

Variety Educational Scholarship Guidelines VIC



Introduction

Variety Victoria provides access to Educational Supplies and Technology for school children living with financial hardship, disability or chronic illness to increase and encourage their educational goals.

Applications can be made on behalf of the students under 18 years by a parent/carer or another identified support person (medical professional, caseworker, teacher etc)

Applicants will be expected to submit a truthful and factual application and attach relevant documentation as evidence.

Eligibility

- Applicants must live in Victoria.
- Applicants must be aged 5 to 17 years.
- Students must be enrolled in full-time primary, secondary or tertiary education, i.e. in school years Prep – 12, TAFE or other educational institution.
- Students who are experiencing financial disadvantage.
- Students living with a Disability or Chronic Illness

Variety Educational Scholarship requests:

1. Primary School Student Scholarship - Educational supplies up to the value of \$500 per student. Items that can be funded include textbooks, stationary, school uniforms, camps and excursions.
2. Secondary School/TAFE Student Scholarship - Educational supplies up to the value of \$1,000 per student. Items that can be funded include textbooks, stationary, school uniforms, camps and excursions.
3. Primary or Secondary Student Assistive Technology Scholarship - up to the value of \$1,000 per student. Items that can be funded include C-Pen, controllers, accessible hardware or software.
4. Laptop Scholarship – Available to Secondary School/TAFE students. Scholarship includes a pre-selected laptop (Acer or HP Laptop), laptop bag/case and delivery directly to the grant recipient prior to the school year commencing.

Scholarship **EXCLUSIONS:**

- Retrospective funding or reimbursement of any money spent prior to the scholarship being approved.
- Public/Private/Tertiary School fees.

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- Items that cannot be invoiced.
- Transport costs.

Variety Educational Scholarship Terms

1. Only one (1) Variety Scholarship of any type may be held by a child in any 12-month period.
2. Successive education grants are not guaranteed for previous recipients.
3. If unsuccessful, applicants may apply for the next round.
4. Approved scholarships may be allocated partial or full funding at the discretion of the variety Grants Committee.
5. Scholarships are valid for the advertised calendar year. All allocated funds must be spent within that period. Any unspent allocated funds will be rescinded.
6. No money is provided directly to the child or family. All invoices should be directed to "Variety the Childrens Charity of Victoria". Variety will make a direct payment to suppliers upon receipt of the invoice.
7. Invoice payments can take up to two (2) weeks.

Required Supporting Documents

The following attachments must be included as part of the application.

Professional Recommendations

All Professional Recommendation letters must be on letterhead and be no older than 2 months old. Please follow the instructions closely, as this letter is key to a successful application. Applications submitted without or with an incomplete support letter will be declined.

1. Recommendation from Education Support Person

An Education Support Person is a teacher, well-being officer or Principal from the school the student attends or will be attending. If your child is home schooled, please contact kidssupport@varietyvic.org.au before starting your application.

The letter must be on school letterhead and signed by the support person address the following points:

- How is the student known to the support person,
- Is the student expected to remain in education for at least the advertised calendar year,
- Does the student have a good school attendance record,
- How the student will benefit from the support.

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Additional requirement if applying for a laptop:

- Would the student benefit from owning their own laptop to adequately complete their studies?
- Is the student currently unable to access a laptop, OR
- Is the student's currently owned laptop/tablet inadequate for purpose.

2. Recommendation from a Health Professional

This is only required if you are applying for an Accessible Technology Scholarship. A Health Professional is an allied health professional.

The letter must be on letterhead and signed by the allied health professional and address the following points:

- Recommendation for the equipment.
- How the equipment will benefit the student .
- If the equipment has already been trialled by the student.

3. Recommendation by the student's GP/Paediatrician

This is only required if you are applying under the category of living with a Disability or Chronic Illness.

The letter must be on letterhead and signed by the child's GP/paediatrician, on letterhead and confirm the child's diagnosis or disability.

Proof of Household Income

We need to verify the total gross household income for your family. This means the total income for a single parent/carer, or the total income for both parents (if living in the same property and/or financially responsible for the young person) before any tax is deducted. It does not include superannuation.

