



Scholarships for courses in post- separation support services

INFORMATION BOOKLET

Post Separation Support Scholarships are for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, for commencement in the first half of 2018.

Organisations funded by the Attorney-General's Department to deliver post separation services are invited to support individual applications for scholarships for courses in post separation support service delivery.

Purpose

Family & Relationship Services Australia (FRSA) has secured funding from the Attorney-General's Department to administer a new round of scholarships which aims to increase opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people of CALD backgrounds to undertake training in post-separation support service delivery. The purpose is to build workforce diversity and the capacity of post-separation family law services to respond appropriately to community needs.

Post-separation support services include family counselling, relationship counselling, family dispute resolution, children's contact services, family intake and support work, family violence, community services (information, advice and referral) and community development (with relevant electives).

This scholarship application round is being conducted in November-December 2017, with **applications closing on 8 December 2017**, for courses commencing in the first half of 2018.

Nominating Organisations

Only organisations funded by the Attorney-General's Department to deliver family law and post-separation support services are eligible to nominate scholarship applicants. These organisations include: legal aid commissions, Family Relationship Centres, community-based family dispute resolution organisations, community legal centres, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services and family violence prevention legal services.

The scholarship applicant may be a current employee, job applicant, volunteer or otherwise known to the organisation. The nominating organisation must be willing to support them throughout the training and at completion, including:

- determining suitability for a scholarship;
- identifying and engaging a registered training organisation;
- providing advice on the qualification to be obtained;
- providing work placement, supervision and on-the job training to complement the training program;
- providing support as required; and
- providing six-monthly reports and feedback to FRSA for evaluation purposes.

FRSA will rely on the nominating organisation to confirm all claims made by the scholarship applicant.

When agreeing to support an individual, a nominating organisation should be aware that some individuals will require more intensive support relating to language and culture. This is particularly applicable for individuals who: live in remote communities; have recently arrived in Australia; and/or have limited competency in written and spoken English.

The scholarship will cover the full cost of the eligible course but not participation costs such as transport, accommodation and study materials. These costs may be covered by the scholarship applicant or the nominating organisation, by individual arrangement.

Eligible Courses

This scholarship round is for a range of nationally endorsed qualifications associated with post separation support services (for more course information go to: <https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/CHC08>):

- Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution (or equivalent short courses for FDR practitioner accreditation)*;
- Graduate Certificate in Family Dispute Resolution;
- Graduate Certificate in Community Services Practice**;
- Diploma of Family Intake and Support Work;
- Diploma of Community Services (Case management)**;
- Diploma and Certificate IV of Community Development**;
- Diploma of Counselling;
- Diploma of or Certificate IV in Children's Contact Services Work;
- Diploma of Child, Youth and Family Intervention;
- Certificate IV in Community Services (Information, advice, referral)**; and
- Certificate IV in Telephone Counselling Skills.

* Please contact the Practitioner Accreditation Unit, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department (AGD) on 1800 025 255 or fdregistration@ag.gov.au regarding your application for accreditation after completing the Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution. More information about how you can apply for accreditation can be found on the AGD website: <https://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Families/FamilyDisputeResolution/Pages/Becomingafamilydisputeresolutionpractitioner.aspx>

** Courses in Community Development and Community Services must contain electives that are specific to the delivery of post separation support services, e.g. community work, working with children and young people, domestic and family violence etc.

In applying for a scholarship, applicants should seek further detail about these qualifications, including the duration and the cost of the course from the registered training organisation they are applying to study with.

Further detail on these qualifications can be seen on the Community Services Training Package webpage (<https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/CHC08>).

Registered Training Organisation

The nominating organisation and scholarship applicant must agree on the eligible course to be undertaken and then partner with a registered training organisation that offers the eligible course.

The registered training organisation must assess the scholarship applicant as suitable to undertake the eligible course, including that they;

- satisfy the entry criteria;
- have a good understanding of the demands and duration of the eligible course; and
- appear to have the potential to complete the chosen level of qualification.

