



## ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME INFORMATION SHEET

The **ACT Mental Health Consumer Scholarship Scheme** is designed to support mental health consumers to study in the human services area. The aim of the Scheme is to increase employment opportunities for mental health consumers in the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug, Community Development, Youth Work and Community Services areas. The scholarship scheme recognises the immense value offered by persons with an experience of mental illness.

**Who is a Mental Health Consumer?** A mental health consumer is anyone who has the lived experience of mental illness or a mental health problem.

### 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 human services.

- The **first stage** of the Scheme is the **Statement of Attainment**.
- The **second stage** is funding, that covers course fees only, for study in one of the **Certificate IV** courses in the Community Services and Development Program.

These are run at the CIT Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing, Southside campus in Woden.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Anyone who is 17 years of age or older who has experienced a mental illness /disorder is eligible to apply to for 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: STATEMENT OF ATTAINMENT**

This Statement of Attainment consists of three competencies, or areas of study, drawn from the Certificate IV in Mental Health. These are delivered as two subjects.

They are taught at no cost to the scholarship holder. Students study in a small group. The group runs four (4) hours per week over a 17 week semester. The Statement of Attainment subjects are core subjects for all Certificate IV courses in the Community Services and Development Programs run through the CIT Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing. This means that these subjects, once successfully completed, count towards the Certificate IV.

The two core subjects are:

- Mental Health Basics: Competency: CHCMH401A 'Work effectively in mental health settings'
- Introductions to Addictions: Competencies: CHCAOD402A 'Work effectively in the alcohol and others drugs sector' and CHCCS403B 'Provide brief interventions'

### **OK I'M INTERESTED, WHAT'S NEXT?**

You need to apply for the scholarship scheme. It is a simple application.

#### **Applying for the Statement of Attainment.**

Applications for ACT Mental Health Consumer Scholarship -Statement of Attainment are available from the Mental Health Policy Unit, ACT Health Directorate. You can obtain a form by calling on 6205 1178 and asking to speak with the Community Development and Education Officer.

Alternatively, you can download a form from the ACT Mental Health Consumer Network website: [www.actmhcn.org.au](http://www.actmhcn.org.au).

Once you have completed your application form you can fax it on 02 6205 0866 or send it to:

Community Development and Education Officer,  
Mental Health Policy Unit,  
Level 2, 11 Moore Street,  
GPO BOX 825  
Canberra City ACT 2601

**I've finished the Statement of Attainment and would like to keep studying for a Certificate IV under this scheme.**

### **WHAT DO I DO NOW?**

#### **STAGE 2:**

#### **CERTIFICATE IV**

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

- Mental Health
- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Community Development
- Youth Work
- Community Services Work
- Child, Youth and Family Intervention (Child Protection)

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

## **Support/ counselling while you are studying**

Once you are studying, if you are experiencing any issues, personal or otherwise, you can talk to a student counsellor at the CIT campus. Normal confidentiality principles apply.

## **Study Assistance**

Study support is also available for scholarship students. If you feel you need some help or advice with your studies, you can access free tutorial support for 2 hours every three weeks.

Scholarship recipients can also access additional supports which are available to all CIT students.

## **Other costs**

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

## **Student Feedback so far**

Many of the students who've 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.'

## **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

### **Application process**

Scholarship recipients who have successfully completed the Statement of Attainment can apply for the **STAGE 2** of the ACT Mental Health Consumers Scholarship. You will need to apply through the Education Manager, in the Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing at CIT.

The scholarship covers the entire *course* fees for a Certificate IV. The scholarship covers all fees for each subject the student undertakes every semester. Each semester the student needs to enrol in their subjects and complete the mental health consumer scholarship fund application forms. The Education Manager or a student counsellor at CIT can assist you with the process.

### **How will you receive the money?**

There is no exchange of monies between the Student and CIT. If you receive a scholarship the Education Manager bills CIT directly, leaving you to concentrate on your studies.

