

2023 ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME INFORMATION SHEET

The **ACT Mental Health Consumer Scholarship Scheme** is a partnership between ACT Health, CIT and ACT Mental Health Consumer Network. It is designed to support mental health consumers to study in the community services area. The aim of the scheme is to increase employment opportunities for mental health consumers in mental health, alcohol and other drugs, community development, youth work and community services. The scholarship scheme recognises the immense value offered by persons with lived experience of mental illness.

Who is a Mental Health Consumer? A mental health consumer is anyone who has lived experience of a mental illness or mental health problem. In this context this includes, but is not limited to, people who identify as having lived experience of anxiety, depression, substance use issues, personality disorder and post traumatic disorder.

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

The ACT Mental Health Consumer Scholarship Scheme is a **two staged** approach to support mental health consumers gain qualifications in the area of community services.

- The **first stage** of the scheme is funding for the completion of the **Statement of Attainment in Introductory Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs**. This qualification will work towards a Certificate IV within the community services package. This will be funded in 2023.
- The **second stage** is funding that covers course fees for continuing to study in only one of the **Certificate IV** courses in the Community Work Programs.

These courses are run by the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) at Bruce.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Anyone who has lived experience of a mental illness/disorder, has accessed services in the ACT, and is 17 years of age or older is eligible to apply for admission to the scholarship scheme. Preference will be given to applicants who have not completed post-secondary studies and/or are unemployed.

WHERE DO I BEGIN? - *STAGE1: COMPLETION OF THE STATEMENT OF ATTAINMENT*

This first stage consists of the completion of the Statement of Attainment in Introductory Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs. Students study in a group which runs over approximately 16 weeks for six to eight (6-8) hours per week. This Statement of Attainment contributes to the attainment of the Certificate IV courses in the Community Work programs run at CIT Health, Community and Science. This means that the competencies studied as part of the Statement of Attainment, once successfully completed, count towards a Certificate IV should students wish to continue their studies.

The competencies are:

- CHCMHS001 Work with people with mental health issues
- CHCAOD001 Work in an alcohol and any drugs context
- CHCCOM002 Use communication to build relationships

OK I'M INTERESTED, WHAT'S NEXT?

You need to apply for the scholarship scheme by completing a simple application form.

Applying for the first stage

Application forms for ACT Mental Health Consumer Scholarship are available from CIT Health, Community and Science, Department of Community Work. Call (02) 6207 4055 or email CITCommunityWork@cit.edu.au to request an application form or use the application form attached to this information sheet.

Once you have completed your application you can:

- email it to: CITCommunityWork@cit.edu.au; or
- hand deliver it to: Mental Health Consumer application
Community Work
CIT Bruce campus
Building A, Room A115; or
- post it to: Mental Health Consumer application
Community Work, Bruce campus, Room A115
CIT Health, Community and Science,
GPO BOX 826
Canberra City ACT 2601.

After finishing the Statement of Attainment, I would like to keep studying for a Certificate IV under this scheme.

WHAT DO I DO NOW? *STAGE 2: CERTIFICATE IV*

Once you have successfully completed the Statement of Attainment, we hope that you will want to continue studying and complete a Certificate IV. Upon completing the Statement of Attainment, you become eligible to apply to study with scholarship support in any one of the following Certificate IV programs:

- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Community Development
- Community Services Work
- Mental Health
- Youth Work

Under the scheme, CIT holds funds for scholarship recipients in trust on behalf of the ACT Health. For scholarship holders who choose to continue with their study, funds are available to cover fees for one full Certificate IV course.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Application process

Scholarship recipients who have successfully completed the Statement of Attainment can apply for **STAGE 2** of the ACT Mental Health Consumer Scholarship Scheme. You will need to apply with the Department of Community Work at time of enrolment.

The scholarship covers the entire *course* fees for a Certificate IV i.e. it covers all fees for each unit you undertake every semester. Each semester you need to enrol in your units and your completed enrolment form will be forwarded to CIT Student Support for payment. A pastoral care officer from CIT can assist you with the enrolment process.

How will you receive the money?

There is no exchange of monies between you and CIT. If you receive a scholarship, you can concentrate on your studies without worrying about paying your fees.

Other costs

If you are awarded a scholarship, you will still be responsible for covering some costs associated with your study. For instance, some of the costs not covered by the scholarship include stationery, printing, textbooks, travel, parking expenses and childcare.

How long is the scholarship valid?

The scholarship is valid for two years. If you do not complete your course within two years, it is possible to continue studying with scholarship support. However, in this situation scholarship support is not guaranteed and it is best to talk with the Head of Department; Community Work at CIT Health, Community and Science as early as possible to discuss your options.

Support/counselling while you are studying

If you are experiencing any issues while you are studying, personal or otherwise, you can talk to a counsellor at CIT. Standard confidentiality principles apply. This service is free of charge. You can access pastoral care and learning support at CIT if you need it. You can apply to have extended time to complete assessment tasks if it becomes challenging to meet a deadline. It is important to remember to communicate with appropriate support staff if you are experiencing any issues that impact on your ability to successfully complete your course.

Learning Support

Learning support is also available for scholarship students. If you feel you need some help or advice with your studies, please speak to your teacher, Head of Department, or the designated coordinator of the course. There will be additional in-class tutorial support whilst undertaking the course, and scholarship recipients can access additional supports which are available to all CIT students. These include drop-in tutorials and disability assessments to provide reasonable adjustments for study.

