



Young Carer Bursary Program Information Pack

**Young Carers,
their family and friends**

Young Carers Network is a Carers Australia initiative.
This project is funded by the Australian Government Department
of Health, Disability and Ageing.



What is Young Carer Bursary Program?

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 Young Carer Bursary Program.

Young Carer Bursary Program 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 2026, we're giving out **1,600 bursaries. Each one is worth \$4,000.**

We carefully review all applications and award bursaries to the young carers who need them the most.

The next round of applications will **open on 10 October and close on 7 November 2025.**



Am I a young carer?

You are a young carer if you're between 12 and 25 years old and you provide unpaid care and support to a family member or friend living with a disability, medical condition (including a terminal or chronic illness), mental illness, an alcohol or other drug issue or is frail and aged.

Many carers may not even realise they're taking on caring responsibilities. Young carers may do many things, such as:

- Providing emotional support and advocating for loved ones
- Helping with personal care
- Looking after household expenses
- Monitoring medications
- Doing 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 through Young Carer Bursary Program.

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

1 Your Age

- You're between 12 and 25 years old (young carers aged under 12 who are attending secondary school may be eligible and will be considered on a case by case basis).
- 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 living with a disability, medical condition (including a terminal or chronic illness), mental illness, an alcohol or other drug issue or is frail and aged.

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 (including home-schooled if registered with a state or territory education authority).
 - 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 2026 (worth more than \$500).

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 is living with 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!

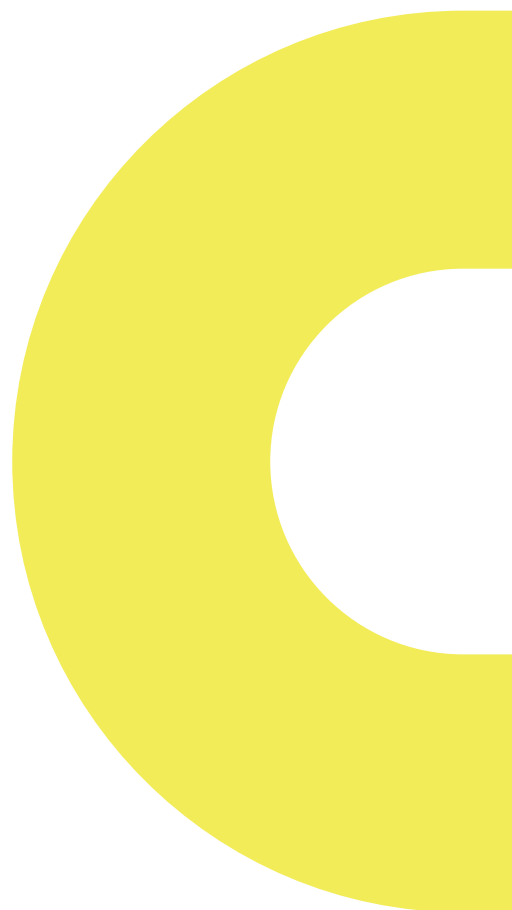


Why should I apply?

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 can I apply?

Great news! Applying for Young Carer Bursary Program is easier than ever.

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

When answering the open-ended questions, please use your own words. Your responses should reflect your own experiences and circumstances. If someone is helping you complete your application, make sure the answers still reflect your voice.

Before the application process starts

You will need to make sure you:

- ☐ 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)
- ☐ Have an email address for a parent or carer if you're under 18
- ☐ Has proof of age and identity. You can provide **one** of these if you are 12-17. If you are 18-25, you must provide **two**:
 - Driver's licence
 - Passport (Australian or overseas, with details in English)

- Birth certificate
- Proof of age card
- Student ID with date of birth (this should only be provided if you are unable to provide any other proof of age and identity listed here. Carers Australia staff may contact you to be in touch to verify why this is the case if you choose to use this document)

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

- Birth certificate
- Australian passport
- Health Care Card
- Medicare card
- Citizenship certificate
- Residency certificate
- Pension Concession card
- Permanent residency or humanitarian visa

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

[Download](#)

- ☐ Have proof of caring ready. You can download and use our **Proof of Caring** template.

[Download](#)



Application steps

- 1 **Start your application**
 - Visit www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au/bursary/young-carer-bursary/
 - 'Register' for a new account or 'Login' to an existing one, and follow the step-by-step guide
- 2 **Fill in your details**
 - 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
 - ***Share your story in your own words so your answers reflect your voice and experience***
- 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**
 - Provide your:
 - Proof of intent to study
 - Proof of age and identity
 - Proof of caring
 - 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 by mid to late December 2025 (If you're unsuccessful, you will also be contacted at this time)
 3. The bursary will be paid in two instalments – January and June 2026
 4. You'll only need to complete one survey in May to confirm your details



Key dates

Applications open

- 10 October 2025

Applications close

- 7 November 2025 at 23:59 AEDT
- Support will be available until 17:00 AEDT. If you require support to lodge your application or encounter any difficulties, please contact Carers Australia on 1800 756 238 or via email as soon as possible.

