



MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday 26th March 2025

Chances for Children Scholarship recipients announced

Mallee Family Care is proud to announce the recipients of this year's Chances for Children scholarships, which support young people in the Mallee to chase their dreams.

Twenty-six recipients have secured Scholarships to support their tertiary education journeys, while two Non-Tertiary Scholarships have been awarded to support local athletes play state level basketball

The Tertiary Scholarships will assist with tuition fees, accommodation, and other educational expenses, empowering these students to chase their dreams of obtaining a higher education and contributing to their communities' growth and prosperity.

Established in 2000, the Chances for Children Foundation (Chances) is the philanthropic arm of Mallee Family Care. Through an annual scholarship program, Chances assists 14-25-year-olds to stay in school, undertake tertiary studies and take sporting, arts, leadership or musical talents to state or national level.

Mallee Family Care CEO Teresa Jayet extended her congratulations to the 28 worthy recipients.

"Chances for Children was founded on the premise that everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their circumstances or where they live. Chances scholarships are an investment in our youth, and our community," Ms Jayet said.

"We know that young people in regional and remote areas often face unique challenges when it comes to accessing tertiary education, which is even further exasperated by the rising cost of living.

"Through these scholarships, we hope to not only alleviate some of the financial burdens but also inspire and support these talented individuals to reach their full potential."

As well as financial assistance, all Chances for Children scholarship recipients are supported with mentorship opportunities and career development resources to ensure their ongoing success.

Among the latest scholarship awardees are Mildura siblings Alice and William Siale whose basketball talents have been recognised at Victorian state level.

18-year-old Madison Le Guier from Swan Hill, plans to study a Bachelor of Health Science at Deakin University and eventually become a Speech Pathologist, while Dylan Anderson of Mildura, is studying a Bachelor of Law and a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Monash University in Clayton. Scholarship funds will assist both Madison and Dylan to cover costs associated with living away from home to study.

For 23-year-old Hannah Maalste, receiving a Chances scholarship will help her become the first person in her family to attend university.



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The Broken Hill student has been accepted to study a Bachelor of Paramedicine through Charles Sturt University, which she will complete online. Scholarship funds will help cover travel and accommodation costs when Hannah attends placement and practical sessions in Bathurst as part of her coursework.

Hannah's ultimate goal is to become a paramedic and provide vital emergency healthcare in her hometown of Broken Hill.

She also hopes to inspire others from rural backgrounds that anything is possible.

“From high school, I never thought I would attend university, nor did my family,” she said.

“As well as proving it to myself, I hope to show other youth that they can overcome any challenge and do what they dream of.”

Hannah acknowledged the many individuals, community groups and businesses whose contributions helped fund the annual Chances scholarship program.

“Any donation will be changing a life. Scholarships give young people the opportunity to follow their dreams and the confidence to say, ‘I know I can do it’,” she said.

Over the past 25 years, Chances for Children has provided more than 2,200 Scholarships to young people living and studying in North West Victoria, South West New South Wales and Far West New South Wales.

Scholarships applications will open again later this year, with categories including:

- Keeping Kids at Secondary School (Years 11 and 12)
- Tertiary (TAFE, University and Apprenticeship studies)
- Non-Tertiary (Sport, leadership, music and arts pursuits at state level and beyond)

For eligibility criteria and more information about the program visit chancesforchildren.com.au or call Mallee Family Care on 1300 417 618.

Congratulations to the 2025 Chances for Children scholarship recipients

Recipient	Hometown	Scholarship Details
Sienna Rankin	Mildura	Diploma of Business RMIT, Melbourne
Kaunanga Fangaloka	Mildura	Cert III in Non-Emergency Patient Transport Victoria University, Sunshine
Madison Le Guier	Swan Hill	Bachelor of Health Science Deakin University, Waurn Ponds
Kira Harkin	Red Cliffs	Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) Deakin University, Geelong



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Clare Saunders	Mildura	Bachelor of Nursing RMIT, Melbourne
Dylan Anderson	Mildura	Bachelor of Law (Hons) and Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics Monash University, Clayton
Morgan Anderson	Mildura	Bachelor of Arts (Literary Studies) Monash University, Clayton
Montanna Avery	Mildura	Diploma of Allied Health and Human Performance University of South Australia, Adelaide
Poppy Briggs	Mildura	Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) Monash University, Clayton
Chloe Harmer	Merbein	Diploma of Business Deakin College, Burwood
Farida Ibrahim	Mildura	Bachelor of Accounting RMIT, Melbourne
Hannah Maalste	Broken Hill	Bachelor of Paramedicine Charles Sturt University, online
Janieka Pope	Mildura	Bachelor of Arts (Sports Journalism) Deakin University, Burwood
Surendra Kumar Prajapati	Mildura	Bachelor of Dental Science (Hons) La Trobe University, Bendigo
Poppy Whittaker	Broken Hill	Bachelor of Health & Medical Sciences University of Adelaide
Jasmine Shaddock	Mildura	Diploma of Beauty Therapy SuniTAFE, Mildura
Deanne Kidman	Kerang	Diploma of Teacher Education Latrobe University, Bendigo
Gabrielle Davis	Swan Hill	Diploma of Nursing SuniTAFE, Swan Hill
Finn Beattie	Mildura	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) University of Adelaide
Jasmine Balchin	Mildura	Diploma of Nursing SuniTAFE, Mildura
Jae Knobben	Mildura	Bachelor of Biomedical Science La Trobe University, Bendigo
Ella Van-Heythuysen	Lake Boga	Diploma of Community Services SuniTAFE, Swan Hill
Miranda O'Sullivan	Moulamein	Bachelor of 3D Animation Academy of Interactive Technology, Melbourne
Ali Ehsani	Mildura	Bachelor of Biomedical Science RMIT, Melbourne



Mohammad Ehsani	Mildura	Bachelor of Pharmacy La Trobe University, Bendigo
Jenna Bibby	Swan Hill	Diploma of Community Services Aspire to Succeed
Alice Siale	Mildura	Non-Tertiary Scholarship to play basketball at a Victorian State level
William Siale	Mildura	Non-Tertiary Scholarship to play basketball at a Victorian State level

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