What if I become unwell or am unable to complete the course?

If you become unwell, are unable to complete, or no longer wish to pursue the course, it is expected that you will talk with the Pastoral Care Officer or the Head of Department, Community Work at CIT Health, Community and Science before withdrawing. This is to ensure that you have access to all possible supports to help you with any barriers affecting your ability to continue studying. Scholarship recipients have two years after they complete the Statement of Attainment to complete their certificate IV course. However, if there have been extenuating circumstances e.g. illness, hospitalisation etc. resulting in needing to take time off from study then CIT can be flexible and allow more time.

What happens if I am not competent in a subject?

If you are not competent, you may be able to repeat the unit on scholarship fees, but this must be approved by the ACT Health, Mental Health Policy Unit and CIT. However, it is CIT's policy to allow students to resubmit work that does not meet the required standard. CIT will consider students' individual needs and circumstances when making assessments. For example, a student may ask to be assessed verbally rather than by written work. Remember there is support if you need it – just ask.

Course Withdrawal

You can withdraw from the course or subject up to the date course fees are due. If you need to withdraw from a subject before completing it because of illness – with adequate supporting evidence – CIT may allow you to return to the subject in another semester without having to pay the course fee. You need to inform CIT immediately if you choose to stop undertaking a subject you have already commenced. Funds to cover your scholarship fees will not continue if you stop attending without informing CIT.

We want you to succeed

ACT Health, CIT and ACT Mental Health Consumer Network all want you to succeed. It is important if problems arise and study becomes difficult for any reason that you approach CIT staff of the Department of Community Work, or CIT Student Support, or the ACT Mental Health Consumer Network for support.

Where is the course held?

Both stages of the scholarship scheme are held at the Canberra Institute of Technology, at Bruce, Haydon Drive, in the Community Work Department of CIT Health, Community and Science.

Further information about the scholarship is available from Community Work, CIT Health, Community and Science: Nicci Anderson on (02) 6207 4055; or CITCommunityWork@cit.edu.au

Student feedback so far:

Many of the students who have participated in the scholarship scheme have been pleased with the experience. One student stated that

“Without this course, further study would have been too daunting for me to even contemplate. I have felt supported and valued by my teachers and peers through this whole process. I am now looking forward to completing a Certificate IV.”



2023 ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME APPLICATION FORM

You must be a mental health consumer aged 17 years or over to apply for this scholarship

APPLICANT

Given Name: Surname:

Date of Birth: /.... /.....

Address:

.....

Email:

Phone: (H): (W): (Mobile):

QUALIFICATIONS

For each qualification you have received please indicate the following:

NAME OF QUALIFICATION	NAME OF INSTITUTION WHERE THE QUALIFICATION WAS STUDIED	DATE OR PLANNED DATE OF COMPLETION

Are you currently employed? *(Please circle)* No / Yes

If YES, is your contract *(please tick the relevant box)*: Permanent Contract Casual?

How many hours per week do you work?hours/week

Briefly describe your lived experience of mental illness or mental health problem (note that this information is used only to ensure potential participants qualify for a consumer scholarship and will remain confidential within the selection panel).

.....

Explain why you would like to receive this scholarship.

.....
.....

This course runs for 16 weeks (over a period of 6 months) and weekly class attendance is expected in all classes.

Do you think you can commit to attending classes weekly, for 6-8 hours per week, for a period of 6 months commencing early February 2023?

Yes

What strategies and or supports do you have or can access to make sure that you can attend regularly?

.....
.....

No/I am not sure

What strategies and or support might help to make sure that you can complete your study?

.....
.....

If you are awarded a scholarship, what can we do to support your learning if you cannot attend a class?

.....
.....

If your application is approved this scholarship provides you with the following opportunities:

- Stage 1: **free training in the Statement of Attainment in Introductory Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs towards a Certificate IV in the Department of Community Work at CIT** – delivered over 6-8 hours per week for 16 weeks.
- Stage 2: On successful completion of the Statement of Attainment you can access free training (for 18 months) to complete a certificate IV in one of the Community Work programs. The free training covers the cost of training only - it does not cover books, printing, stationery, childcare, travel or other expenses.

Successful applicants will have access to CIT services including drop-in tutorial support, counselling and disability services at no extra cost.

I have read, understand and agree to the conditions of the scholarship (*Please circle*) Yes / No

If you answered **No** to this question and would like to discuss this please contact Community Work, CIT Health, Community and Science: Jane Stanier on Jane.Stanier@cit.edu.au or 6205 4145.

Applicant’s Signature:

Date:/...../.....

Application forms should be:

- emailed to: CITCommunityWork@cit.edu.au; OR
- delivered to: Mental Health Consumer application
CIT Bruce campus
Building A, Room A115; OR
- sent to: Mental Health Consumer application
Community Work, Bruce campus
CIT Health, Community and Science,
GPO BOX 826
Canberra City ACT 2601; OR

Applications open on Monday 12 September 2022

This opportunity is being offered in two rounds:

Round	Applications Due by	Selection Committee Meeting
1	14 November 2022	Week commencing 21 November 2022
2	9 January 2023	Week commencing 16 January 2023

All applicants will be notified about the outcome of their application in writing within two weeks of the selection committee meetings.

If you are successful, you will receive a letter informing you of the process for enrolment and course outlines and you will be invited to attend an orientation session prior to commencing classes at the beginning of February 2023.