

Young Carer Bursary Program – Information Pack

**For those who support
young carers**

The Young Carers Network is a Carers Australia initiative.

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



Contents

4	Carers Australia
4	What is the Young Carer Bursary?
5	Who is a young carer?
6	Identifying & supporting young carers
8	Why should young carers apply?
9	New improvements this year
10	How does a young carer apply?
11	Key dates
12	How can you support a young carer to apply
13	Language services
14	Frequently Asked Questions
16	Promotional Kit
18	Support for your organisation
18	We want to hear from you
19	Connect with us



Carers Australia

Carers Australia is the national peak body representing Australia's unpaid carers, advocating on their behalf to influence policies and services at a national level.

Our vision is an Australia that values and supports the contribution that carers make both to the people they care for and to the community as a whole.

Carers Australia advocates:

- For policy and service actions that support the caring role and enhance the health, wellbeing, resilience and financial security of carers
- For the inclusion of carers as a priority group within mainstream and specialist service programs
- To have caring recognised as a shared responsibility of family, community, business and government with the aim of achieving improved outcomes for carers.

What is the Young Carer Bursary?

The Young Carer Bursary Program is a Carers Australia initiative. It supports young carers to return to or to continue with their education by providing financial assistance while studying and managing caring responsibilities. The program will offer 1,592 bursaries for the 2025 academic year, each valued \$3,768. Young carers across Australia can apply from **8 October until 22 November 2024**.

Applications are not income tested and are assessed by an Independent Assessment Panel

Who is a young carer?

Young carers are people aged 12 to 25 years old who provide unpaid care and support to a family member or friend who:

- Lives with a disability
- Is experiencing physical or mental illness
- Lives with a substance dependency or
- Is aged

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

Young carers help with tasks such as:

- Household chores
- Assisting with personal care
- Paying bills or managing household expenses
- Giving medication
- Taking care of siblings, and
- Providing emotional support.

They may be supporting:

- Family members such as a mother, father, sibling, cousin, or grandparent
- A friend
- Partner, or
- Their own child.

Young carers may look after these loved ones every day, every week or occasionally.

Identifying & supporting young carers

Why is it important to identify young carers?

It is estimated that there are 391,300 young Australians aged 12 to 25 who are in an unpaid caring role for family or friends.

- As professionals working with young people, this information will assist you to identify and support young carers.
- Young carers often juggle school, employment, and their caring responsibilities, including providing emotional and advocacy support, assisting with medication, physically supporting with showering and other personal care tasks, household chores, and looking after siblings.
- These additional responsibilities make young carers far more susceptible to social isolation, financial and educational disadvantage, unemployment, and poor physical and mental health.
- When young carers are supported, acknowledged, and respected in their own right, they are able to achieve and participate more actively at school and in their community. This is critical in ensuring that young carers have every opportunity to thrive at school and beyond. Supporting young carers will not only improve outcomes for these students but can also help to improve school attendance, engagement, and attainment levels.

What are some signs that a young person is a carer?

There are several signs that a young person may have caring responsibilities. These signs can also be indicators of other circumstances, and it is important not to make assumptions. It is a good idea to use this as a guide to start a conversation that can lead to additional enquiry and support for each young person.

The following are signs that can assist in identifying young carers:

- Punctuality: Arriving late to activities, at school/education, or to social groups with no clear explanation.
- Stress: Exhibiting signs that they are stressed or overwhelmed.
- Isolation: Appearing to be isolated from others or may be experiencing bullying.
- Low attendance: Frequently missing activities with no clear explanation.
- Missing appointments or classes: Often absent to help at medical appointments.
- Regularly checking in on a family member or friend during the day.
- Minimal parental involvement or engagement.
- Attention: Not focusing or engaging during activities.
- Academic performance: Underperforming or showing inconsistent performance.
- Fatigue: Difficulty concentrating and frequently mentioning tiredness.
- Supporting someone at medical appointments: Assisting with translating, collecting, and helping with medicines.

