



TEACHERS HEALTH EARLY CAREER SCHOLARSHIP

Early in your career. Serious about your practice.



Overview of Scholarship

Teachers Health Group was created by teachers for teachers more than 70 years ago. It has since grown into Australia's largest industry-based health fund and one of the country's leading not-for-profit health insurers, and it remains the only health fund in Australia dedicated to teachers, educators, nurses and midwives. Through the Teachers Health, Nurses and Midwives Health, UniHealth, TUH and Union Health brands, it looks after the education, nursing and midwifery communities and their families.

Alongside caring for the health and wellbeing of its members, Teachers Health Group gives back to those communities through scholarships, sponsorships and health and wellbeing programs. The Teachers Health Early Career Scholarship is part of that commitment. It backs teachers at the point where good professional learning makes the biggest difference – the first years in the classroom.

Recipients receive \$12,000 to spend on approved professional development or professional learning. This can be a single course or a set of activities built around your own goals and the needs of your school.

Is this scholarship for you? If you are teaching in an Australian government school, are early in your career and have a clear idea of the professional learning you want to do, this scholarship is for you. You will need your Principal's backing and a commitment to stay in public education. If this one does not fit your circumstances, PEF's [Eligibility Quiz](#) on PEF-Apply will match you to the scholarships that do.



Eligibility Criteria

To apply for the Teachers Health Early Career Scholarship, you must:

- be a full-time permanent teacher in an Australian government school and be within the first three years of your teaching career, or be a current teacher in the first five years of your teaching career in an Australian government school
- be committed to continuing as a teacher in the government school system for at least another five years
- be available to share your learnings and act as an ambassador for the Public Education Foundation and Teachers Health Group after your professional development experience
- have the support of your Principal, who must provide a written reference confirming their commitment to supporting your study and releasing you from teaching if that is required

Please also note:

- you will be asked for your residence status as part of your application
- you can hold only one Public Education Foundation scholarship at a time
- this scholarship is not intended to be shared with colleagues in terms of participation in the professional development itself. Sharing what you learn with colleagues is expected to happen after you have completed your learning
- before applying, please read [PEF's Teachers, Principals and Executives Terms and Conditions](#)

Selection Process

A selection panel reviews all applications and assesses them against the selection criteria. The panel includes representatives of the Public Education Foundation, Teachers Health Group and independent experts. The panel may ask shortlisted applicants to take part in an interview.

After considering all applications, the panel recommends the selected applicants for approval by the Public Education Foundation Board.

Applications are assessed against the following criteria:

- evidence of significant potential as a classroom teacher
- commitment to the values of public education
- capability for leadership into the future
- enthusiasm for furthering your own professional development and education
- a clearly articulated demonstration of the need for the requested professional development and the outcomes you expect from it
- how the knowledge will be implemented in your classroom and shared with colleagues in your school
- other personal qualities and circumstances that would enhance your suitability for the scholarship

Your Principal's reference carries considerable weight in the panel's deliberations. Panels are looking for feedback that goes well beyond confirming that you are employed at the school. It should speak to your potential as a teacher and as a future leader.

All applicants are notified of the outcome no later than Term 1, 2027.



Funding/Assistance

- The scholarship provides \$12,000 towards approved professional development or professional learning. It can be used for a single course or spread across a set of professional learning activities
- If you are selected, you will be asked to submit a detailed proposal of your intended study, with associated costs, for approval before the funds are made available to you
- Funds will be made available to scholarship recipients by EFT no later than Term 1, 2027
- Your professional development must be completed within three years of the scholarship being awarded. This can be reviewed in extenuating circumstances
- On completing your course, or each course if you are undertaking more than one, you are required to provide an update to the Public Education Foundation and Teachers Health Group explaining how you have benefited from the professional development and the scholarship. Recipients are also asked for a financial acquittal, a short written summary of the experience and how the learning is being applied, and photos or video where possible

Acceptable Use of Scholarship Funds

Scholarship funds can be used for:

- course, program or conference fees for approved professional development or professional learning
- travel and associated costs directly connected to that professional development

Scholarship funds cannot be used for:

- backfilling your position while you undertake your professional development
- courses or activities that take place before the funds are made available to you
- professional development shared with colleagues in terms of their participation in the course itself

Application Form

Before you start your application, it helps to have the following ready.

- Your details
 - full name, phone number, address, email, residence status, the month and year you commenced teaching
- Your school's details
 - name of school, address, Principal's name and email, total enrolment, student attendance rate, percentage of Indigenous students, percentage of EAL/D students, percentage of students with special needs
- Your written responses
 - a personal statement about yourself, your commitment to teaching and to public education (maximum 400 words)
 - what motivates and inspires you to make a difference in, and for, public education (maximum 300 words)
 - a short description of the course or courses you are requesting (maximum 300 words)
 - why you have chosen this professional development, what outcomes you expect, and how the courses and the scholarship will contribute to the plans and goals for you and your school (maximum 300 words)
 - your plan for sharing your knowledge with colleagues and implementing it in the classroom (maximum 200 words)
- Attachments and costs
 - estimated professional development costs, including travel
 - a reference from your principal confirming their commitment to supporting your study and releasing you from teaching if necessary (PDF, maximum 400 words)

Your Principal's reference should ideally be on school letterhead. It must include the referee's name and title and be signed and dated.



How to Apply

Applications are made online through PEF-Apply, the Public Education Foundation's application portal.

- Go to PEF-Apply and create an account or log in if you have one
- Take the [Eligibility Quiz](#). It asks a short series of questions and then shows you every PEF scholarship you are eligible for, so you do not miss one that suits you
- Open the Teachers Health Early Career Scholarship application and work through the form. Your answers save as you go, so you can come back to it

If you apply for more than one scholarship, your answers carry across to each scholarship you open. Answers stay with a single scholarship if you do not open the others, so it is worth opening all the applications you intend to submit early.

Give your Principal plenty of notice about the reference. It is one of the most important parts of your application and it needs to be attached before you can submit.



Submitting Your Application

- Applications open: September 2026
- Applications close: January 2027

Once your application is complete, including your Principal's reference and your estimated costs, submit it through PEF-Apply. Check every section before you submit. Incomplete applications cannot be assessed, and late applications cannot be accepted.

Further Information and Contact Details

If you have any questions about this scholarship or need help with your application, please get in touch. We are happy to talk it through.

- Email: scholarships@publiceducationfoundation.org.au
- Phone: 02 7814 2806