



# Post-Separation Service Scholarships

INFORMATION BOOKLET

Post-Separation Service Scholarships for people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and/or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds for commencement in the **second half of 2015.**

Organisations funded by the Attorney-General's Department to deliver post-separation services are invited to support individual applications for scholarships that will assist people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and/or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds to undertake training in post-separation service delivery.

## Purpose

Family Relationship Services Australia (FRSA) has secured funding from the Attorney-General's Department to administer a scholarship scheme which aims to increase opportunities for people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and/or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds to undertake training in post separation service delivery. The purpose is to build workforce diversity and the capacity of post-separation family law services to respond appropriately to community needs.

Post-separation services include family counselling, relationship counselling, family dispute resolution, children's contact services, family intake and support work, family violence, community services (information, advice and referral) and community development (for relevant electives).

This scholarship application round is being conducted in April-May 2015, with successful scholarship applicants notified by end of May, early June 2015 for courses commencing in the second half of 2015. A second scholarship round, for eligible courses commencing in 2016, will be conducted in November to December 2015.

## Nominating Organisations

Only organisations funded by the Attorney-General's Department to deliver family law and post-separation services are eligible to nominate scholarship applicants. These organisations include: legal aid commissions, Family Relationship Centres, community based family dispute resolution organisations, community legal centres, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services and Family Violence Prevention Legal Services. For further information see also Family Law Services, Family Relationship Centres and Legal Assistance Programmes at <http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/Services/Pages/default.aspx>

The scholarship applicant may be a current employee, job applicant, volunteer or otherwise known to the organisation. The nominating organisation must be willing to support them throughout the training and at completion, including:

- determining suitability for a scholarship,
- identifying and engaging a registered training organisation,
- providing advice on the qualification to be obtained,
- providing work placement, supervision and on-the-job training to complement the training program,
- providing support as required,
- providing six-monthly reports and feedback to FRSA for evaluation purposes, and
- assisting with identifying any suitable job opportunities once training is completed.

FRSA will rely on the nominating organisation to confirm all claims made by the scholarship applicant.

When agreeing to support an individual, a nominating organisation should be aware that some individuals will require more intensive support relating to language and culture. This is particularly applicable for individuals who live in remote communities, have recently arrived in Australia and/or have limited competency in written and spoken English.

The scholarship will cover the full cost of the eligible course but not participation costs such as transport, accommodation, study materials etc. These costs may be covered by the scholarship applicant or the nominating organisation, by individual arrangement.

## Eligible Courses

Only nationally endorsed qualifications developed by the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council are eligible in the following areas of study. This scholarship round is for courses commencing in the second half of 2015.

Applications received for a course not identified below will be ineligible and excluded from the assessment process.

Certificate IV in Community Development	CHC40808
Certificate IV in Community Services Work	CHC40708
Certificate IV in Community Services Work (Information, Advice, Referral)	CHC42512
Certificate IV in Mediation	CHC42312
Certificate IV in Telephone Counselling Skills and Diploma of Family Intake and Support Work	CHC42212
Diploma in Community Development	CHC50708
Diploma of Counselling	CHC51712
Diploma of Family Intake and Support Work	CHC51812
Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution	CHC80308
Graduate Diploma of Relationship Counselling	CHC80208

Certificates IV in Community Development and Community Services work must contain electives that are relevant to the delivery of post-separation services such as community work, working with children and young people, domestic and family violence.

In relation to the Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution, if a student chooses to complete the 6 core units only, the scholarship applicant will need to gain accreditation under the National Mediator Accreditation Standards (NMAS) or have an appropriate qualification as defined under the Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners) Regulations 2008. Such qualifications include, for example, law, psychology, social work, conflict management, mediation or dispute

resolution. If only intending to complete the 6 units, the scholarship applicant will need to explain how they will meet the accreditation standards. Additional information on how to become an accredited family dispute resolution practitioner is accessible at:

[www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Families/FamilyDisputeResolution/Pages/Becomingafamilydisputeresolutionpractitioner.aspx](http://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Families/FamilyDisputeResolution/Pages/Becomingafamilydisputeresolutionpractitioner.aspx)

## Registered Training Organisation

The nominating organisation and scholarship applicant must agree on the eligible course to be undertaken and then partner with a registered training organisation that offers the eligible course.

The registered training organisation must assess the scholarship applicant as suitable to undertake the eligible course, including that they:

- satisfy the entry criteria,
- have a good understanding of the demands and duration of the eligible course, and
- appear to have the potential to complete the chosen level of qualification.

