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St Albans VIC 3021
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Dear Principal/Nominator/Referring Professional,

WE ARE NOW SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR WESTERN CHANCES SCHOLARSHIPS!

Western Chances was founded in 2003 with the aim of providing scholarships to enable talented young people in Melbourne's West to pursue a talent or interest and realise their potential.

Many children growing up in Melbourne's West have limited opportunities available to them, when compared to children living and studying in more affluent communities. Often a lack of resources or networks creates barriers for young people in the West and can prevent them from achieving their full potential.

A Western Chances scholarship can support those talented young people at a critical time in their lives.

About Western Chances Scholarship Program

Scholarships are our core program and are provided through a bi-annual (April/May and September/October) grant process. Scholarships are merit based and average about \$1,000 per successful scholarship applicant.

Scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Western Chances Board to applicants who best meet the criteria and demonstrate their passion to develop their talent. The catchment municipality areas from which scholarship applicants can be nominated are Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley and Wyndham local government areas.

The Western Chances Scholarship Program is unique as it offers the opportunity for scholarships to be renewed each year should the need and the interest or talent continue. This process can continue until the scholarship recipient completes their studies or training.

Scholarship application rounds are held four times each year, with two rounds open for first time or 'new' applicants, and two rounds open for renewing applicants.

Applications for new rounds and renewal rounds occur during the following times for 2008:

ROUND	Renewal – R109	New – N109	Renewal – R209	New – N209
OPEN	2 February 2009	20 April 2009	13 July 2009	5 October 2009
CLOSE	20 February 2009	8 May 2009	31 July 2009	23 October 2009

Scholarship rounds open on day one of each school term and close on the Friday, three weeks later. **Our next round is N109 for New Applicants, opening Monday 20 April 2009.**

Western Chances Opportunity Programs

Western Chances are also involved in developing a more diverse range of Opportunity Programs for young people in the West, together with the following partners:

- **Orchestra Victoria**
Workshop program involving our young aspiring musicians working together with experienced musicians from Orchestra Victoria to form part of an orchestra, rehearse orchestral pieces and then perform a concert for the public.
- **Australia Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI)**
Digital Storytelling Workshops – In 2007 this opportunity program was extremely successful for our talented young people interested in film and multimedia. ACMI supports the young people with writing and producing their own digital story, which is then viewed at a special screening presentation.
- **Siemens**
The Siemens Science Experience Program is held at Victoria University each year and offers Year 9 students the chance to learn and interact with the subject of science, preparing them for study and a career in the science industry.
- **Free Debate**
The Free Debate program in 2007 was conducted in five secondary schools across the West. Free Debate looks at supporting teachers in debating method as well as introducing debating to Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students.
- **Crusaders/Merv Hughes Foundation**
Western Chances has partnered with The Crusaders/Merv Hughes Foundation to support aspiring young cricketers.

Western Chances ALUMNI Programs

- **Western Chances LINKS Program**
We recognise that the transition from school to tertiary or other education and the working environment can be a significant challenge for many of the young people we support. Western Chances creates LINKS between these young people and the areas in which they long to aspire to, by establishing employment opportunities with organisations that are linked in our networks.

Our network organisations become employers of our scholarship recipients, and provide paid vacation employment and mentoring/leadership support to the young person, really bringing to life the value of the Western Chances networks in assisting talented young people in the West to realise their goals.

- **Young Western Leaders Summit**
This summit focuses on developing our young people's communication skills to help them gain employment and further their education beyond high school. This program received high acclaim by the 40 Year 11, 12 & Tertiary attendees from the West.

Other Information

Western Chances relies on support from companies, groups and individuals and is an Endorsed Income Exempt Charity and Deductible Gift Recipient.

How to apply for a Western Chances Scholarship

For a young person, a Western Chances Scholarship is only the beginning of a promising pathway through education and on to a rewarding career.

If you feel you have a young person that meets our criteria we look forward to receiving an application from you.

Please ensure you read through the **Western Chances Eligibility Guidelines** to make sure your applicant matches our criteria (see next page).

