

# WAYTCO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM | GUIDELINES 2025

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The WAYTCO Scholarship Program ('the Program') has two main objectives:

1. Provide financial support to young people of WAYTCO priority demographics wishing to access our fee-for-service programs, such as our [Ensemble Program](#) and Pathways Courses but for whom fees are prohibitive.
2. Support the efforts of WAYTCO to ensure the make-up of participant groups is truly inclusive and diverse.

## WHO IS IT FOR? (ELIGIBILITY)

WAYTCO **priority demographics** are:

- First Nations Youth aged 11-26;
- Young people with disability or chronic illness aged 11-26;
- Young people of Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) background aged 11-26;
- LGBTQIA+ youth aged 11-26.

The Program **two-part eligibility criteria** is: *Membership of one of the above-listed groups AND financial hardship.*

## WHAT IS IT FOR?

The Program provides a limited number of **partial scholarships** to eligible young people who are offered a place in any one of the following ensemble programs:

- Beginners Ensemble, for youth aged 11-14;
- Junior Ensemble, for youth aged 15-17;
- Senior Ensemble, for young adults aged 18-26.

Or who seek to attend another of our fee-for-service programs.

The fee schedule for WAYTCO Ensembles is as follows:

2025 Ensembles Quarterly Payment Schedule					
TOTAL COST	7 March	6 June	8 August	24 October	# instalments
Beginners					
\$555.00	\$138.75	\$138.75	\$138.75	\$138.75	4
Juniors					
\$735.00	\$183.75	\$183.75	\$183.75	\$183.75	4
Seniors					
\$965.00	\$241.25	\$241.25	\$241.25	\$241.25	4

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

### Ensembles

For access to a scholarship for WAYTCO's Ensemble Program, a year-round program, a young person who meets the two-part eligibility criteria must first **audition** at WAYTCO's annual General Auditions AND **receive an Ensemble Place Offer**, before applying for a scholarship.

With the issue of an offer, you will be asked to pay an Acceptance Fee to secure your place. The Offer email will also notify recipients about WAYTCO's Scholarship Program. A link to the web-platformed

Expression of Interest (EOI) form for the Program will also be included: <https://waytco.com/get-involved/scholarships>

Eligible youth who receive a Place Offer should complete and submit a scholarship EOI form as soon as possible and by no later than the due date of the Acceptance Fee.

The form asks for the following information:

- Applicant full name, phone number, p/code, age;
- Ensemble program (i.e. Beginner, Junior or Senior);
- A statement of need/ A statement of what qualifies the applicant for a scholarship (250words max)\*;
- Personal referee details (i.e. name, phone number & email of a family member/support person/teacher/mentor).

*\*Please refrain from giving personal detail. Speak as objectively as possible to **fitting one of WAYTCO's priority groups AND experiencing financial hardship**. If you do not meet the two-part eligibility criteria, you may still complete and return an EOI and your appeal for financial assistance will be considered on a case-by-case basis.*

## Short Form Programs

For access to a price reduction on passes to 'short form' fee-for-service programs, such as our Pathways program, please simply email us at [info@waytco.com](mailto:info@waytco.com) requesting consideration of your financial support needs. Your appeal for support will be considered on a case-by-case basis and with consideration to how much of the annual scholarship fund has been dispensed on Ensemble Scholarship.

## HOW WILL YOUR E.O.I. BE ASSESSED?

WAYTCO's approach to scholarship dispensation emphasises award of partial-scholarship, or co-contribution, wherever possible, to ensure youth commitment to attendance.

There are four main criteria by which WAYTCO staff will assess scholarship EOIs:

1. The applicant's statement of need speaks to meeting the two-part eligibility criteria, i.e. they clearly claim membership of a WAYTCO priority group AND financial hardship;
2. Referee check: The nominated referee backs up the young person's claim and the staff member is thereby reassured that the request is genuine\*.
3. The request is weighed up against number and quality of other scholarship EOIs in the round and - where annual scholarship fund limit is due to be reached - the applicant is shortlisted on the basis of 'most-in-need';
4. Extending from 3., the staff member considers the upper cap on scholarship dispensation and the intent of the fund to be allocated to assist as many eligible young people as possible\*\*.

*\*Where the applicant is, for some good reason, unable to provide the contact details for a referee check, the assessing staff member may make a determination about **genuineness of need**. If the staff member is unsure about making such a determination, they may - in order to arrive at a reasonable determination - seek to discuss the matter discretely with a senior staff member or member of the board executive.*

*\*\*To ensure the scholarship fund helps as many young people as possible, the assessing staff may need to make a determination about **degree of need**. This situation calls for comparison between applications in the round and application of a three-tier categorisation of 'need level'.*

## SCHOLARSHIP TIERS

The need level tiers are:

- Mild financial need = 25% scholarship
- Moderate financial need = 50% scholarship
- High financial need = 75% scholarship

We emphasise dispensation of 25% and 50% scholarships. Occasionally, when an applicant makes a case for significant hardship, and where the fund for the year allows, a 75% or full scholarship may be awarded.

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT FEE SCHEDULE

Original cost	% Reduction	NEW TOTAL COST	7 Mar	6 Jun	8 Aug	24 Oct	Instalments
Beginners							
\$555.00	25%	\$416.00	\$104	\$104	\$104	\$104	4
	50%	\$277.00	\$69.25	\$69.25	\$69.25	\$69.25	4
	75%	\$138.76	\$34.69	\$34.69	\$34.69	\$34.69	4
Juniors							
\$735.00	25%	\$551.20	\$137.80	\$137.80	\$137.80	\$137.80	4
	50%	\$367.48	\$91.87	\$91.87	\$91.87	\$91.87	4
	75%	\$183.76	\$45.76	\$45.76	\$45.76	\$45.76	4
Seniors							
\$965.00	25%	\$723.60	\$180.90	\$180.90	\$180.90	\$180.90	4
	50%	\$482.40	\$120.60	\$120.60	\$120.60	\$120.60	4
	75%	\$241.20	\$60.30	\$60.30	\$60.30	\$60.30	4

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION IN YOUR EOI?

The Statement of Need that you provide with your EOI form will remain confidential and will only be used for scholarship qualification purposes. If you would like, after your request has been processed, you may ask WAYTCO to delete the EOI form from its records. Otherwise, WAYTCO regularly conducts a review of the personal information it holds on participants, deleting or destroying information dates back more than three years and that is no longer required.

If you have any questions or concerns about the process for applying for WAYTCO scholarships, please contact: [artisticdirector@waytco.com](mailto:artisticdirector@waytco.com)

Last updated: 26/02/2025