Applicants receive an answer

- By mid to late December 2025

First payment in January 2026

2026 Survey due

- June 2026

Second payment in June 2026

- The second payment is conditional on completing the survey and continuing to meet eligibility requirements.

If you need support to lodge your application or encounter any issues please contact Carers Australia on 1800 756 238 or via email as soon as possible.

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. • **tisnational.gov.au.**

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 Young Carer Bursary Program?**

Young Carer Bursary Program 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 caring responsibilities.

- **How much is the bursary worth?**

Each bursary is worth \$4,000 for the year and is paid in two instalments in January and June 2026.

- **How many bursaries are available?**

For 2026, we're offering 1,600 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 living with a disability, medical condition (including a terminal or chronic illness), mental illness, an alcohol or other drug issue or is frail and aged.

- **I'm 11 but will be 12 when I start year 7 next year.**

Can I apply?

Yes, you can apply if you will start year 7 in the year you'll receive the bursary.

If you are under 12 and attending secondary school, you may be eligible and will be considered on a case by case basis.

- **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.

- **I'm 25 now and will turn 26 in 2026. Am I eligible?**

No, you are not eligible as you turn older than 25 in the year you receive the bursary.

3 Preparing to apply

- **What documents 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?**

The documents you need are:

- Your study details or an intent to study
- Proof of caring
- Proof of age and identity, which can be **one** of these if you are 12-17. If you are 18-25, you must provide **two**:
 - Driver's licence
 - Passport (Australian or overseas, with details in English)
 - Birth certificate
 - Proof of age card
 - Student ID with date of birth (this should only be provided if you are unable to provide any other proof of age and identity listed here. Carers Australia staff may contact you to be in touch to verify why this is the case if you choose to use this document)
- Proof of citizenship or permanent residency, which can be **one** of these:
 - Birth certificate
 - Australian passport
 - Health Care Card
 - Medicare card
 - Citizenship certificate
 - Residency certificate
 - Pension Concession card
 - Permanent residency or humanitarian visa



- **I don't have my own bank account.**

What should I do?

You can provide your parent or guardian's bank account details.

- **How long will it take to find out if I'm successful?**
We aim to notify all applicants of the outcome by mid to late December 2025.

- **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 2026.

- **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.

Carer Gateway can also help by connecting you and your family to a wide range of programs and supports across Australia. They can be contacted on 1800 422 737..

4 Application process

- **How do I start my application?**
Visit youngcarersnetwork.com.au/bursary/young-carer-bursary/, register for a new account or log in to an existing one, 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. You can also email or call us on 1800 756 238.
- **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.
If you do get help, it's important that your answers are still written in your own words so they reflect your voice and experience.
- **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 your application before the closing date, 7 November 2025 at 23:59 AEDT.

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.

6 Parental consent

- **Do I need parental consent to apply?**
If you're under 18, yes.
- **How does the parental consent process work?**
During your application you nominate a parent or guardian. We will ask for their email address, and 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 via email or on 1800 756 238 and we'll resend it.

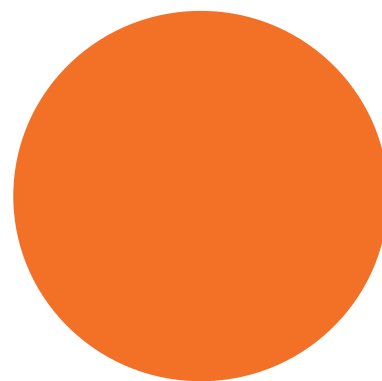


7 Using the Bursary

- **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 2026 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.

8 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 at carersaustralia.com.au/about-us/feedback-and-complaints/.





Connect with us

Phone: 02 6173 2620

Email: ca@youngcarersnetwork.com.au

Website: www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au

Facebook: Young Carers Network

X: @CarersAustralia

YouTube: Carers Australia

Instagram: @youngcarersnetwork

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

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/

We want to hear from you

Your feedback matters. We're always looking to improve. If you have suggestions or feedback about any aspect of Young Carer Bursary Program, 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: ca@carersaustralia.com.au

Postal Address:

PO BOX 5300

Braddon ACT 2612



#youngcarerbursary2026

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