



Young Carer Bursary Program – Information Pack

**Young Carers, their
family and friends**

The Young Carers Network is a Carers Australia initiative.

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Improvements to make it easier for you!

We've listened to your feedback

We're excited to announce that we've started to make some significant improvements to the Young Carer Bursary application process to make it easier for you.

These changes are based on your feedback and are designed to make applying more straightforward and less time consuming for you. This is only the beginning, we have so many more improvements to come.

Key changes for 2024–2025:

- 1 New login system: This year, all applicants will be required to create a new username and password, even if they have previously applied. This new system is designed to simplify access, ensuring a smoother user experience without the need for frequent password resets.
- 2 Streamlined documentation: We have significantly reduced the amount of supporting documentation required. Applicants will now only need to provide proof of intent to study, proof of caring, and two forms of personal identification.
- 3 Upfront information collection: All necessary information, including bank details, will now be collected at the beginning of the application process, minimising the need for additional follow-up and ensuring a more efficient process.
- 4 Simplified parental/guardian consent: For applicants under 18, we have streamlined the parental consent process by sending a digital consent form directly to parents or guardians, which can be signed electronically to expedite the process.
- 5 Simplified payment structure: The bursary will now be distributed in two payments (January 2025 and June 2025) instead of three, offering a more straightforward payment schedule.
- 6 Reduced surveys: Applicants will only need to complete one survey in May, with no further surveys required at the end of the year.
- 7 Clearer communication: This year, applicants will receive clear communication on the outcome of their application—whether successful or not. Conditional approvals will no longer be issued.

These improvements are aimed at creating a more user-friendly application process, and we encourage continued feedback to help us refine the process further in the future.



What is the Young Carer Bursary?

Carers Australia is here to support carers of all ages, making sure they have the tools and help they need to manage their caring roles. One way we help young carers is through the Young Carer Bursary.

The Young Carer Bursary is a helping hand. It provides financial support to young carers, making life a bit easier while you balance studying and caring for someone. In 2025, we're giving out 1,592 bursaries. Each one is worth \$3,768.

We carefully review all applications and award bursaries to the young carers who need them the most. We don't consider your family's income—instead, we focus on your unique situation as a young carer.

The next round of application will open on **8 October and close on 22 November 2024.**



Am I a young carer?

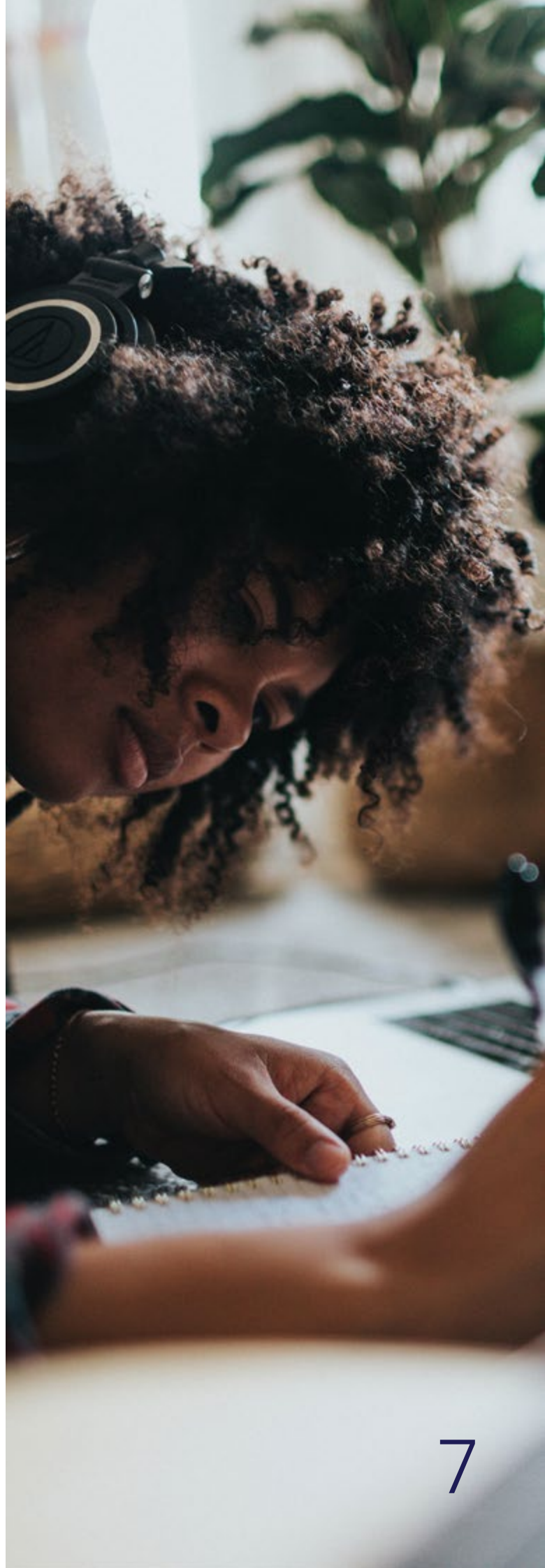
If you're between 12 and 25 years old and looking after a family member or friend with a disability, illness, mental health condition or who is elderly, you may be a young carer.

