

MEDIA RELEASE



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Education/training bursaries open to young carers

"Tomorrow (2 August) is the opening of the application process for the Young Carer Bursary Programme," Carers Australia CEO, Ara Cresswell said today.

"This important initiative provides young carers across Australia with the opportunity to apply for financial support so they can remain in, or return to, education or training while continuing their caring role.

"Young carers between the ages of 12 and 25 are eligible, and are able to apply for a bursary until 14 September."

There are more than 300,000 young carers in Australia, caring for someone with a disability, mental health issue, illness, alcohol or other drug problem, or who are frail aged. Young carers may help out with cleaning or cooking, getting a relative or friend about the house, helping with medication, keeping them safe, showering or dressing them, or just watching out to make sure they're OK.

"The Australian Government invested \$3.5 million over three years for the Young Carer Bursary Programme, which means more than 300 bursaries at \$3,000 each will be awarded in this round. Last year we received more than 900 applications," Ara said.

"Feedback from successful bursary recipients is heartwarming and an indication that even the smallest funding support can make a huge difference in the life of a young carer."

"I want to thank you for your support and the opportunities you have given me with this bursary. In the last five years since I dropped out of high school to care for my mother, I have been trying to approach tertiary education with the goal of entering university. With the help of this bursary I have finally been able to complete an access program that grants entry into a bachelor's degree, which I completed with a High Distinction average grade. I can now see a future for myself despite the difficulties of being a carer, and for that I am grateful."

"This response is typical of the feedback we receive. These bursaries are making a real difference to the lives of young carers, and this flows on to their family environment," Ara said.

"So if you are a young carer who is looking to continue studying at high school or TAFE, an apprenticeship or as an undergraduate at university, check the eligibility requirements and apply for a bursary now. Further information and the online application can be accessed via bursaries.youngcarers.net.au"

Information is also available by emailing yebursaries@carersaustralia.com.au or phoning 1800 756 238.

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