**Seize the Day Educational Scholarships Application Guidelines**

**2024-2025**

# The Scholarship

Seize the Day Educational Scholarships are offered as part of Cancer Council Tasmania’s Under 25 Program, which supports families with children, adolescents and young adults with cancer. Seize the Day scholarships are aimed at young Tasmanians who have been impacted by cancer, to assist them in participating in post-secondary education or training.

Scholarships are awarded up to $2,000 per successful applicant. The scholarships must be used towards post-secondary education/training costs. Examples include:

* school fees (excluding HECS)
* textbooks
* stationary
* equipment
* uniforms
* transport
* student accommodation.

**Eligibility Criteria for Applicants**

In order to be considered for the scholarship applicants need to be:

* aged between 16 - 25years (at time of application).
* a permanent resident of Tasmania (if the young person has recently moved out of Tasmania for study purposes the parent/guardian must be a permanent resident of Tasmania)
* impacted by a cancer diagnosis of self or immediate family member (parent/guardian, sibling, spouse, child)
	+ the person diagnosed must have had a diagnosis or undergone treatment within 2 years of the application (exceptional circumstances outside of this timeframe will be considered on a case-by-case basis) OR
	+ the young person is bereaved by cancer (within 5 years)
* engaged in post-secondary education/training in the scholarship year including part-time or full-time study at university, TAFE, an apprenticeship or VET course or year 11 and 12 (in Tasmania only).

# Selection of Scholarship Recipients

All applications are evaluated by a Cancer Council Tasmania representative and approved the Director of Supportive Care (or delegate).

In allocating funds, Cancer Council Tasmania staff will consider the impact of the applicant’s cancer experience and the costs associated with commencing the study or training opportunity. This includes financial and educational impacts as well as emotional, psychological, physical, spiritual and other direct or indirect impacts.

# Conditions of the Scholarships

* If course deferral or a change in course is necessary, notification must be made in writing to Cancer Council Tasmania at admin@cancertas.org.au
* Once successful, applicants will be asked to provide a short biography (with an optional photo) which can be provided to the sponsors of the program. This biography should include a brief description of the cancer impact, the chosen study option and the opportunities the scholarship has awarded the young person. This can be completed with the supportive care worker during the initial interview.
* Applicants will be asked to provide a brief update 6 months following the scholarship being awarded describing the impact of the scholarship and the outcome of their studies (this could be via email, phone or survey).
* Successful applicants have the opportunity to become an ambassador of Cancer Council Tasmania and be involved in the presentations and media (media consent must be signed).
* Previous recipients of a Seize the Day Educational Scholarship **cannot** re-apply.
* Applications from members of the same family are evaluated independently and will receive a scholarship based on their own individual cancer impact.

# Application Form

## Applicants must return the completed application form, available on the Cancer Council Tasmania under 25’s webpage [Children, adolescents and young adults | Cancer Council](https://www.cancer.org.au/support-and-services/children-adolescents-young-adults/tas).

## Once the application form has been received by the Cancer Council Tasmania Supportive Care team you will then be asked to submit the accompanying information, your application cannot be assessed until the following information has been received:

* Proof of enrolment **OR** letter of offer in proposed course (the application will be assessed and in principle approval provided with the scholarship paid upon receipt of enrolment).
* Proposal that outlines how the scholarship funds will be used, including evidence of costs associated with the purchase of any goods (e.g. an itemised quote or a tax invoice).
* Health professional verification of family members diagnosis or treatment, this could include:
	+ email or letter from a health professional that has access to the clients medical record (must include diagnosis and/or treatment dates and 3 points of ID for client)
	+ excerpt of a medical record or discharge summary
	+ other methods of verification will be considered on a case-by case basis.
* Parent or guardian consent will be required for applications to proceed if the applicants is under 18 years of age.
* Photo of applicant to be used for Cancer Council Tasmania promotional purposes (optional).

# How to Submit an Application:

1. Review Seize the Day guideline to assess eligibility and required documentation, this is available on the Cancer Council Tasmania: Children, adolescents and young adults website [Children, adolescents and young adults | Cancer Council](https://www.cancer.org.au/support-and-services/children-adolescents-young-adults/tas).
2. Contact the Cancer Council Tasmania supportive care team with any questions on 1300 65 65 85 or email: under25program@cancertas.org.au.
3. Complete the application form, inclusive of accompanying documentation and email to under25program@cancertas.org.au.

Applications will be reviewed within 2 weeks of receipt of application and the supportive care team will arrange a compulsory interview with the applicant that will be undertaken over the phone. During this phone call the supportive care team member will ask questions about the young person’s cancer experience, family impact and aspirations related the scholarship.

During the interview, additional support for the young person will be offered by Cancer Council Tasmania staff inclusive of referrals to other cancer organisations as appropriate.

Additionally, during the interview Cancer Council Tasmania will work with the young person to complete a short biography which could be provided to the program sponsors, this can be kept anonymous if requested by the young person. For additional media opportunities a media consent form will need to be completed by the young person and/or parent/guardian.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application and payment made within 2-4 weeks of the phone interview taking place.

Applying for a Seize the Day Educational Scholarship requires the applicant to reflect on their individual cancer experience including personal and family information, their individual cancer experience and academic goals. For some people this may be challenging. Applicants and their families are invited to connect with Cancer Council Tasmania Support Services at any stage throughout the application process should they require support.