

Variety – the Children’s Charity of WA

FUTURE PROGRAM: Variety Heart Scholarships 2026



Guidelines & Eligibility

The Variety Heart Scholarships support the continued development of talented or gifted WA kids striving to achieve excellence in fields of the arts, sport, or academics. The scholarship provides practical support in funding tuition, equipment, competition fees and more allowing kids to follow their dreams.

Our goal is to support children who have already shown a strong level of talent and are moving beyond participation for fun or social reasons. We’re here for families whose children are now aiming higher—those on a dedicated path toward excellence and potential elite-level achievement.

Scholarship Areas (not limited to these examples)

The Arts:

Visual Arts -	Ceramics, drawing, painting, photography, filmmaking, game design/ coding
Performing Arts -	Dance, singing, music/instrument, theatre
Literary Arts -	Fiction, drama, poetry, prose

For the field of The Arts this can be evaluated by demonstrated commitment, portfolio examples, accolades achieved at competitions or performances and referee letters.

Sport:

Physical sports -	Ball sports, athletics, cycling, gym sports, swimming, cheerleading, martial arts
Mind sports -	Board games, card games, e-sports
Motor sports -	Car, bikes, boats
Animal assisted sports -	Equestrian, canine

For the field of Sport, examples of pursuit of excellence would be competing on a state, national or international level, or making significant progress towards reaching this.

Academics - Extracurricular academic pursuits

For the field of Academics, this may include being in a specialist extension program (e.g. MENSA, coding, robotics etc.)

Eligibility

- Child must reside in WA.
- Child must be within age range of 6 to 17 at time of application.
- Child must be talented or gifted in one of these areas; The Arts, Sport, or Academics (extracurricular) AND live with either disability, disadvantage, or sickness (long term health condition).
- Child’s achievements/potential must be able to be verified by a relevant professional (mandatory).
- Family annual household income is within guide*

Funding tier guide (School year)	Maximum request limit \$	Household Income limit*
(1) – Year 1 to 6	\$2,500	\$127,000
(2) – Year 7 to 12	\$4,000	
*If your income is over the limit you may choose to apply, but please include demonstrations of extraordinary expenses, hardships and/or circumstances. Please note this does not guarantee acceptance / approval.		
Items / requests covered by Scholarship: Tuition and training fees. Entry and competition fees. Equipment and supplies directly related to discipline. Uniforms and costumes. Travel expenses for competitions (recipient only).	Ineligible requests: Retrospective funding. School fees / Tutoring (School curriculum). Parking, petrol & car costs. Ongoing repairs/maintenance of equipment. Travel costs associated with anyone other than recipient.	

Application process

1. Complete the online application form, available on our website.

The following documents will be required to be included within the application -

- (a) Income statement(s) to confirm annual household income -
 - Pay slips: two most recent pay slips for all household parents / guardians.
 - Centrelink statements / valid health-care card.
 - Most recent annual ATO payment summary.
- (b) Completed Support Letter from a professional associated with chosen discipline -
 - You will need to provide the name and email address of referee during the application process. A support letter template will be emailed to referee to complete.
- (c) Confirmation of diagnosis (if applying under Disability category).
- (d) Quotes for requested items / costs (no older than 3 months).
- (e) Examples of work / accolades.
 - Photograph of the child.
 - Copies/pictures (medals, awards, certificates, competition results, exam results, etc).
 - Photos (art – drawings / painting / digital works).
 - Footage (dance, singing, music, instruments, performing arts).
 - Audio file (singing, music, instruments).

It is **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**, especially if applying under The Arts category, that you include an audio/video file with your application. It gives our Panel a much clearer picture of your child's abilities and helps us make a more informed and fair assessment.

*Please keep files to maximum of 5MB so they can be uploaded to the application. Larger files should be emailed to kidssupport@varietywa.org.au, with your child's name in the subject line, or call our office on 9355 3655 for further instruction.

2. Submit application before the closing date.
3. Panel review applications.
4. Outcome notification sent via email.

Judging

Our judging panel is made up of external, experienced professionals who really know their stuff. They've seen a lot of talent over the years, so you can feel confident that each application is being looked at thoughtfully and fairly.

Applications will be reviewed in two rounds, depending on how many we receive. It's a good idea to get yours in sooner rather than later (refer to Key Dates below), as there may be less funding available by the second meeting.

If your child isn't awarded a scholarship, it doesn't necessarily mean they don't have talent. There are many factors at play, including how well the application communicates their achievements and the level of funding available at the time. We know how much potential every applicant has, and sometimes it simply comes down to timing and presentation.

For existing recipients, on reapplying, it's also important to know recurring support again isn't guaranteed. Each application is reviewed with fresh eyes, just like it's the first time. The panel won't assume they know your child, so it's really important to highlight their progress and achievements over the past year - think of it as starting with a blank canvas.

Wishing you the best of luck!

Additional information

- Full funding of request is not guaranteed. Approved applicants may be allocated partial funding rather than full funding at the discretion of the Panel.
- As stated above, successive Scholarships are not guaranteed for previous recipients.
- If unsuccessful, applicants may apply for the next Scholarship round (annual).
- Funds are only accessible via invoice from supplier or reimbursement upon proof of purchase.
- Scholarships are valid for 12 months from the date of approval. All allocated funds must be spent within that period, any unspent allocated funds will be closed.
- Scholarship funds can only be used for items listed in the approval letter.
- A scholarship report/survey may be requested to be completed (forms will be provided).
- Successful applicants will be invited to attend an award celebration ceremony in Perth usually held during the July school term holidays. The evening is an opportunity to formally recognise and celebrate the achievements of all recipients. While attendance is not mandatory, you are warmly encouraged to attend, as your presence will contribute to the spirit of the occasion and may be noted for future reference.

Key Dates – 2025/2026

Applications open:	Friday 19 September 2025.
Applications close:	Friday 14 November 2025 (Close date subject to change at any time, at the discretion of Variety WA, based on available funding at the time).
Application Reviews:	Early December 2025
E-mail outcome notifications:	January 2026
July 2026:	Term time holidays, Celebration Evening (more details to be confirmed on successful application).