

# Aboriginal Education Council (AEC) Scholarship – 2026

The AEC Scholarship supports Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in NSW public high schools to complete Years 11 and 12. It's a great opportunity to get financial help and support during your final school years.

## What you get

Support	Value
Year 11	\$1,000
Year 12	\$1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>

Use the scholarship for school related expenses like:

- Laptop, iPad, or printer
- Software and stationery
- Uniforms and school shoes
- Textbooks and school supplies
- Internet and study furniture
- School camps and excursions
- VET-related work experience
- Face-to-face or online tutoring

## Who can apply

To be eligible you must:

- Be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Be in Year 10 in 2025
- Be enrolled in a NSW public high school
- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
  - An Australian citizen is a person who holds Australian citizenship and can provide valid documentation such as a citizenship certificate, Australian passport, or eligible birth certificate
  - A permanent resident is a non-citizen who holds a permanent residency visa granted by the Department of Home Affairs, allowing them to live, work, and study in Australia indefinitely
  - A New Zealand citizen residing in Australia is a New Zealand citizen who holds a Special Category Visa (subclass 444) and is living in Australia
  - A refugee or humanitarian visa holder is a person who holds a visa granted under Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program (e.g., subclass 200, 201, 202, 203, 204 or 866)

## What we're looking for

Your application should show:

- Strong potential to succeed at school
- Good attitude and school attendance
- Intention to complete the HSC and pursue further study or training
- Some form of disadvantage that affects your ability to achieve
- Participation in school, community, or extracurricular activities
- Connection to your Indigenous community

## What you'll need to apply

Applications must be completed online, through [PEF Apply](https://pefapply.com).  
<https://pefapply.com>

## Information you'll need to provide

- Personal and school info
  - Your, and your parent/guardian's contact details
  - School name, principal's name and email
  - A school contact person for communication
- Background info
  - Cultural background and family details
  - Disability, care, or language information (if applicable)
- Written responses
  - Why you're applying (up to 400 words)
  - Your post-HSC plans (up to 150 words)
  - How your subject choices/work experience support your goals (up to 250 words)
  - How you would use the scholarship money (up to 150 words)
- Documents to upload
  - Most recent school report
  - Reference from an Aboriginal community member (up to 400 words)
  - Supporting statement from your school principal – requested through the portal (avoid generic references as they will weaken your application)

## Important dates

Deadline	Detail
Friday, 19 September 2025 (5:00pm)	Final date to submit your complete application

Successful applicants will be **notified in December 2025**.

## Need a paper version?

You must apply online, but these items can be handwritten and uploaded if needed:

- Aboriginal Community Member Reference
- Signed Terms and Conditions

Request a paper version: [scholarships@publiceducationfoundation.org.au](mailto:scholarships@publiceducationfoundation.org.au)

## Got a question?

Reach out to the Public Education Foundation:

Email [scholarships@publiceducationfoundation.org.au](mailto:scholarships@publiceducationfoundation.org.au)

Phone 02 7814 2806

Website <https://publiceducationfoundation.org.au>

We also encourage you to visit our website to learn more about the work we do – and tell your family and friends.