

## Health Care Card Tuition Fee Discount Scheme Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. When was the HCC Tuition Fee Discount Scheme introduced?

The HCC Tuition Fee Discount Scheme was introduced in 2005.

### 2. How long will the Scheme operate?

It is expected the Scheme will continue to operate for the length of the child's enrolment at the school whilst a valid family Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card is held.

### 3. Who can access the Scheme?

For the purposes of this Scheme, references to a means tested Health Care Card (HCC) holder include:

- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card;
- Centrelink Family Health Care Card



Eligible cards show the parent/guardian name and those of the students who are covered by the card. If the child is over 16 years of age he/she may be issued with his/her own card, their name will not appear on the family card. If the parent/guardian still holds an eligible card, these students are still eligible for the automatic discount.

Card holders must be Parent/Guardian using a family card only. Claims cannot be made by a parent using a student's card or by a parent quoting a student's card number.

The Scheme will apply to:

- Catholic and non-Catholic families
- New and current students.

#### **4. Which Concession Cards are not eligible under this Scheme?**

Centrelink issues a number of cards for a variety of reasons. For some cards the income test requirements are stringent whilst for other cards it is more generous or non-existent. The aim of the Scheme is to assist families with limited financial resources and therefore, only cards with the lower income test requirements are automatically eligible.

The Scheme does **not** apply to:

- ABSTUDY students who can access alternative government support;
- Holders of cards under the Mobility Allowance (MOB) category; and
- Department of Veterans Affairs TPI and Gold Pensioner Concession Cards.

#### **5. What if I have the 'wrong' card or no card?**

If you currently hold a concession card other than the ones listed as eligible and have limited financial resources, you can apply for fee assistance through the school. You will be asked to provide information to assist the school in assessing your individual claim for assistance. You should obtain an Income Statement from Centrelink. This can be obtained via the internet, by telephone or from a Centrelink office.

If you do not have a Centrelink card and wish to apply for the discount you should make contact with the school Finance Department.

#### **6. How much will I have to pay?**

In 2017, the total tuition fees payable after receiving the HCC discount:

Fees \$1,635 p/a for secondary students (Year 7-12).  
Less \$ 235 Education Department Secondary Assistance Scheme  
**Total \$1,400 annual Tuition Charge**

These fees will be reviewed at the end of 2017.

#### **7. What is the State Government Educational Program Allowance under the Secondary Assistance Scheme for eligible Secondary students?**

The State Government Educational Program Allowance (EPA) of \$235, is paid to schools following application by the parents. As shown above, the Tuition fee for eligible secondary students will be \$1,635, less the \$235 EPA, leaving eligible parents to pay \$1,400. Parents should contact the school to make an appointment to complete the relevant paperwork.

#### **8. What does the discounted fee cover?**

The discounted fee covers tuition fees only.

It does not cover additional charges such as camps, book hire, building levies, insurance or levies.

#### **9. What if I have more than one child at the school?**

The school's normal sibling discounts will continue to apply to the already discounted amount ie: for 2<sup>nd</sup> child the sibling discount will be \$140 and for 3<sup>rd</sup> child sibling discount will be \$420. The full sibling discount amount will be reversed on your statements and the adjusted figure applied.

**10. What do I need to do to access this Scheme?**

- You will need to go through the school's normal enrolment procedures in order to access a place for your child at the school;
- Once a position has been confirmed, you will be informed that HCC discounts are available; and
- To access the discount, parents/guardians will need to show a valid card and complete a simple Application Form. (A second check will be requested later in the year after the card expires to ensure you are still eligible.)

**11. How will this affect the custodial/non-custodial HCC holder?**

The discount is available if the person responsible for the payment of fees is the HCC holder. If the person responsible for the payment of fees is not a valid HCC holder and has limited financial resources, then an application for fee discounts can be made to the school through contact with the Finance Department. If there is joint responsibility for payment of the fees, the discounted rate applies only to the eligible card holder account if the bill is split.

**12 Will this Scheme result in an increase in fees to non-HCC holders?**

No. Fee increases will remain within the normal Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (CECWA) approved "recommended maximum fee increase" levels.

**13 Are HCC holders guaranteed a position at the school of their choice or will they be prevented from gaining a place because they are not paying full fees?**

Normal enrolment procedures will apply as per the CECWA and the College Enrolment Policy with the following enrolment priorities:

- Catholic students from Catholic Primary schools with a Parish Priest reference
- Catholic students from non-Catholic Primary Schools with Parish Priest reference
- Other Catholic students from Catholic Primary schools
- Other Catholic students from non-Catholic Primary schools
- Siblings of non-Catholic students
- Non-Catholic students from Catholic Primary schools
- Non-Catholic students from other Christian denominations
- Other non-Catholic students