

# **AEC SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP**

Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through Year 11 and 12, so financial pressure doesn't stand between you and your future



## Overview of Scholarship

The AEC Secondary Scholarship supports Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in NSW public high schools to complete Years 11 and 12. Delivered in partnership with the [Aboriginal Education Council](#), the scholarship recognises the importance of a strong, culturally connected Indigenous voice in public education and aims to remove some of the financial and personal barriers that can make the transition into senior schooling harder than it needs to be.

Starting in Year 11, recipients receive ongoing financial support through to the end of Year 12 – covering the two years when subject choices, HSC preparation and decisions about life after school really start to take shape. It's a great opportunity to get financial help and support during your final school years, while also being recognised as part of a broader community of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students moving toward further study, training or employment.

**Is this scholarship for you?** It's open to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students in Year 10 in 2027, enrolled in a NSW public high school, who plan to continue through to Year 12.



## Eligibility Criteria

To apply, students must be:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- In Year 10 in 2027
- Enrolled in a NSW public high school
- Experiencing disadvantage – e.g. financial hardship



## Selection Process

Applications are assessed on the strength of the following:

- 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



## Funding/Assistance

- \$2,000 total contribution per student over two years (\$1,000 per year)
- Funds are paid directly to your school (by prepaid Visa card)
- To receive your Year 12 payment, you'll need to remain enrolled, keep up your academic performance and attendance, and let PEF know about any significant changes (like changing schools)
- Scholarship funds must be used in line with the acceptable use guidelines below; misuse of funds can affect your ongoing eligibility
- Let PEF know if your contact details, school, or circumstances change, so they can keep supporting you without delays

## Acceptable Use of Scholarship Funds

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

[PEF Scholarship Funds Usage Guidelines](#) will be provided to each scholarship recipient and their school.

## Application Form

### Written Components

- Why you're applying (max. 400 words)
- Your post-HSC plans (max. 150 words)
- How your subject choices/work experience support your goals (max. 250 words)
- How you would use the scholarship money (max. 150 words)

### Specific Information

- Personal and school info – your and your parent/guardian's contact details, school name, principal's name and email, and a school contact person for communication
- Background info – cultural background and family details, and disability, care, or language information (if applicable)
- Your most recent school report
- A reference from an Aboriginal community member (max. 400 words)
- A supporting statement from your school principal, requested through the portal

Note for references: avoid generic references, as they will weaken your application.



## How to Apply

**Not sure which scholarships you're eligible for?** Complete the Eligibility Quiz to see all scholarships that may apply to you. Apply online via [PEF-Apply](#). You will need to sign up before you can access the application form. Make sure all sections are complete before you submit.

## Submitting Your Application

- Applications open: June 2026
- Applications close: September 2026

You can save your application in progress and return to it at any time before the closing date. Once you click Submit, your application is sent to the Public Education Foundation and will be reviewed during the Panel assessment period. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in December.



## Further Information and Contact Details

For further information, please contact the Public Education Foundation Scholarships team:

- Email: [scholarships@publiceducationfoundation.org.au](mailto:scholarships@publiceducationfoundation.org.au)
- Phone: 02 7814 2806