

Education Support Program Scholarship Applicant guidelines

For local students commencing study or training

For 2026 & 2027 scholarship applicants

Introduction

Creswick & District Financial Services Ltd (CDFS) was established to deliver banking services through the operation of a franchise agreement with Bendigo Bank. CDFS is a social enterprise, and a community-based company run “by the community, for the community”.

Being part of Bendigo Bank is about being part of something bigger. We’re proud to provide excellent banking and financial services while also giving back to the community we call home, investing in initiatives that help our local community grow, thrive and prosper. With thanks to our banking customers, we are able to offer an Education Support Program, which aims to assist local students and their families.

CDFS offers the following three scholarship programs, each with its own eligibility criteria and application requirements:

- 1. GRADE 6 TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS**
- 2. UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS**
- 3. TAFE, TRAINEESHIP & APPRENTICESHIP COMMENCEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS**

You should read these guidelines before beginning your application

Grade 6 Transition to Secondary School Scholarships

Grade 6 Transition to Secondary School Scholarships aim to assist local students, and their families, with the cost of transitioning to secondary school. Each scholarship is valued at \$500 and are offered to eligible students who meet the program criteria.

What you need to know

- ✓ Open to students who are Australian citizens or permanent residents
- ✓ Open to students from the Creswick & district region who are first time, Year 7, secondary students in 2027.
- ✓ You will need to provide evidence of your acceptance into Year 7 in 2027 (eg letter of offer).
- ✓ A demonstrated involvement in our local community will be viewed favourably.
- ✓ If there are challenging circumstances that hinder the student’s ability to undertake education, or if any extra education support is needed, please include this in your application.

Applications open on 1st November at 9am and close at 5.00pm on the 30th November 2026.

University Commencement Scholarships

University Commencement Scholarships aim to assist local first-time students entering their first year of study at an Australian Public University. Each scholarship is valued at \$5,000 and are offered to eligible students who meet the program criteria.

What you need to know

- ✓ Open to students under the age of 25 and are Australian citizens or permanent residents
- ✓ Open to students from the Creswick & district region who are first-time, first-year students studying fulltime in 2027.
- ✓ Study can be on campus and/or online.
- ✓ University study at undergraduate bachelor's degree level only.
- ✓ Any subject can be studied provided that it is an approved Australian course and study is undertaken within Australia.
- ✓ You will need to provide evidence of your acceptance into your University course.
- ✓ A demonstrated involvement in our local community with be viewed favourably.
- ✓ If there are challenging circumstances that hinder your ability to undertake education, or if any extra education support is needed, please include this in your application.

Applications open on 1st December 2026 at 9am and close at 5.00pm on the 30th January 2027.

TAFE, Traineeship & Apprenticeship Commencement Scholarships

TAFE, Traineeship & Apprenticeship commencement scholarships aim to assist local young people with the cost of commencing a vocational TAFE course, a traineeship or apprenticeship. Each scholarship is valued at \$1,000 and are offered to eligible students who meet the program criteria.

What you need to know

- ✓ Open to people under the age of 25 and are Australian citizens or permanent residents
- ✓ Open to people from the Creswick & district region who commence a vocational TAFE course, a traineeship or apprenticeship in 2026 or 2027.
- ✓ Open to people who are first-year, first-time trainees or apprentices, or who are commencing a vocational course for the first time.
- ✓ TAFE study at full time or competency-based completion (traineeships/apprenticeships) certificate, diploma, or advanced diploma level only.
- ✓ You will need to provide evidence of your acceptance into your TAFE course, Trade school or other eligible training conducted by your Registered Training provider.
- ✓ Any subject can be studied provided that it is an approved Australian course and undertaken within Australia.
- ✓ A demonstrated involvement in our local community with be viewed favourably.
- ✓ If there are challenging circumstances that hinder the applicant's ability to undertake vocational training, or if any extra education support is needed, please include this in your application.
- ✓ If you there are particular tools or other equipment that you need to purchase to undertake your vocational training, please include this in your application.

Applications are currently open and the current round closes 5pm on 30 May 2027. The next round of applications will open at 9am on 1 July 2027 and close on 30th November 2027.

To ensure that we assist as many local young people as possible, applications will be assessed and scholarships awarded on an ongoing basis.

Enquiries

Scholarship queries

Community Bank Creswick & District

Phone: 03 5345 1233

Email: admin@cdfs.com.au

For technical support with application hub

SmartyGrants—Our Community

Phone: 03 9320 6888

Email: service@smartygrants.com.au