

# Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships



## What is concession-eligible?

The NSW Government's *Reskilling NSW* initiative includes the creation of **Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships**.

Commencing 1 July 2015, Fee-Free Scholarships are designed to help people (15-30 years old) who are eligible for concession fees to undertake training under Smart and Skilled. A priority will be given to young people living in social housing. Qualifications from Certificate I to Certificate IV levels are covered, including Apprenticeships and Traineeships.

### What is concession-eligible?

Concession-eligible means the student receives a Commonwealth Government payment/allowance or holds one of the pensioner concession cards issued by Centrelink as listed overleaf.

OR

Their parent or guardian or spouse or partner receives a Commonwealth Government payment or holds one of the concession cards listed overleaf, and they are a listed dependant.

A student with a disability undertaking their second Smart and Skilled qualification within a calendar year, or their dependant, is also considered concession-eligible.

### Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships and NSW Social Housing residents

Concession-eligible young people living in NSW Social Housing or on the waiting list for NSW Social Housing are given priority under Fee-Free Scholarships. If the 50,000 annual limit on scholarships is reached, any concession-eligible student who meets the Fee-Free Scholarship

eligibility criteria and the definition of living in social housing will be guaranteed a fee-exemption under Fee-Free Scholarships.

### What is meant by "NSW Social Housing"?

For the purposes of Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships, NSW Social Housing is defined as:

- public housing (owned and managed by the Government)
- community housing (owned and/or managed by community housing providers)
- Aboriginal housing (owned and/or managed by the Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) and Aboriginal Community Housing Providers)
- crisis accommodation/supported accommodation (Specialist Homelessness Services)
- private rental assistance managed by Housing NSW (for example: rental bond loans, tenancy guarantees, tenancy facilitation and private rental brokerage).

Providers should be clear on the definition and ensure that potential students are able to identify if they fall within the definition.

Information on eligibility for Fee-Free Scholarships is included in the [Smart and Skilled Fee Administration Policy](#) (version 1.2).

For assistance with Fee-Free Scholarships or managing any aspect of Smart and Skilled training activity, please contact Training Market Customer Support at [trainingmarket@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:trainingmarket@det.nsw.edu.au) or call (02) 9266 8008.

## Commonwealth benefits and allowances

- Age Pension
- Austudy
- Carer Payment (see comment below)
- Disability Support Pension
- Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment
- Farm Household Allowance
- Family Tax Benefit Part A (maximum rate)
- Parenting Payment (Single)
- Newstart Allowance
- Special Benefit
- Sickness Allowance
- Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- Veterans' Affairs Pensions
- Widow B Pension
- Widow Allowance
- Youth Allowance
- Wife Pension

### Note:

- A NSW Apprentice on a Newstart Allowance is not eligible for a concession fee.
- A NSW New Entrant Trainee on a Newstart Allowance is not eligible for a concession fee.
- The Carer Payment is a specific benefit paid by the Commonwealth, this category does not include the Carer Allowance or Carer Adjustment Payment.

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