

Introduction

Longreach Regional Council policy is to help a Longreach Regional Council resident complete full-time or part-time and distance learning courses leading to the award of academic or vocational qualifications at recognised educational institutions, leading to employment in the local government industry.

Scholarship Guidelines

Longreach Regional Council resolved to sponsor a resident (having resided in the Regional Council area for a minimum of 5 years) of the Longreach Regional Council to assist a school leaver with expenses to study an approved academic or vocational qualification at recognised educational institutions.

One scholarship will be offered annually. Once a scholarship is awarded, Council will provided financial assistance to the successful applicant over the duration of their course, without the applicant having to re-apply.

Eligibility

Eligibility for the scholarship shall be restricted to:

- Students who have completed Year 10 or Year 12 in the (previous 5 years from date of application);
- Students who have completed Year 10 or Year 12 in the period following the closure of applications of the previous scholarship;
- Students enrolling in any academic or vocational qualification full time or part time course;
- Students of parents/guardians who currently (and have for a period of at least 5 years) reside within Longreach Regional Council;
- Students who have not previously been in receipt of this Scholarship.

How to apply for Scholarship Assistance;

In January of each year, Longreach Regional Council will call for applications by advertising the scholarship at large (including radio, print and web based media).

Intending applicants must apply in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, addressing the criteria and outline the following:

- Course and qualifications to be attained;
- Prescribed minimum course completion time;
- Institution;
- Subjects for the year in which the application is being made;
- Copy of the compulsory textbook list for the subjects;

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- Copy of scholastic results including OP and school reports for the last year of schooling;
- Costs involved;
- reasons outlining why the course is relevant to Longreach Regional Council community;
- address the criteria listed below;

Criteria for Selection

Applications should address the following criteria;

<u>Criteria</u>
1. Include a copy of the student's scholastic results;
2. Substantiate the student's aptitude for continuing education. This may include an assessment of the difficulty of gaining entry to the course, and / or a reference from the students teacher / school;
3. Statement outlining students academic ability to successfully complete the course or study;
4. Explanation of financial need. In particular; has the student received any other financial assistance besides the scholarship;
5. Achievements, or potential of the student to achieve in a field of study relevant to Longreach region;
6. Interview with Council. This may be conducted in person, or as a telephone interview with the applicant answering questions from the Council's senior management;
7. Willingness to act in an ambassadorial role promoting Longreach Regional Council

Obligation of Recipient:

- Results of each university semester must be presented to the CEO;
- Annually, a written report must be presented to the CEO;
- Results must be a Pass or higher. Council reserves the right to withhold payment or partial payment for failed or deferred subjects;
- Withdrawal of course may result in Council requiring assistance to be returned;

- To attend community functions/events to promote Longreach Regional Council and its communities i.e. Longreach, Ilfracombe, Isisford and Yaraka through public speaking at local schools, at the place of study and through local press coverage (including university newsletters).

What will costs are eligible for re-imburement?

Instalments will be paid to the recipient at the end of each semester or on completion of each stage of the course (i.e. Year 1) upon the attainment of satisfactory (pass or better) results.

Payments made under a Scholarship are intended to contribute toward the costs of registration, course fees, (including HECS), textbooks, accommodation for block release (residential) schools, to a maximum of \$250.00 per subject / module to a maximum of \$2,000 annually. Receipts must be provided for all payments i.e. Textbooks etc.

Who decides

Council will appoint a panel to decide whether an application for a Scholarship is approved. The CEO will advise the resident of any assistance provisionally approved in writing. The approval is provisional because the assistance is not granted up-front. Eligible costs may be reimbursed on evidence of satisfactory academic achievement and work performance.

Retrospective assistance

Educational assistance is not available retrospectively, so that an application for educational assistance cannot be made in respect of completed study.

Failed subjects

Reimbursement may only be claimed for successfully completed subjects. A copy of academic results will be required.

How to claim reimbursement

At the end of the semester or stage the recipient should submit the following documents to the CEO;

- copy of official academic results;
- copies of receipts for compulsory textbooks for subjects successfully completed;
- receipts for enrolment fees;

If approved, the CEO will authorise and arrange payment of the Scholarship instalments.