

## **Our Vision**

To see young people in Melbourne's western suburbs achieve their full potential.

## **Our Purpose**

Western Chances assists motivated young people in Melbourne's West to realise their potential by providing scholarships, opportunity programs and ongoing support.

## **Guiding Principles**

- Award merit based scholarships that are targeted to young people in Melbourne's West who have limited opportunities and financial resources.
- Provide programs and networks that advance the talents and pathways of young people in Melbourne's West.
- Recognise, nurture and celebrate the talent and potential talent of young people.
- Build partnerships that are aligned with our vision to support the sustainability of Western Chances.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The scholarship amounts vary but currently average at around \$1,000 and can be tailored to suit the individual student and their specific identified talent, pathway or area of passion. The scholarship can stay with the recipient for as long as they require and want the support. Scholarships can be for things like:

- IT (a computer, internet access or memory stick)
- Text books, art supplies
- Talent supporting lessons (dancing, acting, singing, art)
- VCE subject tuition
- Musical instruments
- Transport

Money is paid by Western Chances to the nominating organisation, not the scholarship recipients.

### **Access scholarships**

\$1000 grants for university expenses, provided by Victoria University to Western Chances scholarship recipients per year.

### **Success Scholarships**

Victoria University provides three HECS waived university places to Western Chances scholarship recipients per year.

## **SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

New scholarship recipients must be aged under 25 years with majority of our recipients being in their mid to late teens. The average age is 16 years.

To qualify new applicants must be:

- Nominated by a community organisation or state school
- Identified as talented and/or passionate and self-motivated to pursue a goal or ambition
- Demonstrate financial, social or cultural disadvantage (Healthcare Card, EMA)
- Must live or be attending an educational facility in Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley or Wyndham

Scholarship applications are assessed by a voluntary sub-committee made up of a diverse range of professionals from schools, businesses and government departments.

## **OTHER PROGRAMS**

### ***Opportunity programs***

#### **ACMI – Digital Storytelling Workshops**

This is a 3 day program. A teacher and class participate, with each student completing a short film on themselves or a significant other. The films are shown at a separate screening evening when the students, their teachers, families and Western Chances supporters are invited.

#### **LINKS program**

Paid work experience placements for our scholarship alumni.

## **STATISTICS**

Western Chances has provided over 2,000 scholarships to over 1,100 young people of which approximately 200 are ongoing renewal scholarships. This equates to over \$1.5m since 2004.

## **HOW SUPPORTERS CAN BECOME INVOLVED**

- Provide one-off donations or long term funding for scholarships
- Provide work experience placements for LINKS programs
- Provide funding for and/or sponsorship of Western Chances Opportunity Programs
- Attend fundraising events