How can my colleagues and I identify young carers?

Identifying that a young person has caring responsibilities is an important step in supporting the young carer. Young carers can be in both primary school, secondary school, or in tertiary education.

Many young people with significant caring responsibilities do not see themselves as a 'young carer'. This is an important consideration for professionals when identifying young carers. There are a number of ways organisations, teachers or

academic staff, and healthcare professionals can raise awareness, educate communities, and support people to identify themselves and others as young carers. These include:

- Data collection during program or activity enrolment or referral that captures carer status.
- Celebrating National Carers Week and hosting activities that raise awareness and start conversations.
- Hosting young carer specific events during key times like Youth Week or NAIDOC week.
- Starting conversations with young people and their parents/ guardians where there are signs that someone might be a young carer.
- Displaying posters and materials from Carers Australia and the National Carer Network at your school or organisation.
- Promoting the Young Carers Network and Young Carer Bursary in your newsletter or on social media.

What can I do after I have identified a young carer?

- Identify a staff member or support person that the young person feels comfortable with.
- Initiate a conversation with the young person and/or their family (if appropriate) in a safe and confidential place.
- Record if a young person is a young carer in your case notes within your internal IT system or within your internal record-keeping procedure.
- Ask the young person what they think might help.
- Provide resources that may be useful for the young person in a private setting.
- Refer the young carer and/or their parent or guardian to the Carer Gateway.
- Don't forget to check-in with the young carer. Caring can change and evolve, and with this the needs of the young person.

This information was adapted from the Victorian Department of Education's Policy – Young Carers: Identification and Support.





Why should young carers apply?

As a young carer, balancing education and caring responsibilities can be difficult. This can lead to financial stress and disadvantage.

The bursary payments can assist young carers to stay in education while caring for their loved one. The funding can be used towards supporting them in education or training.

The bursary can be used towards:

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



New improvements this year

We are pleased to announce several significant improvements to the Young Carer Bursary application process this year. These changes are based on valuable feedback and are designed to make the application process more efficient and less time-consuming for applicants.

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.

How does a young carer apply?

As part of the application, young carers will be required to provide their personal details, complete 24 multiple-choice questions, and respond to two open-ended questions, both of which will focus on their experiences as a young carer.

Before the application process starts

Make sure the young carer:

- ☐ Has checked that they're eligible for the bursary
- ☐ Has about 30 minutes to complete the application
- ☐ Has their bank account details on hand (or their parent/guardian's)
- ☐ Has an email address for a parent or carer, if they're under 18
- ☐ 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

- ☐ Has proof of citizenship or permanent residency. They 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.

- ☐ Has 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



Create an account

- Visit www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au
- Click on 'Register' to create a new account, even if an existing account already exists for the young carer



Enter the young carer's bank details, or those of a parent or guardian if applicable.



Upload any required documents:

- Proof of intent to study
- Proof of caring
- Proof of age and identity
- Proof of citizenship or permanent residency



Provide a valid parent/guardian email address if the young carer is under 18, so an automatic consent form can be sent for their signature.



Answer all questions.



Review the application and submit.

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

How can you support a young carer to apply?

The young carer may need assistance with:

- Internet access
- Understanding the application process
- Understanding and finding the documents required
- Scanning or taking photos of documents and uploading them
- For the education institution or school – particularly helping with providing enrolment or intent to study forms; supporting their learning by providing the flexibility or other accommodations the young carer needs to succeed at school or in education
- For healthcare professionals – helping the young carer with evidence about their caring role, or providing information to assist with their caring role, such as explaining medication
- Understanding what the next steps are
- Supporting the young carer in developing an emergency plan in case of hospitalisation or a natural disaster
- Contacting and communicating with Carers Australia – Young Carer Team, or connecting them with organisations that can offer support

The Carer Gateway can also help young carers with applications and connect them and their families to a wide range of programs and supports across Australia. They can be contacted on 1800 422 737 which will connect you with a service provider in your local area.

