

## Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac - TAFE/RTO SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA and GUIDELINES

The **2026 Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac TAFE/RTO Scholarship Program** aims to assist academically motivated students from the Willaura, Lake Bolac and surrounding communities, who have been offered a place at an Australian **TAFE institute** or **Registered Training Organisation (RTO)** to study in 2026 and are experiencing challenging circumstances.

The Scholarship program supports the following study related expenses – accommodation, course costs and study-related materials and equipment. Other expenses will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### Key general qualification criteria:

- You are an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Students must currently reside and have been a resident for more than 6 months in Willaura or Lake Bolac and surrounding communities.
- You can demonstrate leadership both within, and outside, your school community.
- You can demonstrate the challenging circumstances (financial and/or social) hindering your ability to undertake further study
- You are a motivated student who can demonstrate community involvement and a desire to return to work in rural areas.

For study at TAFE/RTO –

### Qualification criteria:

- You must be **aged 16-25** as at 31 January 2026 – students under the age of 18 will require parental/guardian consent to accept this Scholarship
- You must have left Secondary School (**having completed Year 10 as a minimum**)
- You have been offered a place or enrolled to **commence study in 2026** at an approved Australian TAFE institute campus or Registered Training Organisation in an approved Australian course\*
- You can be studying on campus and/or off-campus (including online).
- You can be studying on a full-time basis.
- Course must be of at least a minimum of 26 weeks' duration for full time study.

*\*Eligible courses include:*

- *Full-time or competency-based completion (apprenticeships)*
- *Certificate I, II, III or IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree*

Courses ineligible for this Scholarship includes VETiS, Foundation level training and short courses.

### Key dates:

Applications open 9am on 1st November each year. Application close 5pm on 27th January each year.

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an interview with the selection committee during February.

Successful applicants advised no later than end of February each year.

The Scholarship award value is **up to \$5,000 per year for up to 3 years** for each successful recipient.

The awarding of this scholarship is subject to the criteria set out above, proof of satisfactory academic performance and re-enrolment in subsequent years.

If the student withdraws from the course, the board reserves the right to withdraw the scholarship.

Applications for deferrals or gap years will be assessed by the selection committee on an individual basis.

Scholarships will be awarded on the recommendation of a selection committee and will be based on how an applicant addresses the qualification criteria.

For further information please contact the Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac Secretary on [wlbf.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:wlbf.secretary@gmail.com) or phone 0409 200 991.

*The Scholarship Selection Committee reserves the right, at its discretion, not to award this scholarship in any given year.*

**Community Bank** Branch Scholarships are funded from management accounts of the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund), The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237879, is the trustee of the Fund.