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Chances for Children scholarships open to ease costs for young people

Young people aged 24 and under can access financial support through Chances for Children scholarships, with applications and nominations open now until 18 January 2027.

Chances for Children is Mallee Family Care's philanthropic foundation, which has been offering scholarships to young people in the Mallee for more than 25 years.

There are three types of scholarships available. Keeping Kids at Secondary School scholarships support Year 11 and 12 students to stay in school, Non-Tertiary scholarships give young people opportunities to develop their talents, and Tertiary scholarships help young people study at university, TAFE or do an apprenticeship.

Mallee Family Care's Chief Executive Officer Teresa Jayet said that the cost of education and opportunities can stand in the way of young people reaching their potential.

"We know that for many young people in our region, the costs of staying in school, from fees and uniforms to technology and study materials, can be a barrier.

"For young people who are talented in sport, the arts and leadership, living in a regional town often means travelling long distances. With rising petrol prices, that travel is now, more than ever, something many families cannot afford," said Ms Jayet.

When Trish Pongraz, a teacher at Mildura Senior College, saw one of her Year 12 students struggling under pressures beyond his control, she nominated him for a Keeping Kids at Secondary School scholarship.

"Every student should have the opportunity to do their best. By supporting them to reach their goals, what's good for them becomes what's good for us as a community," said Ms Pongraz.

Last financial year, Chances for Children awarded 25 new scholarships. These scholarships helped local young people finish school, pursue further study or take up state-level opportunities in the arts, sport and leadership.

Chances for Children scholarships are made possible through the generous support of community organisations, businesses, philanthropic partners and individual donors.

"If you know a young person who could benefit, we encourage you to nominate them. And if you're a young person yourself, we'd love to hear from you," said Ms Jayet.

Applications are open now and close on Monday 18 January 2027.

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To apply or nominate, visit chancesforchildren.com.au or call 03 5023 5966.

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About Chances for Children Foundation

Chances for Children Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Mallee Family Care. Since 2000, the Foundation has been supporting young people aged 24 and under to pursue their education and opportunities in music, the arts, sport and leadership.

Over the past 25 years, Chances for Children has provided more than 2,250 scholarships to young people living and studying in north-west Victoria, south-west New South Wales and the communities of Broken Hill and the Greater Wakool Ward.

About Mallee Family Care

Mallee Family Care is a dedicated, place-based community service organisation that has been supporting the regional, rural and remote communities of north-west Victoria, south-west New South Wales and Far West New South Wales since 1979.

With around 300 staff delivering more than 70 programs, Mallee Family Care supports thousands of people each year. It provides vital services in areas including family and youth support, mental health, financial counselling, tenancy advocacy, legal assistance, disability services, and early childhood education and care.

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