

Variety Heart Scholarships

FAQs



What is a Variety Heart Scholarship?

There are two type of Variety Heart Scholarships;

Existing Talent is designed to support children with a demonstrated talent who are living with illness, disadvantage or a disability, to reach the next stage of development in their talent.

Educational is designed to support children who are living with disadvantage, assistance to cover basic educational needs.

Who can apply for a Variety Heart Scholarship?

Applicants must be:

- Aged 6 to 17 years;
- Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents;
- Residents of Victoria; and
- have a demonstrable, existing talent in one of these areas; The Arts, Sport or Education.

What does Variety look for when assessing applications?

First and foremost, an applicant must meet all eligibility requirements. In addition to reviewing each applicant based on their own merit we will also look for the following

- Clear concise information. Define exactly what the child requires and why
- Correct legible attachments
- Existing Talent support letters from an appropriate professional person that directly discuss and focus on the child's talent and clearly stipulate what achievements they have attained
- Educational support letters from an appropriate professional person that directly discuss and focus on the child and their current academic position and how this scholarship will assist if they are successful.

If the application is not clear and/or doesn't include requested information or attachments it may be declined.

What if I need help completing an application?

We strongly recommend speaking to your support professionals, caseworkers, and teachers etc to assist you during the process. If you require any further support or clarification, please contact our friendly Kids Support Team on kidssupport@varietyvic.org.au or at **03 8698 3900**.

What is a demonstrated talent?

A demonstrated talent is one which has developed over time and can be identified by a child's achievements and verified by professionals in that area of talent.

My child has previously been granted a Variety Heart Scholarship – can they apply again?

Yes, previous recipients who also meet the eligibility criteria are welcome to apply again for consideration.

What is the decision-making process for Variety Heart Scholarships?

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Once submitted, all applications are pre-assessed by the Kids Support Team to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria. Then, all eligible applications are considered by the Variety Heart Scholarships Committee. Each application is assessed on its own merit. All decisions are at the discretion of this Committee.

Which documents do we need in order to apply for a Variety Heart Scholarship?

- Proof of household income (i.e. payslips, ATO Notice of assessment, Centrelink statements etc.); and
- Support Letter from a professional person directly related to the child's application.
- Diagnosis letter from GP/Paediatrician addressing the child's diagnosis/disability (if applicable).

What is the purpose of the Support Letter?

Existing Talent - The purpose of the support letter is to provide evidence and acknowledgment of the child's talent.

Educational - The purpose of the support letter is to provide background on where the child is academically and how the scholarship would assist the child.

The Committee relies heavily on this document when reviewing applications.

Who should be the 'Professional' person writing the Support Letter?

Here are examples of appropriate support people under each area of talent:

- **THE ARTS**Dance, Art or Music Tutors/Teachers
- **SPORT**.....Coaches, Sporting Organisations
- **EDUCATION**Teachers, Principal, Tutors, Case Manager

This professional person needs to confidently address the criteria in relation to the child applying for the scholarship.

Do Variety Heart Scholarship recipients get cash?

No. Variety pays suppliers directly on invoice.

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What can I apply for as part of a Variety Heart Scholarships?

Some examples of what Variety Heart Scholarships can fund:

Existing Talent

- Training
- Entry/Competition
- Lessons/Tuition
- Supplies/Resources
- Registration Costs
- Courses
- Equipment
- Uniforms
- Travel for the child for Air fares, bus fares, train fares such as, attending a competition (excluding car related expenses)
- Accommodation (for the child, such as attending a competition)

Educational

- School Uniform
- School Excursions/Local Camps
- Text Books
- Stationary
- Equipment required by the school

How do I apply?

Visit our website for information on dates and the link to the application form.

Where can I find out more information?

We are here to help so please call and ask to speak to one of our friendly Kids Support Team on **03 8698 3900** or email kidssupport@varietyvic.org.au if you have any questions.