

Variety – the Children's Charity of Queensland

Variety Heart Scholarship Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in applying for a Variety Heart Scholarship.

The Variety Heart Scholarship is a competitive program designed to support children with an existing talent who are living with disability, chronic illness, financial hardship or geographic isolation. The scholarship helps recipients take the next step in developing their talent, reach their full potential, and follow their dreams.

Scholarships are available in the areas of:

- The Arts
- Sport
- Education

Funding supports items and expenses that enhance access, inclusion, and opportunity for children aged 6 to 17 who are experiencing:

- Financial disadvantage
- Geographic isolation
- Disability or chronic illness

Eligibility

To be eligible for a Variety QLD Heart Scholarship:

- The child must reside in Queensland
- The child must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Applicants must be aged 6 to 17 years
- Applicants must demonstrate an existing talent in one of the following areas:
 - The Arts
 - Sport
 - Education
- For applicants applying under financial hardship, household income after tax must not exceed \$5,500 per month
- For applicants applying under disability or chronic illness, household income after tax must not exceed \$8,000 per month
- Variety will not fund items that are the responsibility of the NDIS

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit a complete and accurate application, including:

- Contact details
- Financial documentation, such as payslips or Centrelink income statements
- Supporting documentation (see below)



- Referee details
- A clear outline of how funds will be used, including expected costs
- Agreement to the Terms and Conditions of Scholarship Funding

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Assessment, Decision & Reporting

- Applications will be reviewed by the Variety Heart Scholarship Committee and the Variety Queensland Board
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome in late September 2026
- All applicants will receive written notification of the outcome
- Payments are made directly to suppliers where possible, or reimbursed upon submission of receipts. Funds are not paid directly to applicants.
- Funds must be used by September 2027. Any unused funds will lapse

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Complete a short impact survey at 6 and 12 months
- Provide updates if requested by the Variety team

Scholarship Timeline

Below is the timeline for the 2026/2027 Variety Heart Scholarship cycle. Please ensure you are able to meet these dates before submitting an application.

Date	Activity
1 July 2026	Applications open
31 August 2026	Applications close
15 September 2026	Applications presented to Board
28 September 2026	Recipients announced
30 April 2027	6-month update due (survey will be sent to recipients via email)
September 2027	Final month to submit expenses
October 16 2027	12-month update due (survey will be sent to recipients via email)

Scholarship Funding Inclusions

Funding may cover:

- Fees
- Training and coaching
- Competition or entry fees
- Lessons or tuition

- Supplies and resources, for example specialised shoes or swimwear
- Maintenance and repairs of essential equipment
- Courses
- Travel, including flights and public transport
- Accommodation for competitions or events
- Equipment
- Uniforms

Note: Proof of participation is required for travel and accommodation.

Funding outside this scope may be considered at the discretion of the Grants Manager. If you are unsure, please contact the Kids Support team before applying. Expenses not approved may not be reimbursed.

What We Don't Fund

The following costs are not eligible:

- Retrospective expenses
- School fees
- Therapy, assessments, medical or health related costs
- Petrol, parking, tolls, or general vehicle costs
- Daily living expenses such as food or drinks
- Items not directly related to the scholarship purpose

Required Documentation

1. Financial Documents

For all parents or carers, income evidence must be provided. This should:

- Be dated within the last 3 months
- Include all sources of income, such as wages, Centrelink, and investments
- Include year to date earnings where available

Acceptable documents:

- Payslips
- Centrelink statements
- Bank Statements

If self-employed, parent or carers must provide a copy of their 2025 or 2026 tax return.

2. Professional Support Letter

A support letter is required from a professional connected to the child's talent, such as a coach, teacher, or tutor.

The letter must include:

- Who they are and their relationship to the applicant

- Evidence of the child's existing talent, including achievements such as awards, competitions, or performances
- How the scholarship will help the child progress to the next level

Referee details must be provided and may be contacted.

3. Additional Requirement if applying with Disability or Chronic Illness:

A medical support letter from a doctor or paediatrician confirming the diagnosis or condition is required.

Additional Information

- Please complete all sections of the application carefully
- Applications cannot be viewed by Variety until they are submitted
- Late applications will not be accepted
- From time to time, recipients may be invited to share their story at Variety events

If you have any questions or need help with your application, please reach out to our Kids Support team at kidssupport@varietyqld.org.au or call 07 3907 9300.