Each applicant must have a **NOMINATOR** who must fill in the Western Chances Scholarship Application Form for the appropriate round. The nominator may be a school principal or teacher, coach, mentor, student welfare coordinator or support worker. **Parents, guardians, friends, family and individuals DO NOT qualify as a nominator for the Western Chances Scholarship Program.**

Scholarship application forms are available to download from our website at www.westernchances.org.au during the scholarship round opening. There is also a form attached to this document.

Submitting an Application

Western Chances prefers to receive typed applications rather than hand-written. If you are hand-writing the application, please make sure you're writing is clear.

Please provide the **original** application **plus three copies** and mail to:

**Western Chances
Scholarship Application Round N109
Po Box 294
St Albans VIC 3021**

It is recommended that you keep a copy of the application form for your records.

Important dates for Round N109

Round N109 applications are open for submission Monday 20 April 2009.

APPLICATIONS FOR THIS ROUND CLOSE STRICTLY BY FRIDAY 8 MAY 2009.

If you are unable to complete the application process by this date, please notify Western Chances immediately to organise other arrangements.

If you have any queries in regards to Western Chances Scholarships, please contact our Administration Manager, Betty Klonaris on (03) 8345 1850 Monday to Friday between 9:30am and 2:30pm.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Bracks". The signature is stylized with a large 'T' and 'B'.

Terry Bracks
Founding Chair
Western Chances

Western Chances Eligibility Guidelines

Purpose

Western Chances has been established to support young people who have talent or exceptional ability that may not be realised because they and their family do not have the financial resources to support them in their endeavours, be it in terms of their formal education or the social and cultural pursuits, which contribute to the realisation of potential.

The young person needs to be:

- Able to demonstrate talent or ability, that given the opportunity could develop further.
- From a socially, economically disadvantaged background, (demonstrated by eligibility for Education Maintenance Allowance, Youth Allowance, AB Study, Parent Health Care Card or other evidence of financial need).
- From primary school age to 25 years.
- Nominated by a representative of an organisation such as a school, welfare agency, community organisation etc. (ie. school principal, teacher, referring professional). **Applications will not be received directly from a family member or individual.**
- Attending a State School or Tertiary Institution.

Please note: Exceptional circumstances applications may be accepted outside these timelines.

Application Process

The referring professional in collaboration with the child's family or with the young person must complete the Western Chances Renewal Application Form. The referring professional, the child (if appropriate), the parent or guardian or the young person must sign the application form.

Western Chances considers a child over the age of 12 years to be a young person and they should be encouraged to participate in the application process.

Only applications received by close of business on the due date for each funding round will be considered.

Referees

It is an expectation that the referring professional will complete the two referee checks on behalf of the applicant.

A written reference from one of the referees would be appreciated.

Outcomes

The Western Chances Selection Panel will assess the application. This panel comprises representatives from business, educational, training and welfare organisations in the community.

The Selection Panel will make a recommendation in respect of the application and this recommendation will go to the Western Chances Board for final decision.

The referring professional will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application after the above deliberations have occurred.

The Selection Panel reserves the right to seek additional information in respect of the application if it deems this to be necessary.

Exceptional Circumstance Applications

Exceptional circumstance applications can be submitted at any time. It is expected that these applications will meet the following criteria:

- The applicant is new to the district and therefore their application could not have been considered as part of a funding round.
- The circumstances are such that they were not known at or have altered since the time of a funding round, or;
- It would be considered detrimental to the potential of a child or young person for the application to be held over for consideration as part of a funding round.

It is expected that the referring professional will provide supporting documentation to verify that the application meets the above criteria.

Prior to making an exceptional circumstance application, the referring professional should discuss the situation with the Programs Manager of Western Chances, Helen Worlidge on (03) 8345 1850.

All applications will be treated as strictly confidential and only discussed with the Selection Panel or relevant individuals for whom a signed release of information consent form has been obtained.

Western Chances Scholarship Application Form - Round N109

Please submit this application form by no later than Friday 8 May 2009.
THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE NOMINATOR – NOT THE APPLICANT.

This assessment is confidential and will be viewed and discussed by Western Chances' Executive Director and members of the Selection Panel.

The Western Chances Privacy Policy binds all Western Chances Board members and Selection Panel members.

