



# Young Carer Bursary Information Pack

**Organisations and Schools**

The Young Carer Bursary Program is a Carers Australia initiative.  
This project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.



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## Who is 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.

We advocate and lobby on a wide range of issues that affect carers. We also manage the delivery of national programs, supports and services for carers across Australia.

Carers Australia works in collaboration with carers, the National Carer Network, government, and peak bodies to develop policy, advocacy, programs, and events to improve the lives of Australia's 2.65 million carers.

## What is the definition of 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 may:

- Live with a disability
- Are experiencing physical or mental illness
- Living with a substance dependency or
- Are aged

It is important to know that 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
- Assist 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 more occasionally.

# Identifying and supporting **young carers**

## 1 Why is it important to identify young carers?

It is estimated that there are 235,000 young Australians aged 12 to 25 who are in an unpaid caring role for family or friends.

As professionals that work 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. Since the beginning of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this further with young carers balancing online learning, increased caring commitments, and reduced social and community engagement opportunities.

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.

## 2 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 factors are signs that can assist in identifying young carers:

- Punctuality: arriving late to school or handing in assignments late 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 days from school with no clear explanation
- Minimal parental involvement or engagement: parents or guardians of the student do not attend parent teacher interviews or school meetings regularly
- Attention: not focusing or engaging during class and other activities
- Academic performance: underperforming or inconsistent performance
- Fatigue: difficulty concentrating and referencing being tired regularly

### 3 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 and secondary school.

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 schools and organisations can raise awareness, educate communities and support people to identify themselves and others as young carers, these include:

- Data collection during school enrolment, program referral or activity registration forms
- 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 who have the signs of a young carer
- Display posters and materials from [Carers Australia](#) and the [National Carer Network](#) at your school or organisation
- Promote the Young Carers Network and [Young Carer Bursary](#) in your newsletter or on social media

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

- Identify a staff member that the young person feels comfortable with
- Initiate an in-depth 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
- 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](#)

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



# What is the Young Carer Bursary?

The Young Carer Bursary Program supports young carers to return to or to continue with their education. The program offers 1,000 bursaries of \$3,000 each year. Young carers across Australia can apply from 16 August until 30 September. Applications are not income tested and are assessed by an Independent Assessment Panel.



# Why should young carers apply?

As a young carer, balancing education and caring responsibilities can be difficult. It can often cause financial stress and/or 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.

This could include:

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



# How does a young carer apply?

1.

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

2.

Click on Sign Up and complete form

3.

Login details will be emailed to the young carer

4.


Click Sign In

5.

Enter login details

6.

Young carer to complete the online application



# How can you support a young carer to apply?

The young carer you are supporting may need assistance with:

- Internet access
- Understanding the application
- Understanding the documents required
- Scanning or taking photos of documents and uploading them
- Understanding what the next steps are
- Contacting and communicating with the Carers Australia - Young Carer Team

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 you can contact the Carers Australia - Young Carer Team:

**Email:** [ca@youngcarersnetwork.com.au](mailto:ca@youngcarersnetwork.com.au)

**Phone:** 1800 746 238





# Language services

Carers Australia office hours are 9am – 5pm 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 Translation Information Service on 131 450 (24/7)

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 due to loss of hearing, contact the National Relay Service (NRS) on:

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

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

- Google Translate [translate.google.com](https://translate.google.com)
- Microsoft Translator [translator.microsoft.com](https://translator.microsoft.com)
- iTranslate [itranslate.com](https://itranslate.com)
- Linguee [liguee.com](https://liguee.com)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1 How do I know if a young carer is eligible?

The eligibility to apply for the Young Carer Bursary Program is:

- Be a young carer who provides unpaid care and support to a family member or friend with a disability, a physical or mental illness, a substance dependency
- Aged 12-25 years old for the entire time they are receiving the bursary
- They must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Studying at high school, TAFE, university or another tertiary education institute

Young carers are not eligible if they hold an advanced diploma, bachelor's degree or above or if they are receiving another scholarship.

## 2 What types of questions are in the application?

The application asks questions about the young carer, their intention to study and their caring role. This will include who they care for, how long they have been a young carer and the impact this has had on their ability to study and attend classes. They will also be asked what the Young Carer Bursary money would go towards.

