

Karen Murphy Scholarship/Apprenticeship Support Fund Guidelines Procedure 2019

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*unless otherwise indicated, this policy/procedure/work instruction will still apply beyond the review date

Introduction

The Regional Information and Advocacy Council (RIAC) is a not for profit organisation operating in Victoria and New South Wales. It has offices in Bendigo, Mildura, Geelong, Swan Hill, Horsham and Shepparton and provides services in its catchment area of: Loddon Mallee, West Hume region, West Wimmera region, Wentworth Shire, Balranald Shire, City of Greater Geelong and the Borough of Queenscliffe.

Mission Statement

To encourage achievement and acceptance for all individuals irrespective of age, religion, culture or disability through the provision of quality support and service. To ensure an understanding of the life difficulties of all areas of disability.

Vision Statement

Improving the lives of people by helping to build capacity and wellbeing of individuals, families, carers and communities

Karen Murphy

Karen Murphy (1956 -2012) was a born Advocate. She saw it as her personal responsibility to right every wrong she encountered – and that was the way she lived her life. Karen was a warm and engaging person who treated everyone she met as an equal. Even during her long and often debilitating illness Karen saw it as her responsibility to cheer up the other patients receiving treatment. She was certainly one of a kind.

Karen was one of the two RIAC Advocates in the Bendigo office covering most of the Loddon Mallee region for many years. While their office was miniscule and the working conditions not ideal, it was clear her commitment to clients' rights was undiminished.

Guidelines

In accordance with its Vision Statement RIAC has implemented a Support Fund for people with a disability to assist with the costs associated with their study, apprenticeship or traineeship. Applicants must be aged 15 years or over. Applicants can be secondary students or doing post-secondary study or an apprenticeship or traineeship. Mature age students are also eligible.

For 2019, The Fund is allocating 4 refurbished laptops. RIAC will allocate the Fund between four applicants.

The successful applicant(s) will be required to meet the following criteria:

- 1) Provide RIAC with confirmation of successful enrolment for 2019 from an Education Provider such as primary/secondary school, Registered Training Organisation (RTO) such as TAFE or an approved University.
- 2) Provide RIAC with confirmation of an apprenticeship/traineeship and enrolment evidence with an RTO such as TAFE

Eligibility

People with a disability who are eligible to apply are those whose disability may be attributed to an intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairment or a combination of impairments.

All applicants must reside in the RIAC advocacy catchment, which consists of the following local government areas:

- Rural City of Mildura (Vic);
- Rural City of Swan Hill (Vic);
- Buloke Shire (Vic);
- Gannawarra Shire (Vic);
- Campaspe Shire (Vic);
- Loddon Shire (Vic);
- City of Greater Bendigo (Vic);
- Central Goldfields Shire (Vic);
- Macedon Ranges Shire (Vic);
- Mitchell Shire (Vic);
- Murrindindi Shire (Vic);
- Strathbogie Shire (Vic);
- Mt Alexander Shire (Vic);
- City of Greater Shepparton (Vic);
- Moira Shire (Vic);
- City of Greater Geelong (Vic);
- Borough of Queenscliffe (Vic);
- Hindmarsh Shire (Vic);
- West Wimmera Shire
- Yarriambiack Shire (Vic);
- Wentworth Shire (NSW); and
- Balranald Shire (NSW).

How to Apply

RIAC will advertise the Fund via social media and RIAC's website and throughout our networks.

Applications may be obtained by phoning **03 5222 5499** or can be download off the RIAC's web-site – www.riac.org.au

Completed applications should be forwarded to:

Intake Officer

Scholarship Application

Rights Information and Advocacy Centre

11/23-31 Gheringhap Street,

Geelong, VIC 3220

The closing date will be noted on the organisations website and social media.

Evaluation

RIAC will evaluate all applications and will short list the most suitable applicants. Those applications which are short listed will be followed up with an interview.

The successful applicant(s) will be invited to the RIAC Annual General Meeting to be presented with an Award. It is expected that successful applicants will agree to provide a short written article outlining the benefits of receiving the Scholarship. Successful applicants must also agree to RIAC publishing their name and photograph.

Unsuccessful applications

All unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application. In the event that unsuccessful applicants are unsatisfied with the evaluation process, they will be encouraged to submit the reasons for their appeals to The Chief Executive Officer, RIAC, PO Box 1763, Shepparton 3630 within 30 days of the date of their notification.