If a scholarship applicant is successful, the corresponding registered training organisation must enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with FRSA that outlines;

- the requirements of the registered training organisation to deliver the eligible course and support the scholarship applicant to complete the qualification;
- the requirement to comply with all relevant state and territory laws;
- the requirement that tax invoices must be provided, along with a declaration that the scholarship recipient has participated in the eligible course;
- the total value of the scholarship and an agreed payment schedule (may need to be negotiated depending on the duration and format of the eligible course); and
- contingency arrangements if the scholarship applicant withdraws from the eligible course or the eligible course can no longer be provided.

Registered training organisations that have participated in previous scholarship programs administered by FRSA and deliver eligible courses are provided in the table below. Nominating organisation and applicant may nominate a registered training organisations not on this list.

Some common courses	Broad descriptions (from myskills.gov.au)
Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution	Relates to dispute resolution practitioners working in agencies or independently to provide dispute resolution services and interventions for families experiencing high levels of relationship conflict and/or where the clients may be involved in the Family Law system.
Graduate Diploma of Relationship Counselling	Applies to workers who are employed in a family and/or couples relationship counselling role. This qualification has particular relevance to counsellors, working independently or in organisations, providing counselling interventions (rather than counselling support), for families and/or couples experiencing relationship issues of a complex nature.

Some eligible registered training organisations:

ACT	College of Law, ANU	www.collaw.edu.au/
Vic	QUT	www.qut.edu.au/study/study-areas/law-and-justice-courses
	FMC Relationship Services	www.mediation.com.au/
	Relationships Australia Vic	www.relationshipsvictoria.com.au/training/training/
	Victoria University	www.vu.edu.au/gictorialopctechinc
Qld	Bond University	www.bond.edu.au/gcldr
	College of Education Services	mediator.academy/project (all course are online)
	Jigsaw Training Group	//jigsaw.edu.au
Tas, NT, NSW, SA, WA,	Australian Institute of Social Relations	AISR Website (The Australian Institute of Social Relations provides training courses in partnership with Relationships SA, WA, Tasmania and the Northern Territory)

Costs covered

Each scholarship will cover all registered training organisation costs associated with the eligible course. The course fee, including GST, must be identified on the Application Form.

The scholarships may also cover additional training costs such as language/translation costs, but only those directly incurred by the registered training organisation. These costs must be detailed in the Application Form.

Nominating organisations supporting applicants to study the Graduate Diploma in Family Dispute Resolution (or equivalent) must also indicate in the Application Form the supervised practice support they can provide.

The scholarship will not cover out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the scholarship applicant, such as transport and accommodation. The scholarship will also not cover expenses incurred by the nominating organisation, such as work placement, mentoring, supervision or other support costs.

Number of Scholarships

Based on the experience of previous scholarship rounds, we anticipate 15-18 scholarships will be awarded.

Assessment process

Applications must be submitted using the Application Form. Incomplete Application Forms will not be accepted.

Applications will be assessed and ranked by FRSA and reviewed by AGD. The assessment process will take into account the merit of the application and hardship of the scholarship applicant. The assessment process will aim for an even mix of:

- gender;
- age;
- people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD backgrounds;
- applications from states and territories;
- eligible courses;
- nominating organisations; and
- registered training organisations.

If a scholarship recipient withdraws from a course, FRSA will refer to the ranked listing of applicants to identify a suitable replacement. This may be the next ranked applicant or the next applicant that most closely aligns with the profile of the withdrawn recipient.

Submitting the application

Please ensure that each page of the Application Form is completed and signed by the appropriate person.

These documents should be emailed to FRSA at **projects@frsa.org.au** by no later than midday **Friday 8 December 2017**.

All applicants will be advised via email and letter of the outcome of their application before Christmas 2017.

FRSA will then contact the registered training organisations to organise the Memorandum of Understanding and payment details.



Thankyou for your interest
and good luck with
your application