### **What if I become unwell during my study?**

If you become unwell during your study let the Education Manager at the Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing know as soon as possible. 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 relapse, hospitalisation etc. resulting in the student needing to take time off from study then CIT can be flexible and allow more time.

### **How long is the scholarship valid?**

The scholarship is valid for 2 years. If, for reasons other than student illness, a student doesn't complete their course within 2 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 Manager, Centre of Health, Community and Wellbeing to discuss your options.

### **Some training and scholarship conditions**

If a student is unable to complete a course or no longer wishes to pursue the course in which they are enrolled, it is expected they will talk with the Education Manager at Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing before withdrawing. This is to ensure that the student has access to all possible supports and any barriers preventing the student from studying are minimised.

### **Course Withdrawal**

Students can withdraw from the course or subject up to the date course fees are due. If a student needs to withdraw from a subject before completing it because of illness-with adequate supporting evidence – CIT may allow them to return to the subject in another semester without having to pay again.

A student needs to inform CIT immediately if they commence a subject and choose to drop out the week after the fee due date. Depending on the particular circumstances, approval would be sought to request that in this individual case the fee need not be paid. However, this isn't guaranteed. Fees would definitely be lost if the student just stopped attending a few weeks after the fee due date.

### **What happens if I fail a subject?**

If a student fails a subject, repeating it on scholarship fees would have to be approved by the ACT Health Directorate, Mental Health Policy Unit and the CIT.

However, it is CIT policy to allow students to resubmit work that does not meet the required standard. CIT will take into account 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

Students can access pastoral care and learning support at CIT if they 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.

### **We want you to succeed**

ACT Health Directorate, CIT and ACT MH Consumer network all want you to succeed. It is important that if things crop up and study gets difficult for whatever reason, that you approach CIT staff, the Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing, the Education Manager and/ or the ACT Mental Health Consumer Network for support.

**Where is the course held?**

Both phases of the scholarship scheme are held at the Canberra Institute of Technology, Southside Campus, Ainsworth Street, Woden, within the Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing.

**Further information about the scholarship** is available from the Mental Health Policy Unit of ACT: Community Development and Education Officer: Telephone: 6205 1178.

**Further information about the Certificate IV** program is available through the CIT website [www.cit.act.edu.au](http://www.cit.act.edu.au) or

Education Manger: Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing: Telephone: 6207 4914.





## ACT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME INFORMATION SHEET

Given Name .....

Surname .....

**Are you aged 17 years or over? Yes/No**

Address .....

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Email .....

Phone ..... Mobile .....

What you are applying for? (Please circle)

a) Statement of Attainment or

b) Recognition of Prior Learning. Have you done any other study that you think would be important for us to know about?

What is your highest level of education? (Please circle)

Year 7    Year 8    Year 9    Year 10    Year 11    Year 12

Post Secondary studies.

Tertiary Studies

What year did you finish studying? .....

Did you complete post secondary studies?

Are you currently employed? Yes / No

If yes, please circle: Permanent / Part time / Casual

Briefly, why would you like to receive this scholarship?

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.....  
.....

I am a mental health consumer? Yes/No

I have read, understand and agree to the conditions of the scholarship? Yes/No

If you answered No to this question and would like to discuss this please call the Mental Health Policy Unit of ACT: Community Development and Education Officer: 6205 1178

Signature ..... Date .....

Application closing date .....

**Application forms are to be sent to:**

Community Development and Education Officer  
ACT Health, Mental Health Policy Unit  
GPO BOX 825,  
Canberra City ACT 2601  
  
Or faxed 6205 0866

All applicants will be notified by mail within 2 weeks of the closing date.

Successful applicants will receive a letter informing them of the process for enrolment and course outlines.

**Applications Open** on the 9 October 2011

**Applications Close** on 22 November 2011. Applications must be received by 5 pm on this date

All applicants will be notified about the outcome of their application in writing by 6 December 2011.