

Youth Education Bursary

Council Policy



Owner	Elected Members		
Responsible Officer	Director Community Development		
Decision Number	R-236-2026		
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1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide the community, applicants, recipients and Elected Members across all components of the Alice Springs Town Council's (Council) Youth Education Bursary.

2 Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
Bursary	Form of financial assistance provided to help someone with the costs of education and study expenses
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
Young people	For the purpose of this policy, this applies to persons aged between 15-25 years

3 Policy Statement

Council is committed to creating opportunities for young people to pursue further education through an annual Youth Education Bursary. Council's selection process aims to be fair, equitable, inclusive and capable of withstanding public scrutiny.

Council is committed to supporting equitable access to the program. As part of this commitment, Council encourages applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and also promotes awareness of the program across the community to support a broad interest and participation.

3.1 Youth Education Bursary

Every financial year, Council offers up to four, individual bursaries for young people to undertake study at school, TAFE or university. Recipients are expected to apply the funds towards education-related expenses and to use the bursary in a responsible manner consistent with its intended purpose.

3.2 Applicant eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

- be a resident of the Alice Springs Town Council Local Government area as per the Northern Territory Electoral Commission
- be aged between 15-25 years at the time of application
- be currently studying or planning to undertake study at an Australian university or TAFE, or at an Alice Springs secondary school.

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3.3 Assessment criteria

Applicants will be assessed against the following criteria using a weighted scoring system as outlined in the Assessment Framework. These factors include:

- a) demonstrated commitment to education through academic achievement, educational accomplishments or participation in extracurricular activities
- b) demonstrated involvement in community activities, volunteer initiatives, or leadership programs
- c) evidence of financial need, as per the Assessment Framework
- d) how the bursary will support the applicant's educational goals.

3.4 Selection

Applications are assessed by appropriate Council Officers and Elected Members based in accordance with 3.2 and 3.3.

The recommended applicants are provided to Council for endorsement by Elected Members, with bursaries presented at the Australia Day Citizenship and Awards Ceremony.

3.5 Bursary value and payment process

The total bursary value per successful applicant is \$2500. Before payment is made, Council requires a copy of a study acceptance letter for TAFE and University students, including a study commencement date, or an enrolment confirmation for secondary school students.

3.6 Deferral

Council acknowledges students planning to attend University or TAFE may decide to defer their enrolment. Council may consider deferral requests based on individual circumstances, for a maximum of 12 months from the scheduled start date of enrolment.

3.6.1 Forfeit of bursary

Council reserves the right to forfeit and/or request repayment of the full bursary amount if the recipient:

- (a) cancels their enrolment, or
- (b) does not attend the university, TAFE or school to complete their classes/study without receiving an approved deferral.

Consideration will be given for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

3.7 Reporting for successful recipients

Successful recipients agree to be contacted by Council Officers during their education with update and reporting requests.

4 Responsibilities

Director Community Development is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

5 Related Legislation and Documents

- Conflict of Interest Policy – Elected Members
- Conflict of Interest Policy – CEO & Employees
- Youth Education Bursary Assessment Framework

6 Communication and Training

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Will this policy be communicated through consultation to teams?	Yes
Where will this policy be available?	Council Website
Will training needs arise from this policy? If yes, who will be responsible.	No