If parents are separated and one is still contributing to the child's needs (but living outside the household), financial information for both parents is required.

It is important that you provide the correct information as we are unable to consider applications with insufficient financial evidence.

For each parent/carer who is financially responsible for the child provide one of the following documents.

1. If employed, then a copy of your most recent payslip

If parent/carer is not receiving Centrelink benefits and is employed (full time, part time or casual) provide your most recent payslip showing annual income, OR

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2. If self-employed, then a copy your most recent Tax Return

If parent/carer is not receiving Centrelink benefits and is self-employed provide your most recent tax return, OR

3. If the parent/carer is receiving Centrelink

If the parent/carer is receiving Centrelink benefits provide your most recent Centrelink Income Statement (see [Appendix 1](#)). Your Carer Payment, Job Seeker Payment or annual PAYG Centrelink Statement will not be accepted.

If you are unsure how to obtain your Centrelink Income Statement online from MyGov, please click [here](#) for instructions.

If you are unsure how to obtain your Centrelink Income Statement from the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app click [here](#) for instructions.

Assessment Process

1. Each application is assessed by the Kids Support team to confirm eligibility.
2. Eligible submissions are shortlisted and assessed by the Variety Grants Committee at the next scheduled meeting.
3. The Variety Kids Support Committee provides recommendations to the Variety Board.
4. The Variety Board reviews and ratifies the Committee recommendations.
5. The primary contact for each application is emailed the outcome.

Reasons pertaining to unsuccessful applications are at the discretion of the Committee and Variety Victoria.

Unsuccessful applicants may be eligible to reapply in the following round.

Any unused/unspent funds will be forfeited after the expiry date of the grant.

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APPENDIX 1

Example of Centrelink Income Statement

Locked Bag 7834 Canberra Bc, ACT 2610



Approved

Your statement must show your full name, or name and address (or indicates your relationship to the person whose name and address is listed).

Reference: 000 000 000B



Ms Jo Blogg
21 Cardiff Rd
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Applicant name: Rob Buggs
Application number: APL0002146
Relationship: Legal Guardian (Aunt)



centrelink

19 July 2021

This Income Statement shows information we hold about you on your Centrelink record. If you decide to show this information to anyone else for any reason, you can choose to show all the information or to block some information out.

Income Statement

DOB 28 May 2001
Customer Partnered N
Maximum Rate Youth Allowance Y
Number of Children Assessed 0

Previous regular entitlements and payments

Payment Type	Amount	Date Paid	Date of Grant
Youth Allowance	\$347.79	13 Jul 2021	12 Jul 2020
Energy Supplement	\$4.60	13 Jul 2021	12 Jul 2020
GST Component	\$6.81	13 Jul 2021	12 Jul 2020

Previous irregular payments

There are no previous irregular payments to report.

Screenshot for Centrelink

Screenshot not accepted

Payment type	Delivery date	Gross amount	Net amount
Periodic	02 Aug 2021	\$911.00	\$910.65
Carer Allowance	01 Oct 2021	\$91.90	\$91.90
Family Payments	01 Aug 2021	\$175.49	\$174.94
Payments			
Energy Supplement Part A		\$1.46	
Energy Supplement Part B		\$1.96	
Family Tax Benefit Part A		\$10.08	
Family Tax Benefit Part B		\$158.84	
Reduction for payment of an advance payment		\$27.10	
Total		\$443.98	
Periodic	27 Aug 2021	\$911.00	\$910.65

Download of payment history from your Services Australia account

View Payment History

The payment amount/date for Future Payments may change if there is a change in your circumstances, or in legislation.

Next payment **\$91.90**
Carer Allowance
Due on 29 October 2021

Last payment **\$91.90**
Carer Allowance
Delivered on 15 October 2021

Payment transaction history not accepted.

Payment history from your Services Australia account cannot be accepted.

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Payment type	Payment date	Amount
Carer Allowance	01 October 2021	\$91.90
Carer Allowance	17 September 2021	\$91.90
Carer Allowance	03 September 2021	\$91.90
Carer Allowance	20 August 2021	\$91.90
Carer Allowance	06 August 2021	\$131.90