If a scholarship applicant is successful, the corresponding registered training organisation must enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with FRSA that outlines:

- the requirements of the registered training organisation to deliver the eligible course and support the scholarship applicant to complete the qualification,
- the requirement to comply with all relevant state and territory laws,
- the requirement that tax invoices must be provided, along with a declaration that the scholarship recipient has participated in the eligible course,
- the total value of the scholarship and an agreed payment schedule (may need to be negotiated depending on the duration and format of the eligible course), and
- contingency arrangements if the scholarship applicant withdraws from the eligible course or the eligible course can no longer be provided.

Registered training organisations in the FRSA network who have participated in previous scholarship programs administered by FRSA and deliver eligible courses are:

NSW	Australian Institute of Relationship Studies	<a href="http://www.airs.edu.au/">http://www.airs.edu.au/</a>
	Institute of Family Practice	<a href="http://www.ifp.nsw.edu.au/">http://www.ifp.nsw.edu.au/</a>
Vic	FMC Relationship Services	<a href="http://www.mediation.com.au/">http://www.mediation.com.au/</a>
	Relationships Australia Vic	<a href="http://www.relationshipsvictoria.com.au/training/training/category/6">http://www.relationshipsvictoria.com.au/training/training/category/6</a>
Qld	Bond University	<a href="http://bond.edu.au/about-bond/academia/faculty-law/dispute-resolution-centre/courses-schedules">http://bond.edu.au/about-bond/academia/faculty-law/dispute-resolution-centre/courses-schedules</a>
SA, WA, Tas, NT	Australian Institute of Social Relations	<a href="http://www.socialrelations.edu.au/">http://www.socialrelations.edu.au/</a> Note: the Australian Institute of Social Relations provides training courses in partnership with Relationships SA, WA, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

A list of all registered training organisations that deliver the eligible courses is available at [www.myskills.gov.au/](http://www.myskills.gov.au/)

General information on training courses is available at [www.training.gov.au](http://www.training.gov.au)

## Scholarship Applicants

Scholarship applicants must be prepared to undertake the full requirements of the eligible course, including placements, within the completion period as defined by the registered training organisation.

Scholarship applicants must familiarise themselves with eligible course requirements and all pre-requisites and ensure that they are capable of completing the course and satisfying all entry requirements.

Scholarship applicants will be required to respond to six-monthly surveys on their progress and provide feedback to FRSA for evaluation purposes.

Scholarships are restricted to applicants who can demonstrate Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and/or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.

Scholarship applicants should seek the assistance of the nominating organisation and the registered training organisation if any issues arise that may impact on their capacity to complete the eligible training course.

Scholarship applicants must immediately advise their registered training organisation and FRSA if they are unable to complete their training.



## Costs covered

Each scholarship will cover all registered training organisation costs associated with the eligible course. The course fee, including GST, must be identified on the Application Form.

The scholarships may also cover additional training costs such as language/translation costs but only those directly incurred by the registered training organisation. The scholarship will not cover out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the scholarship applicant such as transport and accommodation. The scholarship will also not cover expenses incurred by the nominating organisation, such as work placement, mentoring, supervision or other support costs.

## Number of Scholarships

Offers will only be made to cover the full costs of the eligible training course noting that costs vary across eligible courses. The scheme will not partly fund/ subsidise courses.

The total funds available for 2015-16 are \$140,250 (GST inclusive). It is proposed to allocate half of the funds in 2015 and the remainder in 2016, although this may change depending on the applications received.

## Assessment process

Applications must be submitted using the Application Form. Incomplete application forms will not be accepted. Applications will be assessed and ranked by FRSA and an AGD representative. The assessment process will take into account the merit of the application and hardship of the scholarship applicant. The assessment process will aim for an even mix of:

- gender,
- age,
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds,
- applications from states and territories,
- eligible courses,
- nominating organisations, and
- registered training organisations.

If a scholarship recipient withdraws from a course, FRSA will refer to the ranked listing of applicants to identify a suitable replacement. This may be the next ranked applicant or the next applicant that most closely aligns with the profile of the withdrawn recipient.

## Submitting the application

Please ensure that each page of the Application Form is completed and signed by the appropriate person. These documents should be emailed to FRSA at:

- [projects@frsa.org.au](mailto:projects@frsa.org.au) by 12 May 2015

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by end of May 2015. If successful, scholarship recipients will receive an email and letter advising them of the outcome. FRSA will contact the registered training organisation to organise the Memorandum of Understanding and payment details.

Cover image courtesy of The Smith Family.



Thank-you for your interest and  
good luck with your application