



## REGIONAL INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY COUNCIL

### KAREN MURPHY SCHOLARSHIP/ APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT FUND GUIDELINES

#### ***Introduction:***

The Regional Information and Advocacy Council (RIAC) is a not for profit organisation operating in northern Victoria. It has offices in Bendigo, Mildura and Shepparton and provides the following services in its catchments area:

- Advocacy - Loddon Mallee, West Hume regions, Wentworth Shire and Balranald Shire;
- HACC Equity and Access services to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities in the west Hume; and
- HACC Training Co-ordination in the Hume region.

#### ***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.*

#### ***Guidelines:***

In accordance with its Vision Statement RIAC has implemented a Support Fund for secondary school students (aged from 15 years and upwards and/or year 10 or equivalent) and post secondary aged people with a disability to assist with the costs of their study/ apprenticeship. The Fund is for the allocation of up to a maximum of \$5,000 in any one year. Mature age students are also eligible. RIAC may make a single allocation or divide the allocation between more than one applicant. The payment to successful applicant(s) will be made in 3 separate payments as follows:

Initial payment on enrolment/ commencement of apprenticeship/ study, determined by the scholarship amount allocated.

Progressive Payment made on presentation of satisfactory results at end of first semester

Completion Payment made on presentation of satisfactory results at end of year.

**Failure to complete the course of study/ apprenticeship or failure to provide evidence of completion during the year will result in cancellation of the scholarship.**

***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);
- Wentworth Shire (NSW); and
- Balranald Shire (NSW).

***How to apply:***

RIAC will commence to advertise the Fund throughout January/ February of each year.

Applications may be obtained by phoning **0358 221944** or freecall **1800 221 844** or you can download off the RIAC's web-site – [www.riac.org.au](http://www.riac.org.au)

Completed applications should be forwarded to:

**RIAC Fund Application**  
**190 Benalla Road**  
**Shepparton, 3632**

**BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS 30 JUNE EACH YEAR.**

Applications received after this date will not be accepted.

***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 of the applicants.

The successful applicant(s) will be invited to the RIAC Annual General Meeting to be presented with the Award. It is expected that successful applicants will agree to provide a short written article outlining the benefits of receiving the Scholarship.

***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 within 30 days of the date of their notification.



**APPLICATION FORM**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Date of birth:**

**Telephone No.**

**Mobile Phone No.**

**E-mail address (if applicable)**

**Details of disability (RIAC reserves the right to verify applicants eligibility)**

**Details of interests, hobbies and community involvement**

**Details of education, training, etc**

**1. Please provide details of the course of study/ apprenticeship being undertaken in 2012 year.**

**2. Please outline the services provided by RIAC.**

**3. Why are Advocacy services so important?**

**4. Please nominate at least 3 referees and their contact details who are able to support your application.**

**\* Please include additional pages if required.**