Young carers should take care to answer all questions and provide as much context as they can. This provides a clearer picture of how their caring role affects their wellbeing and studies and assists with the assessment phase.

## 3 What documents will young carers need?

During the application process young carers have the opportunity to upload identification documents. This is not compulsory at the initial stages of the application. If the young carer is shortlisted for a bursary, the documents can also be uploaded then.

### Proof of citizenship or permanent residency using one of the following:

- Green Medicare card
- Australian Birth Certificate
- Australian Passport
- Australian Citizenship Certificate
- Certificate of status for New Zealand Citizens
- Certificate of evidence of residency status

### Proof of age and identity using one of the following:

- Australian Drivers Licence
- Australian Birth Certificate
- Australian Passport
- Proof of Age card
- Student ID with date of birth
- New Zealand Passport
- New Zealand Birth Certificate

Should a young carer be shortlisted for a bursary, they will also need to verify they are a young carer, provide parent/guardian consent, verify they are enrolled in a course of study for the bursary year and provide bank account details for payments to be deposited in. We will provide forms for these.

The [Visa Entitlement Verification Online \(VEVO\)](#) on the Department of Home Affairs website can assist with evidence of residency.





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

If a young carer is shortlisted for a bursary, we will ask for parent/guardian consent. An exemption can be applied in exceptional circumstances.

**5 What happens if a young carer does not have their own bank account?**

A young carer can nominate to have this paid into a parent/guardians account. If a young carer is identified by your organisation as being at risk, you can assist them to make alternative arrangements.

**6 The young carer I am working with is not sure if they will be returning to study next year, should they apply?**

Yes. They can always withdraw their application.

**7 Is the Young Carer Bursary Program income tested?**

No.

**8 The young carer I am supporting was successful in the last bursary round. They are currently receiving the Young Carer Bursary payments, do they need to reapply for this upcoming round?**

Yes. All young carers must reapply each year.

**9 How many times can a young carer apply for the bursary?**

Young carers can continue to apply each year if they remain eligible.

**10 Can other family members in the same household apply too?**

Yes, we encourage all young carers to apply if they meet the eligibility requirements, even if you are all caring for the same family member .

**11 Is the young carer I am supporting an unpaid carer if they receive a carers allowance or carers payment?**

Yes. This also applies to any other payments they may receive from Centrelink.

**12 If a young carer I am supporting has an NDIS plan, are they still eligible to apply for the Young Carer Bursary?**

Yes. The NDIS does not pay for educational expenses. They will also not be asked about any personal spending on education by the NDIS.

### **13 The young carer I am supporting has applied or intends to apply for another scholarship but does not have an outcome yet.**

They can apply for both the Young Carer Bursary and another scholarship. If successful with both, they will then have to choose which one they would like to accept.

### **14 How will we know when applications open?**

Applications open on 16th August 2021. To receive updates, register your contact details at [youngcarersnetwork.com.au](http://youngcarersnetwork.com.au) which will also provide you with resources, events, stories and support for young carers.

The Young Carer Bursary Program will also be advertised and promoted by Carer Gateway providers, the National Carer Network, Carers Australia Newsletter, schools, universities, social media, advertising and other promotional material.

### **15 A young carer has registered with the young carer Network but is not receiving notifications.**

Some young carers have unsubscribed from emails sent by our team, so will not receive notifications. Please assist them by contacting our office by phone or email.

### **16 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 and SMS confirmation. They can also view the status of their application in their online portal called My Profile which will show as submitted.

### **17 What happens if a young carer was unable to lodge their application due to extenuating circumstances?**

The Carers Australia – Young Carer Team will look at these on a case-by-case basis. If you have questions about extenuating circumstances, please refer to the Carers Australia – Young Carer Team.

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

Applications can take up to 16 weeks from date of submission to be assessed by an Independent Assessment Panel.

### **19 Can someone from our organisation enquire about a young carer's application?**

If a support worker, teacher, or health professional is listed as a contact person for the young carer they will be able to enquire or make changes to a young carer's record. In this instance the best approach would be to call with the young carer, so that they are available to provide verbal consent and they can learn more about the process while being supported.