1. Contact Details of Applicant

First Name		Surname	
Age (years/months)		D.O.B	/ /
Gender (circle)	M / F		

Place of Birth (circle)	Australia / OS	If OS please specify	
Language spoken at home			

Nominating School/Organisation			
School Attending		Year Level	
School Phone Number			

Home Address			
Suburb		Post Code	
Home Phone Number		Mobile	
Email Address			
How long has the applicant been living at this address?			
Does the applicant live independently by himself or herself? (circle)	Yes / No		

2. Evidence of Applicant Financial or Social Disadvantage (please tick)

- Education Maintenance Allowance
- Youth Allowance
- AB Study
- Parent Health Care Card

Other (please specify):

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3. Contact Details of Nominator:

Salutation		First Name		Surname	
School/Organisation					
Position					
Relationship to Applicant					

School Address			
Suburb		Post Code	

Phone Number		Direct Line	
Mobile		Availability	
Email Address			

4. What is the Applicant's special talent / interest / passion?

- Academic (Maths, Science, Accounting, IT, English, Literature etc.)
- Arts (Music, Singing, Dance, Drama etc.)
- Sport
- Leadership (Community Involvement, Public Speaking etc.)
- Other

Please specify all aspects of the applicant's special talent / interest / passion carefully:

5. Does the applicant seek financial assistance from Western Chances?
(circle):

YES / NO

If YES, please describe/itemize the assistance required and include a cost:

Assistance Required	Cost

Why is it difficult for the applicant to meet these expenses?

Are there any other reasons why the applicant needs support?

What is the applicant doing to help himself or herself?

What other type of support is the applicant currently receiving?

How would a Western Chances Scholarship make a difference?

What is the applicant's future direction or goal?

In the next year or two:

Into the future:

Any other comments:

6. General Information about the Applicant:

Family members

Family situation

Factors which may impact of the applicant's ability to reach his or her potential

Community groups or clubs that the applicant belongs to

Interests and hobbies

Qualifications or Parents or Guardians

Occupation of Parents or Guardians

Current employment situation of Parents of Guardians

Applicants Pre-School or Kindergarten

Applicant's Primary School

Applicant's Secondary School

Further training, tertiary education or qualifications

8. Details of Applicant's Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

(please note that this is not required if applicant is over 18 years of age or is living independently).

Salutation		First Name		Surname	
Relationship to Applicant					

Home Address				
Suburb		Post Code		
Home Phone Number		Mobile/ Work		
Email Address				

Place of Birth (circle)	Australia / OS	If OS please specify	
Language spoken at home			

Are you working? (circle)	Full time	Part time	Casual	Not working	
Type of work (circle)	Professional	Clerical/Office	Trade	Process/Factory	Retail
Other (please specify)					

Education Level (circle)	VCE	Certificate	Diploma	Degree	No Level
Other (please specify)					

9. Referees who will support the Western Chances Renewal Scholarship

Referees **MUST NOT** be directly related to the applicant (ie. **NOT** a family relative or close friend).

Acceptable referees are School Principals, Student Welfare Coordinators, Teachers, Club Leaders, Coaches, Trainers, etc.

Referee 1

Salutation		First Name		Surname	
Street Address					
Suburb				Post Code	
Phone Number			Mobile		
Email Address					
Relationship to Applicant					
Has this referee been asked to support this application? (circle)				Yes / No	

Referee 2

Salutation		First Name		Surname	
Street Address					
Suburb				Post Code	
Phone Number			Mobile		
Email Address					
Relationship to Applicant					
Has this referee been asked to support this application? (circle)				Yes / No	

10. Does the applicant have any supporting material references or certificates to support the application? (circle)

YES / NO

If **YES**, please provide copies of the material and attach them to the application.

11. Signatures

PLEASE ENSURE ALL SIGNATURES ARE OBTAINED. THIS APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT APPROVING SIGNATURES.

Applicant:

Name	Signature	Date

Parent/Guardian:

(please note that this is not required if applicant is over 18 years of age or is living independently).

Name	Signature	Date

Nominator:

Name	Signature	Date

School Principal/Referring Professional:

Name	Signature	Date