For general queries, contact the Carers Australia – Young Carer Team:

Email: ca@youngcarersnetwork.com.au

Phone: 1800 756 238





Language services

Carers Australia office hours are 9am – 5pm (Eastern Time), Monday to Friday. If you are supporting a young carer and/or their family and would like to contact the Carers Australia – Young Carer Team and require assistance with the support of an interpreter:

- Call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 (available 24/7).
- If you are supporting a young carer and/or their family and require assistance due to hearing loss, contact the National Relay Service (NRS) 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, visit their website at:

www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs

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:** itranslate.com
- **Linguee:** linguee.com

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 young carers continue their education while managing 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

- **How do I know if a young carer is eligible?**

The eligibility criteria for the Young Carer Bursary Program are:

- Be a young carer who provides unpaid care and support to a family member or friend with a disability, a physical or mental illness, or a substance dependency.
- Aged 12–25 years old for the entire time they are receiving the bursary.
- Must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.
- Be living in Australia.
- Studying at high school, TAFE, university, or another tertiary education institute.
- Not receiving any other bursary or scholarship.

Young carers are not eligible if they hold an advanced diploma, bachelor's degree, or higher.

3 Preparing to apply

- **What documents will young carers need?**

The documents young carers will need at the beginning of the application process are:

- Study details or an intent to study
- Proof of caring

Proof of age and identity, which can be 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, which can be 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), the young carer will need to upload it twice.



- **What if the young carer does not have their own bank account?**

They can provide their parent or guardian's bank account details.

- **What if the young carer is under the age of 18?**

They will need to provide a valid parent/guardian email address, so an automatic consent form can be sent for their signature.

4 Application process

- **How does a young carer start their application?**

Visit youngcarersnetwork.com.au, create an account (even if they've had one before), and follow the step-by-step guide.

- **The young carer I am supporting has forgotten their username or password. What can they do?**

On the login page, click on "Forgot Username/Password" and follow the prompts to reset details.

- **What if the young carer I am supporting can't finish their application in one go?**

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 does a young carer know if they have submitted their application successfully?**

Once an application is submitted the young carer will receive an email confirmation.

- **How long does it take for an application to be assessed?**

We aim to notify all applicants of the outcome between 16 and 20 December 2024.

- **What happens if the application is successful?**

If the application is successful, we'll email the young carer with further instructions. They'll receive the bursary in two payments throughout the year, January and June 2025.

- **What happens if a young carer is not successful?**

If the young carer is not successful, we'll let them know by email.

The quantity of applications is extremely high, and we understand that there are many young carers out there in need. Unfortunately, we only have a limited number of bursaries available Australia wide, but please encourage the young carer to apply again next year and remain in contact with their local carers organisation to ensure they receive the support needed.

You can also assist them to contact the Carer Gateway if they have not already done so, to access services available to themselves and their families.

Promotional Kit

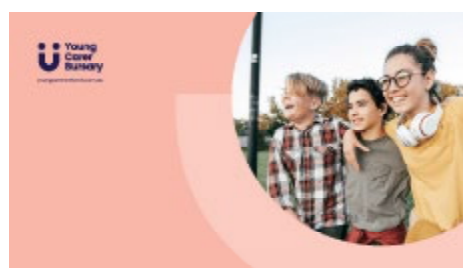
We've created a promotional toolkit to help you spread the word about the Young Carer Bursary. We encourage you to share it across your digital platforms and join the conversation online by tagging @YoungCarersNetwork and using hashtags like #YoungCarerBursary2025.

Download the promotional kit [here](#).

