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| Regional Disability Worker Scholarships |
| Round 2 - Frequently asked questions |
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# About the scholarships

## What are the Regional Disability Worker Scholarships?

The Regional Disability Worker Scholarships (RDWS) provide a one-time payment of $3,500 to assist students enrolled in a disability course. These scholarships are designed to help students in regional or rural Victoria and defined border communities. They do this by easing the financial burden of the mandatory unpaid placement component of their studies.

# Eligibility

## What courses are eligible for this program?

To apply for this program, you must be enrolled in oneof the following courses:

* Certificate IV in Disability Support (CHC43121)
* Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability) (CHC33021).

Applicants studying CHC33021 as part of the dual Ageing and Disability specialisation are eligible if they meet the below eligibility criteria related to this course code.

## How much of my course do I need to have completed if I study Certificate IV in Disability Support (CHC43121)?

You must have commenced or completed one or both of the following units by the time that your application is assessed:

* **CHCDIS018**: Facilitate ongoing skills development using a person-centred approach
* **HLTWHS003**: Maintain work health and safety.

## How much of my course do I need to have completed if I study Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability and dual Ageing and Disability) (CHC33021)?

You must have commenced or completed at least 1 of the 3 disability electives by the time that your application is assessed:

* **CHCDIS011**: Contribute to ongoing skills development using a strengths-based approach
* **CHCDIS012**: Support community participation and social inclusion
* **CHCDIS020**: Work effectively in disability support.

**And**

You must have commenced or completed at least 9 of the 15 units within the Certificate III in Individual Support. (Disability and dual Ageing and Disability specialisation) by the time that your application will be assessed.

## I have not yet commenced or completed all the required units but will later in the year. Can I still apply?

Yes. You can apply if you will meet the eligibility criteria by the time your application is assessed in October 2025.

## When do I need to complete my course by to be eligible for this program?

You are eligible to apply for round 2 of the program if:

* you have completed your course on or after 1 November 2024; or
* you plan to complete your course by 30 June 2026.

## Can I apply for this program if I completed my course before 1 November 2024?

You are not eligible to apply for this program.

## Can I apply for this program if I complete my course after 30 June 2026?

You are not eligible to apply for round 2 of this program.

You may be eligible for round 3 if you meet the eligibility criteria at that time. Details of round 3 (2026) will be published on the [RDW Scholarships website](https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/regional-disability-worker-scholarships)[[1]](#footnote-2) at a later date.

## Can I apply for this program if I was unsuccessful in a previous round?

If you are, or have been previously, unsuccessful in your application, you may apply in a future round if you meet the eligibility criteria at that time. Each new application will be assessed based on its own merit during the relevant application round.

## I missed the application deadline. Can I submit a late application?

No. We are unable to accept any late applications.

## Do I need to be a domestic student to apply for this program?

Yes. You must be a domestic student to apply for this program.

A domestic student is either one of the following:

* an Australian citizen
* a New Zealand citizen (or a holder of a dual citizenship with either Australia or New Zealand)
* an Australian permanent resident
* an Australian permanent humanitarian visa holder.

## Where do I need to be training to apply for this program?

You must be training or have recently completed training at Victoria at an approved TAFE or Skills First Victorian training provider.

## Where do I need to live to apply for this program?

Your primary address must be located within regional or rural Victoria or a defined border community.

Please refer to appendices 3 and 4 of the program guidelines for a complete list of eligible local government areas.

## I am completing my course via distance education while living interstate. Can I still apply for a scholarship?

No. If you do not live in regional or rural Victoria, or in a defined border community, you cannot apply for this scholarship.

## I am training via distance education while living in Victoria. Can I still apply for a scholarship?

No. You must be studying at an approved Victorian TAFE or Skills First Victorian training provider to apply for this scholarship.

## I can’t find my training provider on the list of approved Victorian TAFE or Skills First Victorian training providers. Can I still apply for a scholarship?

No. You must be studying at an approved Victorian TAFE or Skills First Victorian training provider to apply for this scholarship.

## Am I guaranteed the scholarship if I meet the eligibility criteria?

No. The program has a limited number of scholarships available. Eligible applicants are not guaranteed a scholarship.

## I have not identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and/or having a disability with my training provider. Will this affect my application for a scholarship?

Scholarship applications will be verified using the information that training providers have for you. It may affect your application for a scholarship if your application does not match the information from training providers.

We recommend you consider updating your personal information with your training provider **before** you apply for the scholarship, if you would like this information to be taken into consideration.

# Application and Assessment

## How do I apply?

You must apply online on the [RDW Scholarship website](https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/regional-disability-worker-scholarships)[[2]](#footnote-3)

## When do I need to apply by?

Applications for round 2 open on 21 July 2025 and close on 15 September 2025.

You must submit your application by 4pm 15 September 2025. Late applications will **not** be accepted.

## Why do I need to update my details with my training provider?

We check your eligibility based on the information held by your training provider. If that information is outdated or incorrect, it could affect your eligibility and/or prioritisation for the program.

## When will I know the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application in December 2025.

The outcome notice will be sent to the email address you provided in your application form. If you are successful, we will provide you with further information on how to claim your scholarship.

## If successful, when will I receive the scholarship?

If you have been notified that your application is successful, you will need to:

* provide your bank account details
* complete a Scholarship Acceptance Agreement.

You will need to provide these by the nominated due date. Otherwise, you will not receive the scholarship. There will be no exceptions under any circumstances. Once you complete these steps, you will receive a one-time payment of $3,500 in your nominated bank account during December 2025.

## If I am awarded a scholarship but my placement does not proceed, can I still receive the scholarship payment?

You are responsible for informing the program team via email if there are any changes that affect your eligibility. If you do not undertake your unpaid placement, you might not be able to keep the scholarship payment and may need to return the money.

You can email the Department of Government Services (DGS) RDWS@grants.vic.gov.au.

## What happens if I defer or withdraw from my studies?

If you exit your course or take a leave of absence, you might not be able to keep the scholarship payment and may need to return the money.

In some cases, if you take a leave of absence for reasons beyond your control, the scholarship may be held for you. You will need to provide sufficient reasons and/or evidence to be considered for this. The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) may also seek information from your course provider to confirm an approved leave of absence.

You can email DGS RDWS@grants.vic.gov.au.

## How will my information be used?

Your information will be used to check if you qualify for the program. It may be shared and verified by:

* eligible training providers
* Victorian Government departments (including DFFH, DGS, and DJSIR)
* the Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department.

By accepting a RDW Scholarship, you agree that your information can be used to monitor and evaluate the program. All information will be deidentified and treated in accordance with the privacy statement set out in the program guidelines.

## Who do I contact for further information?

For further information, please visit the [visit the RDW Scholarship website](https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/regional-disability-worker-scholarships) https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/regional-disability-worker-scholarships. If you have any further questions, you can email DGS RDWS@grants.vic.gov.au.

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1. https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/regional-disability-worker-scholarships [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/regional-disability-worker-scholarships [↑](#footnote-ref-3)