Many carers may not even realise they're taking on caring responsibilities.

Young carers may do many things, such as:

- Provide emotional support and advocating for loved ones
- Helping with personal care
- Looking after household expenses
- Monitoring medications
- Do the everyday chores, like washing, cleaning, cooking and mowing the lawn.

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





Am I eligible to apply?

We want to help as many young carers as possible with our bursary. Let's see if you're eligible!

You're eligible if you can say "yes" to all of these:

- 1 Your Age
 - You're between 12 and 25 years old.
 - You'll stay in this age range for the whole time you'd receive the bursary.
- 2 Your caring role
 - You provide unpaid care and support to a family member or friend.
 - The person you care for has:
 - A disability, or
 - A physical illness, or
 - A mental illness, or
 - A drug or alcohol dependency, or
 - Is elderly and needs support.
- 3 Your residency
 - You're an Australian citizen or permanent resident.
 - You're living in Australia.

- 4 Your education
 - You're studying (or plan to study next year) at one of these:
 - High school
 - TAFE
 - Private college
 - University
 - Other recognised tertiary education institute
 - Your study can be full-time or part-time.
- 5 Other bursaries or scholarships
 - You're not receiving another bursary or scholarship for 2024.
- 6 Your qualifications
 - You don't already have an advanced diploma, bachelor's degree or higher qualification.

Still not sure?

If you're not sure whether you're eligible, don't worry! Here are some examples that might help:

- "I'm 11 now, but I'll be 12 when I start Year 7 next year."
 - You can apply!
- "I help look after my little brother who has autism."
 - You're a young carer!
- "I'm studying a certificate course at TAFE part-time."
 - That counts as eligible study!
- "I got a small scholarship from my school last year, but it's finished now."
 - You can apply for our bursary this year!



Why should I apply?

Being a young carer can be tough, especially when you're trying to juggle your education and caring for someone you love. Balancing both can sometimes bring financial challenges, making things even harder.

The bursary money is there to help you with your education and caring role. You could use it for things like:

- Buying a laptop for your schoolwork
- Getting your school uniforms or books
- Paying for transport to get to school or college
- Taking a break from caring
- Joining in with school activities that cost extra
- Paying for some school fees

How should I apply?

Great news! We've made applying for the Young Carer Bursary easier than ever.

In the application you will be asked to provide your personal details, you'll need to complete 24 multiple choice questions and two open ended questions that will focus on your experience of being a young carer.

