



Documentation

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**Australian Veterans'
Children Assistance Trust
(AVCAT)**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

To be read before completing the application form.

Background

AVCAT administers a number of different educational assistance schemes to help with the costs of full time, tertiary education for the children and grandchildren in need of those who have served in the Australian Navy, Army or Air Force in peace or war.

The schemes are funded by the Australian Government, the ex service and general community and private donors. Donations to AVCAT are gift deductible. The Governor General is our patron.

The objective is to assist those selected to get qualifications needed, appropriate to their abilities, to enter their chosen rewarding career. Selection is of the most deserving candidates of merit, who, without our help, would be unable to start or complete studies without financial difficulty.

The schemes share common features and general eligibility rules, with some minor variations. They are all targeted at youth and initial employment. All are means tested and support full-time university study. All but one support TAFE and vocational studies.

Most grants are for veterans' children, but some include grandchildren who are lineal descendents of a veteran. Most require service in Vietnam, but a few include other operational service and specified continuous full-time service. All allow entry in later study years. Most continue payments for further study but some are for one year only. Some are for applicants permanently resident in specific areas, or require organizational membership, or are only for specified studies.

Service with the Armed forces of other nations or service as a merchant mariner, or as a civilian in Vietnam or elsewhere, is not acceptable for any AVCAT scheme.

Studies outside Australia are not eligible. None of the schemes provide support for post graduate courses or for second degrees unless a first degree is a pre-requisite for entry to a professional degree; eg medicine at some universities.

The same application form is used for all schemes. Applicants are considered for any schemes for which they might be eligible.

Eligibility

To apply for any of the schemes (see exception below) you must be:

- the child or grandchild of a person with operational service, or three or more years continuous full-time other service, as a member of the Australian Navy, Army or Air Force, or
- Under the age of 25 when applying unless exceptional circumstances, related to the veteran's service, exist.
- enrolled in (or planning to enrol in) a full-time undergraduate, tertiary course of one or more academic years duration by attendance in Australia.
- eligible on income and assets grounds for Youth Allowance full-time educational benefits, at the time of application if currently in full-time education.

Step, adopted, foster children or wards of a veteran are eligible, but grandchildren must be the lineal descendent of a veteran. Operational service for AVCAT purposes includes eligible war service, war-like service and peace-keeping/peace-making service.

Download Application for Bursary or Scholarship Form

Assistance Offered in 2011

National Schemes

- 50 Long Tan bursaries of \$3,000 annually for up to three years funded by the Australian Government, for children of Australian Vietnam veterans who are Australian citizens and permanent residents, planning or undertaking tertiary study. There is no age limit. No one can have more than one bursary.
- Two Vietnam Veterans', Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Federation of Australia scholarships of not less than \$3000 each year, continuing for up to three years, for children and grandchildren of Australian Vietnam veterans and peace-keepers/peace-makers.

- Two National RSL Scholarships of \$4,000 each, continuing for up to three years, for the children of veterans and members of the Australian Defence Force.
- One AVCAT Bursary of \$4,000 per year, continuing for up to four years, with preference for studies in teaching, nursing, engineering and science.
- One DFWA NSW Branch Commander James "Curley" Fahey Memorial Scholarship of \$3,000 annually, for up to three years. Applicants must be the child or grandchild of a person who is, or was at the time of death, a life member or a member of any branch of the association for two or more years.
- George Quinsey OAM Scholarships for the children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans and peace-keepers/peace-makers, for direct payment to the ATO or educational establishment, for tuition cost for degree, diploma or certificate courses in accountancy, commerce or economics.

Regional Schemes

- Up to three Brisbane Water Legacy Club Scholarships of \$4,000 each per year, continuing for up to three years for permanent residents of the NSW shires of Gosford and Wyong.
- One TPI Association NSW Scholarship of \$4,000 per year, continuing, for children and grandchildren of TPIs in NSW who are current members of that association.
- Two TLC scholarships of \$4,000 each per year, continuing, for studies at a NSW university.
- One Vietnam Veterans' Association of South Australia "Daryl Knapp" Scholarship of \$4,000 per year continuing, for the children and grandchildren, permanently resident in South Australia, of Vietnam veterans.
- One TLC Grant each year of up to \$20,000,

Payments

The annual amount provided under each scheme is paid in instalments over the academic year. The first and biggest payment is at the start of each year to help with enrolment fees, text books and materials. A smaller amount is paid in mid-year for the second half year's expenses. The rest of the year's money is paid in ten monthly equal instalments during the academic year (March to December). Payments are exempt from income tax but are considered as income for Centrelink payments. One scheme pays HECS/tuition fees only.