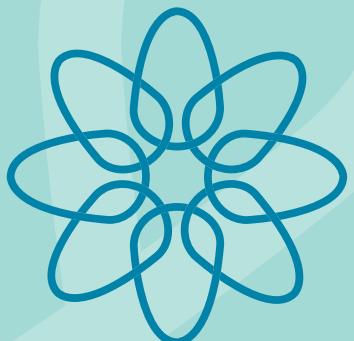


# **Your guide to getting support for tertiary education**

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**Education Support  
Program Guidelines**



# The Community Foundation

The Mirboo North & District Community Foundation (the 'Community Foundation') is a perpetual charity that focuses on the district encompassing the towns of Mirboo North, Thorpdale, Yinnar, Boolarra and Dumbalk and the many rural communities that surround these.

This community foundation was established in 2010 to invest the proceeds of the sale of the local community operated aged care facility, and to channel the earnings from its investments to the benefit of the community. It is like a community superannuation fund.

The Community Foundation's Vision is for a healthy, vibrant and resilient community working together to meet challenge and celebrate success. Its mission is to build strong communities through giving, facilitating and investing.

Together we thrive; Forever we thrive.



# The Education Support Program

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This program was started back in 2013 with a focus on assisting students in transitioning to tertiary education. For the first five years, the focus was solely on financial support for students in making this transition, being one of the primary challenges faced by the students in our District.

Since 2018 the program has also included opportunities for mentoring and leadership development through a collaboration with Youthrive Victoria. This support acknowledges the developmental challenges rural students face in this transition, particularly when they move away from support networks to take up their education (indicated by high drop-out rates).

## The Education Support Awards

These provide financial support to students in our District to help overcome the financial challenges of accessing tertiary education. The Education Support awards can be used for relocation costs, bonds, rent, course materials etc. These awards are distributed each year in February to the successful recipients.

The Community Bank Mirboo North & District has long been a supporter of the Education Support awards, through donations and the creation of the Community Bank and Co-operative Fund.

More recently the Community Bank Mirboo North & District has agreed to sponsor two-year Education Support Awards for two students leaving Secondary College and heading to University. These students receive a \$3,000 Education Support Award in their first and second year of University.

## To date

We have given \$250,000 in Education Support Awards to young people and mature aged students beginning tertiary education for the first time.

## Who can apply?

- People enrolled in or intending to enrol in their first year of a recognised course of study in the following year. (A recognised course is a course approved by Australian registration authority.)
- Residents of or people with a strong demonstrable connection to the Mirboo North District (including Allambee, Berry's Creek, Boolarra, Budgeree, Childers, Darlimurla, Delburn, Dumbalk, Hallston, Mardan, Mirboo North, Mirboo, Narracan, Thorpdale and Yinnar and the many rural communities in between).
- Australian citizens, permanent residents and applicable visa holders.

## What can the ES award be used for?

- Course fees
- Expenses related to living away from home (including rent / board)
- Expenses directly related to the course being undertaken (e.g. books, laptop, materials)

## When do I apply?

Applications generally open in September and close in November. See our website for exact dates.

# Assessment Criteria

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The assessment focuses on the challenges facing applicants in accessing tertiary education: distance to access tertiary courses, moving away from support networks, personal challenges, financial challenges or health issues. The application form includes various types of challenges and the applicant should tick all that apply to their circumstances and then explain those in a bit more detail further down the form.

The application does also ask for detail on how the Education Support award will assist the applicant in their educational journey.

## Successful applicants?

Applicants will be notified in the second week of December whether they have been successful. The awards evening will take place in early February (attendance is required).

# Mentoring and Rural Youth Leadership Program

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The costs associated with studying at University or TAFE is only one of the challenges facing our students. Research indicates that a lack of support in settling into a new environment is equally challenging, as students have moved away from their various support networks.

## What is the purpose of the Mentoring Program?

The Youthrive Victoria Mentoring Program provides a peer to peer support network for students transitioning to university. They will be assigned a mentor (who is a second or third year student in the same university or doing the same course) to act as a source of information and guidance both about their course and their University. Previous students report how important this informal peer support has been to them.

[Find out more:](#)

## What is the purpose of the Rural Youth Leadership Program?

The Rural Youth Leadership Program is aimed at developing personal and leadership skills for rural students to enhance their studies and to reach their full potential as future leaders in their rural communities and bring further benefits back to our District in the future.

[Find out more:](#)

# Application Procedure

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Each student shall complete an application form and ensure that at least one Referee completes a reference form on their behalf.

[The Application Form and the Referee Form are available online at:](#)

For any queries, please email:  
info@mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au

Applications will be evaluated by the Community Engagement & Grant Sub-Committee and recommended to the Board of Directors for final approval. To ensure that informed decisions are made, on occasions, applicants may be requested to provide further information or attend an interview.

The information contained in the Applications will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to any third party without the prior written consent of the Applicant.

For more information about  
the foundation visit:  
[www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au](http://www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au)