Before the application process starts

Make sure the young carer:

- Have checked that you're eligible for the bursary
- Have about 30 minutes to complete the application
- Have your bank account details handy (or your parent/guardian's)
- If you're under 18, have an email address for a parent or carer
- Has proof of age and identity. They can provide one of these:
 - Driver's licence
 - Passport (Australian or overseas, with details in English)
 - Birth certificate
 - Proof of age card
 - Student ID with date of birth

- Have proof of citizenship or permanent residency. You can provide one of these:

- Birth certificate
- Australian passport
- Commonwealth health care card
- Green Medicare card
- Citizenship certificate
- Residency certificate
- Pension concession card
- Permanent residency or humanitarian visa

Note: If one document covers both identity and citizenship (e.g. birth certificate or passport), they will need to upload it twice.

- Have proof of intent to study ready. They can download and use our Proof of Intent to Study template.

[Download](#)

- Has proof of caring ready. They can download and use our Proof of Caring template.

[Download](#)

Application steps

- 1 Create an account**
 - Visit www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au
 - Click on 'Register' to create a new account (even if you already have one)
 - Choose a username and password you'll remember
 - This account will work every time you use our new system
- 2 Fill in your details**
 - Log in to your new account
 - Fill in all the requested information about yourself and your caring role
 - Be as detailed as you can – this helps us understand your situation better
- 3 Provide your bank details**
 - We'll ask for your bank account details upfront
 - If you don't have a bank account, you can provide your parent or guardian's account details instead
- 4 Upload any required documents**
 - We've reduced the amount of supporting documentation needed. This year you only need to provide;
 - Proof of intent to study
 - Proof of caring
 - Proof of age and identity
 - Proof of citizenship or permanent residency
 - The system will guide you on what you need to upload
- 5 Review and submit**
 - Double-check all your information
 - Click 'Submit' when you're ready
- 6 Parental consent (if you're under 18)**
 - After you submit, we'll automatically email your chosen parent or guardian
 - They'll receive a digital consent form to sign electronically
 - Make sure you've provided their correct email address!
- 7 What happens next?**
 1. We'll review your application
 2. If you're successful, we'll let you know by email between 16 and 20 December 2024
 3. The bursary will be paid in two instalments – January and June 2025
 4. You'll only need to complete one survey in May to confirm your details.

Key dates

- **Applications open**
 - 8 October 2024
- **Applications close**
 - 22 November 2024 at 23:59 AEDT
(late applications cannot be accepted)
- **Applicants receive an answer**
 - Between 16 and 20 December 2024
- **First payment in January 2025**
- **Survey due**
 - May 2025
- **Second payment in June 2025**

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/carergateway/

Connect with the Carers Australia Young Carers Team

Email: ca@youngcarersnetwork.com.au

Phone: 1800 756 238



Language services

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

- The Translating and Interpreting Service offers an immediate phone interpreting service on 131 450.
- For more information about The Translating and Interpreting 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
- **Microsoft Translator:** translator.microsoft.com
- **ITranslate:** www.itranslate.com
- **Linguee:** 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

Frequently Asked Questions

1 Understanding the Bursary

- What is the Young Carer Bursary?
The Young Carer Bursary is a financial support program for young people who provide care for a family member or friend. It's designed to help you continue your education while managing your caring responsibilities.
- How much is the bursary worth?
Each bursary is worth \$3,768 for the year and is paid in two instalments in January and June 2025.
- How many bursaries are available?
For 2025, we're offering 1,592 bursaries.
- Is the bursary taxable?
No, the Young Carer Bursary is not considered taxable income.

2 Eligibility

- Who is considered a young carer?
A young carer is someone aged 12 to 25 who provides unpaid care and support to a family member or friend with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or who is elderly.
- I'm 11 but will be 12 when I start year 7 next year. Can I apply?
Yes, you can apply if you'll be 12 when you start Year 7 in the year you're applying for the bursary.
- Can I apply if I'm studying part-time?
Yes, you can apply whether you're studying full-time or part-time.
- I received the bursary last year. Can I apply again?
Yes, you can apply each year, as long as you meet the eligibility criteria.

