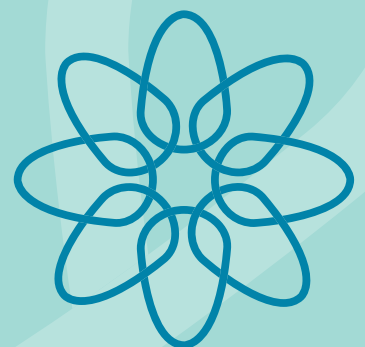


Mirboo North & District
Community Foundation

Your guide to getting the help you need!

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Education Support
Program Guidelines



The Community Foundation

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

This community 'superannuation' fund 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.

The Community Foundation's Vision is 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

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 You thrive 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

The purpose of the Education Support Awards?

To provide financial support to students in our District to help overcome the challenges of transitioning to or accessing tertiary education. Whether the challenges relate to distance / location, or their own specific circumstances, 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 Mirboo North & District Community Bank has long been a supporter of the Education Support awards, through donations and the creation of the Community Bank and Co-operative Fund. This year, the MN&D Community Bank have decided to sponsor a new two-year Education Support award for xxx students leaving Secondary College and heading to University.

Who can apply?

- People enrolled in or intending to enroll in their first year of a recognised course of study in 2021. This must be an approved curriculum and course at an Australian post compulsory institution that is recognised by Australian educational authorities.
- Australian citizens, permanent residents or people with appropriate visas.
- Residents of Mirboo North & District, or people with a strong demonstrable connection thereto. The District encompasses the townships of Allambee, Allambee South, Berry's Creek, Boolarra, Boolarra South, Budgeree, Childers, Darlimurla, Delburn, Dumbalk, Hallston, Mardan, Mirboo North, Mirboo, Narracan, Thorpdale, Yinnar and Yinnar South
- Applicants who have received funding, may apply again for the first year of another recognised course of study at an Australian post compulsory institution, but these will be considered as a lower priority.

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, laptops, materials)

Assessment criteria for the ES Support award?

Support is awarded based on the challenges facing the applicant in accessing post-secondary education. All of the residents of our District face the challenge of distance, that comes from living in a regional location. Others may face personal challenges, financial challenges or health issues.

On the application form, the applicant should tick which challenges apply to them, and then outline the challenge in a bit more detail further down the form. There is also a request to provide some detail on how an Education Support Fund award would have an impact, and some space to provide additional information which the applicant feels is relevant.

Mentoring and Rural Youth Leadership Program

The costs associated with taking up third level education is only one of the challenges facing our students. Research indicates that another challenge is that students are moving away from various support networks. In collaboration with YouThrive Victoria we offer some applicants access to a Mentoring Program and / or the Rural Youth Leadership Program.

What is the purpose of the Mentoring Program?

Mentoring is aimed at providing a 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.

[To find out more, look at:](#)

What is the purpose of the Rural Youth Leadership Program?

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

[To find out more, look at:](#)

Application Procedure

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:](#)

Please ensure that these two forms are completed on-line by Sunday 21st November 2021.

[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.](#)

Key Dates

Applications Open
13th September 2021

Applications Close
21st November 2021

Awards notified to Recipients
December 2021

Awards Evening (attendance is required)
11th February 2022

For more information about
the foundation visit:
www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au

