### **Youthrive Victoria – Rural Chances Scholarships**

### We know there are many great young rural Victorians looking for work or opportunities to train further and build their skills. We also know there are often many barriers to achieving these goals. To address these issues, Youthrive Victoria and its supporters have created Rural Chances Scholarships.

**Rural Chances can help if you:**

* Have to travel long distances or move away from home to gain qualifications, or
* Struggle with the many expenses associated with training and building your skills, and
* Want to fill a skills gap in rural Victoria, and
* Would like mentoring and networking opportunities.

## What do you get with a Rural Chances Scholarship?

For 2020, there are at least **10 scholarships valued at $5000** to assist young people to move away from their home town or to assist with extensive travel required to complete training qualifications.

Additionally, at least **10 smaller scholarships of up to $2000** are available for specific items to support training. Applicants must identify what they need, how much it will cost and why they need it to complete their study. These smaller amounts can be used for equipment, course fees, tools of trade, travel costs, materials etc.

**Who are these scholarships for?**

RURAL CHANCES scholarships are for young rural Victorians who are facing significant financial or social challenges, who have career aspirations and want to/or are studying at TAFE or undertaking an apprenticeship.

To meet the eligibility criteria applicants will need to:

* Be 16-24 years of age;
* Hold a current Centrelink health care card, or can provide evidence of significant financial hardship;
* Identify a TAFE qualification (Certificate III or above) they would like to enrol in or are enrolled in OR an apprenticeship they would like to undertake;
* Be planning to train in a skill area where there are skills shortages in rural/regional Victoria;
* Be willing to have a mentor supporting their learning;
* Be willing to be accountable for the use of scholarship funds;
* Be willing to participate in publicity/promotional material and research.

**How to apply:**

The application process is very straightforward! It’s all done online and shouldn’t take too long – just follow these steps:

* Check to make sure you meet the eligibility criteria.
* Click the ‘Apply now!’ button to open the application form.
* Enter your details into the required spaces and answer the application questions (you can choose to answer **in writing** or with a **short video**).
* You’ll also need to provide one written reference to support your application.
* You should also provide the name of another referee who can confirm there is a need for your trade/ qualification in rural Victoria.
* Once you’ve entered your details and responses to the application questions, just click ‘Submit’, and you’re all done!
* You should receive a confirmation email to let you know your application has been received.
* Your application will be assessed by our assessment panel in October 2020. You *may* be called to an interview in December 2020. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in December 2020.

**Who should my references be from?**

You’ll need to provide one written reference to support your application. This reference is a general personal reference from someone who knows you well. This reference should provide details of your personal qualities, your potential and your genuine need. The referee can be a teacher, employer, family friend, family member or someone else who knows you well.

You’ll also need to provide the name and contact number of someone who is working in the area you are interested in or who knows there is a need for skilled workers in this trade/vocation in rural Victoria. This person could be an employer, a business person, a community leader or someone else who can explain the need for your future skills in rural areas.

For full details go to the website - <https://www.youthrivevictoria.org.au/scholarships/rural-chances/>

Nhill College staff Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Hedt are more than happy to help students with their applications.