**20 I am supporting a young carer who lives with a disability or mental illness, and they require support with their application. Can our organisation be listed to on their application to contact Carers Australia on their behalf?**

Yes. If a support worker, teacher, or health professional is listed as a contact person on a young carer's application they will be able to enquire as to the progress of their application, but we will not provide personal information about the young carer to the organisation. The best approach would be to call with the young carer, so that they are available to provide verbal consent and they can learn more about the process while being supported.

**21 What if a young carer is over 18 and needs support?**

As above, if a young carer is over 18 and needs support, a support worker, teacher, or health professional can be listed as a contact person on the young carer's application. They will be able to enquire as to the progress of the young carer's application, but we will not provide any personal information to them. The best approach would be to call us with the young carer, so that they are available to provide verbal consent and they can learn more about the process while being supported.

**22 A young Carer has been shortlisted for the bursary but cannot provide proof of enrolment at this stage.**

As long as all other documents are uploaded and the young carer has ticked the declaration that they intend to study next year we will conditionally approve their bursary – which will hold a bursary for them until proof of enrolment can be provided.

**23 How much are payments and when will they start?**

Young Carers will receive \$2,000 at the start of the year. They will then receive a second payment of \$1,000 in June after completing the midyear survey in May.

**24 A young carer needs a statement of earnings in relation to the bursary.**

We do not provide statements but do send remittance advices via email once a payment has been made. Further information in relation to exempt income for Centrelink purposes can be found [here](#).

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

The quality 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 advise them to apply again next year.

Encourage the young carer to remain in contact with their local carers organisation to ensure 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.



# Social Media Kit

To download the social media kit, [click here](#).

## A4 Poster



**The Young Carer Bursary is now open for application.**

If you care for a loved one and are studying, you may be eligible.

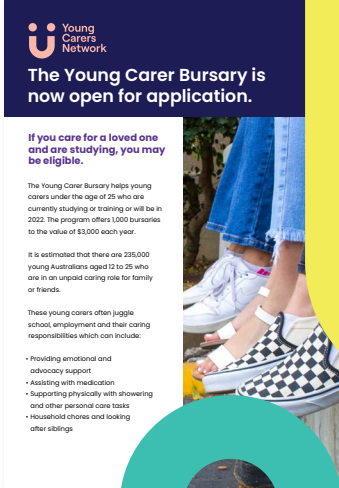
Head over to our website for more information on the Young Carer Bursary.

**Apply today** [youngcarersnetwork.com.au](http://youngcarersnetwork.com.au)

For general queries you can contact the Carers Australia – Young Carer Team.  
Email: [ca@youngcarersnetwork.com.au](mailto:ca@youngcarersnetwork.com.au)  
Phone: 1800 746 238



## A5 Flyer



**Young Carers Network**

**The Young Carer Bursary is now open for application.**

**If you care for a loved one and are studying, you may be eligible.**

The Young Carer Bursary helps young carers under the age of 25 who are currently studying or training or will be in 2022. The program offers 1,000 bursaries to the value of \$1,000 each year.

It is estimated that there are 238,000 young Australians aged 12 to 25 who are in an unpaid caring role for family or friends.

These young carers often juggle school, employment and their caring responsibilities which can include:

- Providing emotional and advocacy support
- Assisting with medication
- Supporting physically with showering and other personal care tasks
- Household chores and looking after siblings



**Why should young carers apply?**

As a young carer balancing education and caring responsibilities can be difficult. It can often cause financial stress and/or 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.

This could include:

- school fees
- laptops and software
- stationary
- uniforms
- school camps
- transport and accommodation
- respite care
- emotional support
- extracurricular activities

**Applications are open from 16 August until 30 September and can be submitted through [youngcarersnetwork.com.au](http://youngcarersnetwork.com.au)**

For general queries you can contact the Carers Australia – Young Carer Team.  
Email: [ca@youngcarersnetwork.com.au](mailto:ca@youngcarersnetwork.com.au)  
Phone: 1800 746 238



