

Thirrii Scholarship Program 2020

Scholarship Guidelines



T H I R R I L I

Thirrili Scholarship Program

I am pleased to introduce the 2020 Thirrili Scholarship Program. This is an inaugural scholarship program, developed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people develop skills to support families who have experienced traumatic events including suicide and work with organisations involved with families during this sad time.

Thirrili recognises that many of our families encounter barriers to accessing culturally safe and supportive services at a time when they are overwhelmed with strong emotions. We also acknowledge that the capacities of the postvention sector generally are strengthened and enriched through the participation of people who bring to the table varied perspectives, lifestyles and life experiences. Embracing diversity and inclusion ensures that we are better positioned to deliver meaningful services to the community we serve in a positive way.

The Thirrili Scholarship Program represents an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take further steps towards achieving their potential, gaining skills and networks, new knowledge and opportunities for employment which extends our ideas of sharing and caring.

This approach also represents a further step towards Thirrili achieving its outcomes including:

1. Strengthening community capacity and resilience
2. Providing culturally safe support services; and
3. Working with local Elders, community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other services to meet the needs of families and communities when and where they need them.
4. Supporting families access a network of advocates who can work with families when they need support the most.

The Thirrili Scholarship Program will support our participants with the skills, tools, resources and opportunities to contribute to the postvention sector. People who complete this course may be eligible for further training and support, on-the-job work opportunities; or support to secure an ABN to take advantage of the opportunities available through the Indigenous Procurement Policy in all states and Territories.

Timothy Goodwin
Chairperson, Thirrili

Guidelines for all Applicants to the Thirrili Scholarship Program

General information

The Thirrili Scholarship program is an initiative from the Board of Thirrili. The Program aims to achieve a sustained increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people developing practical knowledge of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who have experienced traumatic events with a focus on suicide.

The program will entail on-line learning modules and practical work experience which will support people's employment opportunities in the postvention sector.

Scholarships will be awarded on merit, taking into account an applicant's eligibility, past academic results, personal circumstances and ability to complete the course of study.

Scholarships will be provided to eligible students in the form of a fortnightly study allowance to support full-time study for the six week period. The total amount of the scholarship is \$6000.00

You can request an application form by contacting Shannon Kearing on **0438 549 575** or by email: shannon.k@thirrili.com.au

The closing date for applications is 5.00pm 1 June 2020.

If you require this document in another accessible format, or if you have certain requirements to enable you to participate in the application process, please contact Shannon Kearing on the email above.

Scholarships on offer for 2020

The scholarship will be paid fortnightly and will start following the signing of the scholarship agreement by all parties.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the scholarship, an applicant must:

- be an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person
- declare, and provide details of, any scholarships currently awarded by government or non- government entities
- be able to participate in and complete the requirements for the six week-long program including having access to a computer; and
- be above the age of 18

Upon successful completion of this training program, participants may be eligible for a position with Thirrili or other postvention services in a variety of capacities.

Cessation of the scholarship

Scholarship payments under this program shall cease:

- should the recipient withdraw from the approved course of study; or
- if during the scholarship period, a scholarship recipient takes up employment attracting a gross annual salary of (or exceeding) \$25,000 per annum, with Thirrili or any other employer.

Eligibility for payments from Thirrili as part of this program shall cease from the date of employment commencement or withdrawal from the approved course of study.

Assessment of applications

If an application meets all eligibility criteria, it will be assessed on merit, together with the applicant's personal circumstances, academic history and achievements, and any previous assistance received for study purposes, excluding financial assistance provided through Centrelink.

Scholarship requirements

Scholarship recipients must provide proof in writing to the Thirrili's Scholarship Contact Officer of:

- their Tax File Number; and
- any change to their workload or contact details, address and telephone number (within 5 days of the change).

A scholarship will not be approved until the applicant is formally accepted into the program.

A scholarship recipient is required to complete the proposed course of study within the duration of the scholarship. Scholarship recipients will be required to demonstrate a satisfactory standard throughout the duration of the scholarship for both the academic and work placement, if undertaken. Failure in any subject in any semester may result in the scholarship being cancelled.

Other documents you will be required to provide with your application

Past academic results

An essential element in assessing an applicant's ability to complete their course is their past academic performance.

Community reference

Each applicant is required to provide, as part of their application, a reference from a nominated referee who can provide an appraisal of their commitment and ability to work with families in a sensitive manner. A template for the referee's report is included with the Scholarship application forms.

Study load

The applicant will need to participate in on-line training, group assessments and presentations, workshops, work placements and community visits.

Receipt of other scholarships

It is the responsibility of the applicant to immediately advise the Scholarship Contact Officer if they accept an offer of other financial assistance through a study scholarship after lodgement of their application.

Centrelink payments

It is the responsibility of each scholarship holder in receipt of Centrelink payments to advise Centrelink that they have been successful in securing a scholarship.

Taxation

It is the responsibility of successful applicants to apply to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) for an individual private ruling for an exemption from income tax to the scholarship received through the Program. Information on how to apply to the ATO for an exemption will be provided to successful applicants by the Scholarship Contact Officer at the commencement of the scholarship.

Lodgement of application forms

Please forward your completed application form, and all accompanying documentation, **by** email:
shannon.k@thirrili.com.au

The closing date for applications is 5.00pm 1 June 2020.

If required, applications will be received in alternative formats. Additional documentation may be requested after the closing date for applications.

Information collection – Your privacy

Thirrili collects personal and health information in this Program application form. This is for the purpose of enabling assessment of your Scholarship application.

If you do not provide the information sought as part of the application process, the Thirrili assessment panel may not be able to process your application.

Personal and health information provided by you in applying for this scholarship will not be used for any other purpose beyond the assessment of your application for this Program.