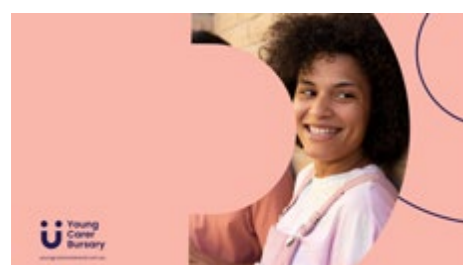
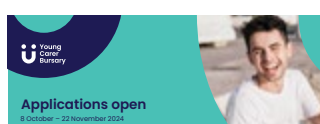
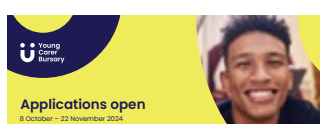
Social Media Tiles



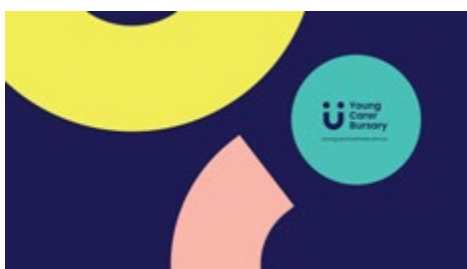
Zoom/Teams Background



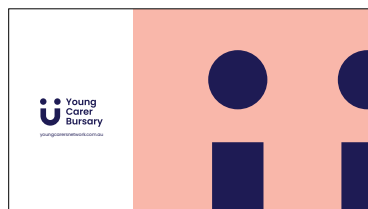
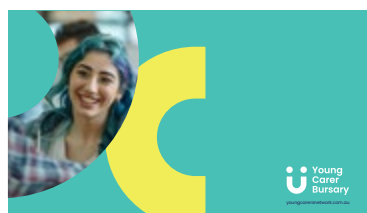
Facebook Banners



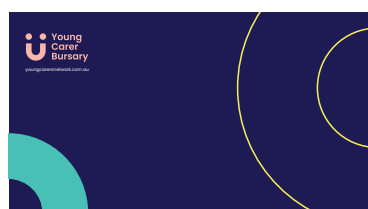
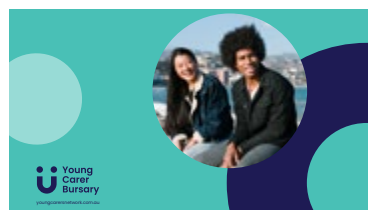
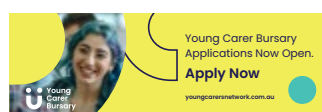
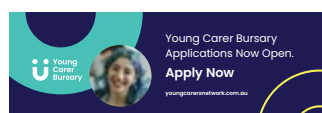
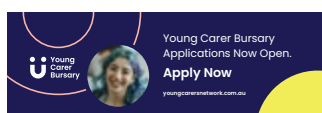
Zoom/Teams Background



Desktop wallpaper



Email signature block





Support for your organisation

The Young Carers Team is available to assist you and your team in helping young carers and their supporters understand and apply for the bursary.

Our team can offer the following information and support:

- Present at your staff meeting or event (virtual)
- Provide a PowerPoint presentation and facilitation notes for your team to lead a session with clients, participants, students, or community groups
- Advise on questions relating to eligibility or the application process
- Share stories of young carers from our campaigns and programs: youngcarersnetwork.com.au
- Promote youth and family-focused events.

We want to hear from you

We enjoy hearing about your positive experiences and how the Young Carer Bursary has made a difference in the lives of young carers.

We value your feedback and encourage you to contact us if there is anything we can do to improve your experience.

You can send your story or feedback to:

Email: caa@carersaustralia.com.au

Postal Address:

PO BOX 5300

Braddon ACT 2612



Connect with us

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:

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:

carersaustralia.com.au/news-media/our-newsletter

Phone: 02 6173 2620

Email: ca@youngcarersnetwork.com.au

website: www.youngcarersnetwork.com.au

Facebook: Young Carers Network

X: [@CarersAustralia](https://twitter.com/CarersAustralia)

YouTube: [CarersAustralia](https://www.youtube.com/CarersAustralia)

Instagram: [@youngcarersnetwork](https://www.instagram.com/youngcarersnetwork)



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