholarship but am not sure if I have been successful yet.**

You can apply for both the Young Carer Bursary and another scholarship. Though if you're successful in both applications, you will need to choose which one to accept.

**17 Will the Young Carer Bursary impact my Centrelink payment?**

No. The Young Carer Bursary is regarded as exempt income.

Further information about exempt income can be found on the Services Australia website: [www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/topics/income/30376](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/topics/income/30376)

**18 If I have an NDIS plan, am I still eligible to apply for the Young Carer Bursary?**

Yes. The NDIS does not pay for educational expenses. You should not be asked about your personal spending on education by the NDIS.

**19 How will I know if I have submitted my application successfully?**

You will receive an email You can also view the status of your application in the online portal on the My Profile page

**20 How will you contact me?**

The Carers Australia Young Carers Team will usually attempt to contact you via email, so please monitor your inbox frequently and check your junk folder.

An overview of emails we have sent will also be available in your My Profile.

**21 What happens if I am not successful?**

You will receive an email. You can also view the status of your application in the online portal on the My Profile page.



# YCBP information



# Guide to the application questions

The application is divided into different sections and many of the questions will attract a score based on need which is how the Independent Assessment Panel makes a decision about who will get the bursary as there are more applications than bursaries available.

## Eligibility

These questions are designed to ensure that only eligible applications can be submitted. To get the bursary you must be

- 12-25 (if you are 11 and will be going into year 7 in 2024 you can apply)
- A carer
- An Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Living in Australia
- Plan to study an approved course in Australia with a recognised Australian institution either full or part-time in 2024
- Not be receiving another bursary or scholarship in 2024

If you give an answer which means you are not eligible you will get a pop up message and won't be able to move on with the application.

We also ask whether you already hold an undergraduate degree – as if you do you are not eligible either.

## About you

This sections ask basic questions such as your name, date of birth and address and contact details, where you were born etc. As the application is assessed on need we also ask questions about how you are feeling. Importantly, we will ask for your consent if you want or need us to discuss your application with someone else like a parent or support worker.

## Your situation

These questions help to describe your experiences with caring e.g. if you are the main carer, how many hours each week you care. If it helps we can also refer you to a Carer Gateway service provider so do add your consent if that would be helpful. We also ask questions about how we protect your personal information and also the information of the person (or people) you care for.

## The person or people you care for

In this section we ask for information about how many people you care for and your relationship with them. Questions include why you are a carer.

## Your education and employment

The purpose of the bursary is to help young carers to remain in education and to reduce your reliance on paid work, so this section focuses on details about what you plan to study, how often caring affects your study and ability to attend classes. We also ask if you are working.

## Your home

These questions focus on the circumstances of your home life (alone, with family, friends or homeless). We do ask what your household income is – this helps the Independent Assessment Panel determine need. We also ask questions around the variety of caring activities and how often you do these.



# Connect with us

**Phone:** 1800 756 238

**Email:** [ycteam@carersaustralia.com.au](mailto:ycteam@carersaustralia.com.au)

**Website:** [www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au](http://www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au)

**Facebook:** [Carers Australia](#)

**Twitter:** [@CarersAustralia](#)

**YouTube:** [Carers Australia](#)

**Instagram:** [@youngcarersnetwork](#)

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# We want to hear from you

We enjoy hearing about the positive experiences and how the Young Carers Bursary has made a difference in the life of young carers. With the young carers permission, we encourage you to share their story with our team which will help other young carers to identify and apply.

We take your feedback seriously and encourage you to contact us if there is anything we can do to make your experience better.

You can send your story, feedback, or complaint to:

**Email:** [caa@carersaustralia.com.au](mailto:caa@carersaustralia.com.au)

**Phone:** 02 6122 9900

**Postal Address:**

PO BOX 5300

Braddon ACT 2612





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