



## QUALIFICATIONS PATHWAYS PROGRAM

### Scholarships Program Guide

The Qualifications Pathways Program (QPP) provides wrap-around support to early childhood educators employed by non-aligned Queensland Early Education services who are studying ACECQA-approved early childhood Diploma or Certificate III courses to upgrade their qualifications. The Australian Childcare Alliance Qld (ACA Qld) is working with the Department of Education to administer the program.

This QPP Program Guide includes four sections:

1. [Scholarship Support provisions](#)
2. [Scholarship Study requirements](#)
3. [Eligibility Criteria](#)
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## Scholarship Support provisions

Applicants studying a Diploma or Certificate III in early childhood may be eligible for wrap-around support as outlined in Table A.

A Supplementary subsidy, detailed in Tables A and B is available for all applicants studying approved ACECQA qualification courses who identify as First Nations; or are from a culturally linguistically diverse background; or are employed in outer regional, remote and very remote locations; or have been identified as requiring intensive support.

Table A. Wrap-around and Supplementary subsidy support for eligible Diploma or Cert III applicants.

Approved ACECQA qualification	Wrap-around support	Scholarship cap	Supplementary subsidy
Diploma of early childhood education and care	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$2,000
Certificate III in early childhood education and care	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,000

Table B. Funded purposes of Wrap-around support and Supplementary subsidy

Mandatory and optional Wrap-around support	Supplementary subsidy
<p><i>Mandatory:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coaching and mentoring activities to upskill educators delivering kindergarten to improve educational programming and practice;</li> <li>• Support with practicum placements, including organising placements that are paid or unpaid; and</li> <li>• Study leave, or study time during work hours paid or unpaid, as negotiated with the approved provider or early years services (EYS) organisation.</li> </ul> <p><i>Optional:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incentive payments upon successful completion of units and/or the educator's course.</li> <li>• Allowance to assist with study materials (for example, computer, printer, internet access, textbooks); and</li> <li>• Access to collaborative learning networks or networking opportunities with other educators participating in the QPP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel and accommodation costs (including meals) to participate in study activities required for an educator's course of study (excluding where these are paid for by ABSTUDY).</li> <li>• Additional allowances to assist with study requirements materials (for example, computer, printer, internet access and textbooks).</li> <li>• Additional mentoring and coaching.</li> <li>• Additional study incentives (for example, completion bonuses and milestone payments).</li> <li>• Additional study leave, or study time during work hours, paid or unpaid (as negotiated with approved providers).</li> </ul>

ACA Qld will allocate:

- A maximum \$600 of the total wrap-around support toward the mandatory activities for each successful Applicant studying a Diploma qualification in early childhood; and
- A maximum \$300 of the total wrap-around support toward the mandatory activities for each successful Applicant studying a Certificate III in early childhood.

For the avoidance of doubt, this includes educators who commenced studying a Diploma in 2023, and educators who will commence studying one of these qualifications in 2024.

Educators who commence studying a Certificate III in Early Childhood in 2024 are eligible.

Educators who commenced studying a Certificate III in Early Childhood in 2023 are not eligible.

Allocations of Supplementary subsidies can be paid to the Recipient or as otherwise detailed in the Scholarship Plan.



**Australian Childcare Alliance**  
Queensland

## Scholarship Study Requirements

These require the Scholarship Recipient to continue during the term of the scholarship:

- Comply with the details set out in the Scholarship Agreement and Scholarship Plan which will be established upon approval of your application; and
- At a minimum, complete the required study component in an Approved Course, which may be undertaken on a full-time or part-time basis;
- Complete each milestone within the Approved Course to reasonable satisfaction;
- Do anything else as directed by ACA Qld.

For additional program information visit the Department of Education's Information Pack:  
<https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/careersAndTraining/Documents/gpp-information-pack.pdf>

Disclaimer: It is strongly recommended that employees consult with a qualified tax professional or legal advisor to understand their obligations and ensure compliance with all relevant laws and regulations regarding fringe benefits and Fringe Benefits Tax.



## Eligibility Criteria

The below Eligibility Criteria provides prospective Applicants with eligibility information.

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship under the QPP, educators must be:

- a. employed full-time, part-time or casually, including employees on temporary leave arrangements in a sessional kindergarten or long day care (LDC) service in Queensland, that holds a service approval under the Education and Care Services National Law (National Law) or Education and Care Services Act 2013 (ECS Act). Note that contractors (external agency staff), are not eligible; and
  - b. an Australian or New Zealand citizen or a permanent Australian resident residing in Queensland. An exemption from the Queensland residency requirements may be provided where the educator can demonstrate they are working in Queensland early childhood education and care services. An example of this would be an applicant living in a border region (for example New South Wales) where the applicant is already employed in a Queensland early childhood education and care service; or
  - c. a humanitarian entrant under the Australian Government's Refugee and Humanitarian Program; or
  - d. a temporary resident who is on the pathway to permanent residency and has an appropriate work permit and visa which is eligible for fee-free TAFE, as listed on TAFE Queensland's website; and
  - e. no longer enrolled at secondary school; and
  - f. able to meet the higher education institution (HEI) or registered training organisation (RTO) entrance requirements for the ACECQA-approved qualifications; and
  - g. enrolled in each unit for course commencement (at a minimum) at their HEI or RTO by the relevant census date, unless otherwise agreed by the QPP Organisation; and
- (h) not be receiving any other scholarship or grant funding from the Department of Education in relation to the course they intend to study, including through the Practicum Placement Scheme or from the Australian Government. In the event of having previously withdrawn or been terminated from a scholarship awarded by the Department, the educator must have repaid any funds in accordance with the former agreement before applying.

Eligibility queries can be emailed to: [qld.projects@childcarealliance.org.au](mailto:qld.projects@childcarealliance.org.au)



## **FAQ**

### **Will the funding be reabsorbed by the Government if it isn't all spent?**

No, the remaining amount of funding will be paid to you by way of an incentive bonus at the completion of your qualification.

### **Can the IT amount vary depending on the cost of my equipment?**

Slightly based on what your IT equipment needs are. Usually, students do not expend this entire amount, the amount remaining will be added to your completion bonus.

### **Can I apply if I am on a Visa?**

Unfortunately, no, to be eligible for this scholarship you must be a permanent resident or an Australian citizen.

### **Can I apply if I work for temp agency?**

No, you must only be affiliated with one organisation to apply. You can however work casually for this service.

### **Can I use the funding to pay course fees?**

As the administrator of the scholarship funding we cannot pay your tuition or study fees on your behalf to your Registered Training Organisation. Payments can only be paid as per the milestones agreed. Any unallocated funds will be paid out at the completion of your qualification.

### **If I am from a remote area, identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or am Culturally and Linguistically Diverse can I access additional funding/ support?**

Yes! If you fit into any of the above criteria you are eligible for an additional \$2,000 in funding and supports.