## Social Media Tiles



**Young Carers Network**

**Applications open now**

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



**Young Carers Network**

**Applications closing soon**

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



**Young Carers Network**

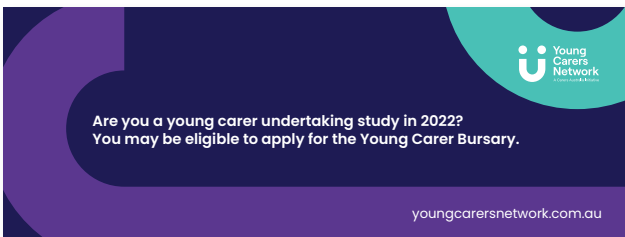
**Support for young carers**

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

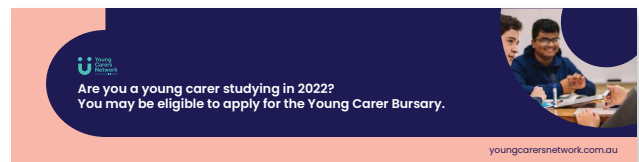
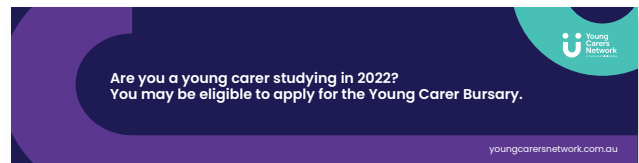


# Social Media Kit

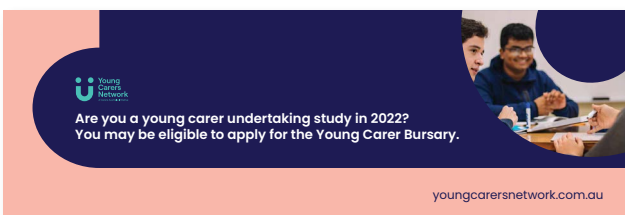
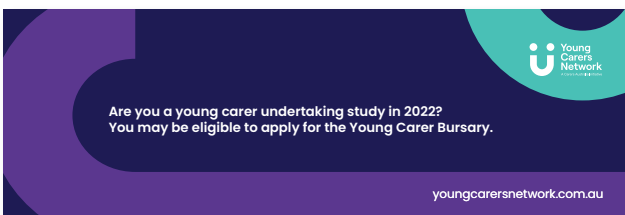
## Facebook Banners



## LinkedIn Banners

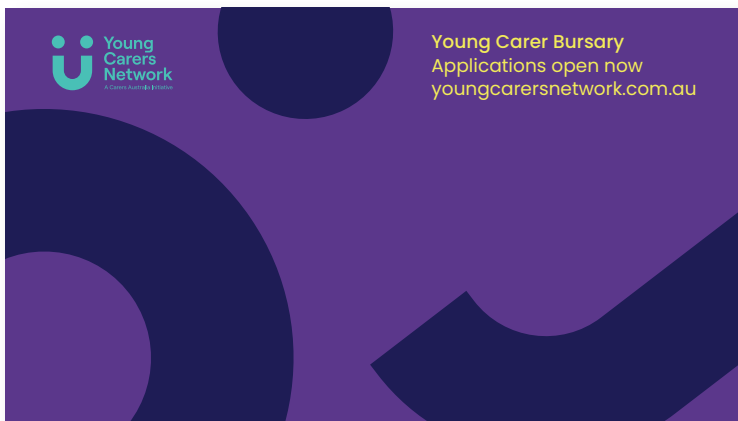


## Twitter Banners



# Social Media Kit

## Zoom/Teams Background



## Newsletter EDM



## Promotional EDM





# Support for your organisation

The Young Carers Bursary Team is available to support you and your team to enable young carers and their supporters to 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 facilitate 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](http://youngcarersnetwork.com.au)
- Promote youth and family focussed events
- Provide Young Carers Network merchandise

# We want to hear from you

We enjoy hearing about your positive experiences and how the YCBP has made a difference in the life of Young Carers.

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 or feedback to:

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

**Phone:** 6122 9900

**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](http://youngcarersnetwork.com.au)

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

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



**1800 756 238**



**[ca@youngcarersnetwork.com.au](mailto:ca@youngcarersnetwork.com.au)**



**[Carers Australia](#)**



**[@CarersAustralia](#)**



**[@CarersAustralia](#)**



**[@youngcarersnetwork](#)**

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