3 Preparing to apply

- What information do I need to apply?
You'll need:
 - Your personal details
 - Information about your caring role
 - Details about your education
 - Your bank account information (or your parent or guardian's)
- Do I need to provide any documents with my application?
We've simplified the process, so you'll need minimal documentation. The application system will guide you. The documents you need are:
 - Your study details or an intent to study
 - Proof of caring
 - Proof of age and identity. You can provide one of these:
 - Driver's licence
 - Passport (Australian or overseas, with details in English)
 - Birth certificate
 - Proof of age card
 - Student ID with date of birth
 - Proof of citizenship or permanent residency. You can provide one of these:
 - Birth certificate
 - Australian passport
 - Commonwealth health care card
 - Green Medicare card
 - Citizenship certificate
 - Residency certificate
 - Pension concession card
 - Permanent residency or humanitarian visa

Note: If one document covers both identity and citizenship (e.g. birth certificate or passport), you will need to upload it twice.



- I don't have my own bank account.
What should I do?
You can provide your parent or guardian's bank account details.

4 Application process

- How do I start my application?
Visit youngcarersnetwork.com.au, create an account (even if you've had one before), and follow the step-by-step guide.
- I've forgotten my username or password. What should I do?
On the login page, click on "Forgot Username/Password" and follow the prompts to reset your details.
- Can someone help me with my application?
Yes, you can ask a parent, guardian, teacher, or support worker to help you. Make sure you give us consent to speak to them about your application.
- What if I can't finish my application in one go?
Don't worry! You can save your progress and come back later to complete it. Just make sure you submit before the closing date.

5 After applying

- How will I know if my application has been received?
You'll receive an email confirmation once you've successfully submitted your application.
- How long will it take to find out if I'm successful?
We aim to notify all applicants of the outcome between 16 and 20 December 2024.
- What happens if I'm successful?
If you're successful, we'll email you with further instructions. You'll receive the bursary in two payments throughout the year, January and June 2025.
- What if I'm not successful?
If you're not successful, we'll let you know by email. You can apply again in the next round if you're still eligible.

6 Parental consent

- Do I need parental consent to apply?
If you're under 18, yes. But we've made this process much easier!
- How does the new parental consent process work?
During your application you nominate a parent or guardian and give us their email address, we'll automatically email them a consent form. They can sign it electronically, making the process quick and easy.
- What if my parent or guardian doesn't receive the consent email?
First, check if it's in their spam folder. If it's not there, contact us and we'll resend it.

8 Using the Bursary

- What can I use the bursary money for?
You can use it for education-related expenses such as textbooks, a laptop, school uniforms, transport costs, or even to reduce your paid work hours so you can focus more on your studies.
- How will the bursary be paid?
The bursary will be paid in two instalments in January and June 2025, directly into the bank account you provided in your application.

The second payment is conditional on completing the mid-year survey and meeting ongoing eligibility requirements.

- Do I need to provide receipts for what I spend the bursary on?
No, you don't need to provide receipts. However, we do ask that you use the bursary for education-related expenses.

9 Staying in touch

- Do I need to do anything after receiving the bursary?
Yes, you'll need to complete one survey in May to confirm your details and situation haven't changed.
- What if my circumstances change after I receive the bursary?
If your circumstances change (e.g., you stop studying or caring), please let us know as soon as possible.
- How can I provide feedback about the bursary program?
We always welcome feedback! You can email us at youngcarerbursary@carersaustralia.com.au or use the feedback form on our Contact Us page.





Connect with us

Phone: 02 6173 2620 or 1800 756 238

Email: youngcarerbursary@carersaustralia.com.au

Website: www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au

Facebook: [Young Carers Network](#)

X: [@CarersAustralia](#)

YouTube: [Carers Australia](#)

Instagram: [@youngcarersnetwork](#)

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

www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au

To subscribe to the free 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/

We want to hear from you

Your feedback matters. We're always looking to improve. If you have suggestions or feedback about these changes or any other aspect of the Young Carer Bursary, please let us know. Your input helps us make the program better for all young carers.

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

Email: caa@carersaustralia.com.au

Postal Address:

PO BOX 5300

Braddon ACT 2612





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