

ROBERT RILEY SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2009 GUIDELINES

The Robert Riley Scholarship Program promotes the pursuit of justice and human rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through supporting the education of young Indigenous people.

Scholarships will be offered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people age 25 years or under for studies in the fields of law, legal practice, human rights, child protection, criminology and criminal or juvenile justice. Up to six scholarships of up to \$5,000 will be offered in 2009.

Information for Applicants

**Applications open 16 December 2008
and close 2 February 2009 at 6pm (in your State/Territory)**

GUIDELINES

The aim of the Robert Riley Scholarship Program is to promote the pursuit of justice and human rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians through supporting education of young Indigenous people in relevant fields.

The Foundation for Young Australians initiated the program in 1996 in honour of the late Robert Riley to enable the continuation of the advocacy work he pursued so courageously and passionately.

Up to four national scholarships of up to \$5,000 each will be awarded to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25 years or under for the pursuit of studies.

Two additional scholarships, of up to \$5,000 each will also be available in 2009. Supported by a partnership between FYA and the Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP Salary Trust, these two scholarships will be afforded to applicants studying at or enrolled for 2009 in Sydney Universities NSW. Applicants will be assessed according to the criteria.

WHO MAY APPLY?

Robert Riley Scholarships will be awarded to enable the pursuit of studies in the fields of law, legal practice, human rights, child protection, criminology and criminal or juvenile justice, including:

- formal post-secondary studies undertaken at educational institutions in Australia, e.g. Universities or TAFEs; or
- studies or research which is clearly consistent with the aims of the scholarship program; or
- formal studies undertaken overseas where no equivalent course is available in Australia.

To be eligible for a scholarship you must be:

- Of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent;
- Aged 25 or under during 2009;
- Accepted into a course of study related to law, legal practice, human rights, child protection, criminology, criminal or juvenile justice in 2009.

The primary criteria used to assess all applications will be **merit** and **financial need**. The Selection Committee will, however, also consider the extent to which it feels you will fulfil the aims of the program and the future contribution you will make to the community.

HOW WILL APPLICANTS BE SELECTED?

An independent Indigenous Selection Committee will select all scholars. If a large number of applications are received, FYA staff may assist with short listing. Decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding unsuccessful applications.

ARE THERE ANY CONDITIONS ATTACHED?

If you are awarded a Robert Riley Scholarship you must be prepared to abide by the conditions of the scholarship. The scholarship will be conditional upon continued progress in the course of study. FYA reserves the right to cancel or withdraw a scholarship if, in its opinion, the purposes for which the scholarship was approved change substantially. You must also provide six-monthly reports to FYA.

HOW WILL THE SCHOLARSHIP BE PAID?

If you are awarded a scholarship you will be paid in advance. Where scholarship funds are not used for the purpose of the scholarship, or there is non-compliance with the conditions, funds must be returned to FYA.

WHAT MAY I SPEND THE SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT ON?

If you are awarded the scholarship you must spend the payment on any costs involved in undertaking post-secondary studies, informal or formal studies such as HECS fees, travel expenses, computer equipment or the cost of textbooks.

HOW DO I APPLY?

- Thoroughly read the application guidelines and frequently asked questions (available at www.fya.org.au) to ensure you are eligible.
- If eligible, complete the Robert Riley Scholarship Application Form
- Send your application to FYA via one of the following methods:

Post: GPO Box 239 Melbourne Victoria 3001

Email: info@fya.org.au

Fax: (03) 9670 2272

Late applications will not be considered.

Do not include any documents that are not requested by FYA. Any extra documents will not be considered and will not be returned to you.

WHAT DO I NEED TO PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION WITH TO APPLY?

In order to provide FYA with a complete application, you must present;

- All results, to date, from 2008;
- Current (at the time of sending application) confirmation of enrolment and subject list;
- Two referee forms; and
- Proof of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent (e.g. letter on letterhead from an Aboriginal organisation such as an Aboriginal land council, ATSIC etc).

REFERENCE FORMS

The two requested referees should, where possible, come from two people who know the applicant in different capacities, such as personally, professionally or academically.

Please do not include any more than two support letters. Additional letters will not be considered. Referee forms should be no more than two A4 pages long.

Support letters may be sent to FYA directly from the referee (separate from the application), however they must be received by the closing date.

WHERE CAN I GET AN APPLICATION FORM?

If you have access to the Internet you can get an application form from our website:
www.fya.org.au

Otherwise, contact The Foundation on:

Phone: 1800 252 316 (free call)

Fax: 03 9670 2272

Email: info@fya.org.au

Mail: GPO Box 239 Melbourne Victoria 3001

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE AFTER I APPLY?

- FYA will notify you to confirm receipt of your application within **7 days of the closing date** for applications. A receipt of application will be forwarded to the email address provided on your application. If you do not have an email address, FYA will forward a written confirmation letter to your fax number or postal address.
- If you do not receive notification after the closing date, it is your responsibility to contact FYA by phone and follow up on your application. This must be **after the 7th day of the closing date**.

- Applications received via mail after the closing date will be accepted if they are post marked on or before the closing date.
- Your application will be assessed by an Indigenous Selection Committee, who may contact you for clarification, further information, or to request an interview (either by phone or in person).
- Final decisions will be made **within one month after the closing date** for applications.
- When final selection decisions have been made, successful applicants will be notified by telephone and unsuccessful applicants will be notified via mail within **1 week after the closing date**.
- Successful applicants will receive a formal letter of offer, which will include a grant agreement and grant payment form to be completed and signed by the successful applicant and a witness, and returned to FYA.
NB; Successful applicants who are under 18 years of age must have a nominated adult sign the grant agreement on their behalf.
- Successful applicants will also receive an acquittal report form to submit upon completion of the initiative, outlining the extent to which the initiative met its goals and objectives. This is to be returned to FYA by the date specified in the applicant's grant agreement.

OTHER INFORMATION

Selection Committee

Applications are assessed by a volunteer committee. FYA staff are not involved in the decision-making process and therefore are unable to give feedback to applicants who are unsuccessful.

Media and Promotion

FYA requires that you acknowledge the assistance provided by FYA in all printed material relating to the initiative. FYA will provide media materials and logos on CD to successful applicants in an information pack.

Evaluation

Funded initiatives may be subject to evaluation by an external evaluator.

GST

It is FYA's understanding that grants made by FYA do not attract GST. However, grantees should seek independent tax advice if they require further clarification.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) is a dynamic, independent, not for profit organisation. Our work focuses on funding and supporting partnerships and initiatives that positively contribute to the development of young people, their education and communities. FYA recently formalised an alliance with Education Foundation, consolidating an impressive scope of expertise and knowledge of the youth and education sectors. FYA is now the largest philanthropic organisation in Australia, which focuses solely on youth and education. This alliance means that we have a strong history whilst at the same time, we are new.

The alliance has brought FYA's strengths in grant-making, Indigenous programs, capacity building, scholarships and successful models of youth participation together with Education Foundation's proven 19 year history in the development and delivery of innovative and ambitious education programs that support the public education system, community engagement, as well as a strong research and policy advocacy capability.

Our work will be guided by our belief in:

- **Equal access:** opportunities are there for all young people, regardless of cultural, racial, social or economic background
- **Working together:** in partnership we should all share the responsibility for finding impactful solutions to issues that are important to young people
- **Pushing boundaries:** making a difference comes from being ambitious in the work we do and the partnerships we forge, and learning from the experience
- **High impact:** creating outcomes that make a difference on a large scale both socially and systemically

