

Variety Heart Scholarship

Guidelines



Background:

The Variety Heart Scholarship is a grant specific for kids who are now aiming high and are on a dedicated path toward excellence and potential elite-level achievement.

The Variety Heart Scholarship aims to support the continued development of talented or gifted Tasmanian kids striving to achieve excellence in fields of the arts, sport, or academics by providing practical financial support in funding tuition, equipment, competition fees and more.

Variety Tasmania is committed to equity and inclusion. We recognise that access to opportunities is not equal for all children. Applications are assessed with consideration of individual circumstances, including financial hardship, geographic location, and access to resources. We encourage applications from children who demonstrate potential but may face barriers to participation or progression.

Put simply, we want to see kids reach their full potential in the following areas:

The Arts:

This category includes:

- Visual Arts - for example ceramics, drawing, painting, photography, filmmaking.
- Performing Arts - for example dance, singing, music, theatre.
- Literary Arts - for example fiction, drama, poetry, prose.

Sport:

This category includes mainstream sports, like athletics and ball sports, but also extends to mind sports such as chess and e-sports.

Academics:

This category includes Extracurricular academic pursuits, which may include being in a specialist extension program (e.g. *MENSA, coding, apps and games development, robotics etc.*)

Eligibility and Assessment Criteria

- The child must reside in Tasmania.
- The child must be between 8 and 18 years old at the time of application.



- The child must demonstrate recognised talent or strong potential in **The Arts, Sport, or Academics (extracurricular)**.
- The child's achievements and potential must be verified by a **relevant mentor, educator, instructor, coach, or other qualified professional** such as independent practitioners, community arts leaders, private tutors, or specialist educators.
- Evidence of achievement or potential must be included and must be relevant to the child's discipline.
- Household income must be **under \$165,000** before tax. Households with a greater annual income may be considered if exceptional circumstances are documented and supporting context is sufficiently explained in the application.

Applications will be assessed holistically, and each application will be considered based on the individual circumstances, which may include:

- Number of dependents in the household
- Geographic location – rural and remote areas
- The availability of and access to local opportunities and services
- Additional financial pressures (e.g. medical, disability-related, or caring responsibilities)

The following are also considered in the assessment stage:

- Demonstrated talent, commitment, or potential
- Level of financial need and access to resources
- The anticipated impact of the scholarship on the child's development
- Access barriers or disadvantage experienced by the applicant

Examples of items/requests covered by Scholarship:

- Tuition and training fees.
- Entry and competition fees.
- Equipment and supplies directly related to discipline.
- Uniforms and costumes.
- Travel expenses for competitions (recipient only).

Examples of ineligible requests:

- Retrospective funding.
- School fees / Tutoring (School curriculum).

- Parking, petrol and car costs.
- Ongoing repairs/maintenance of equipment.
- Travel costs that are associated with anyone other than the recipient.

Demonstrating Evidence:

1. **Professional recommendation** letter provided by a qualified person who can speak to the applicant's skills, development and potential. The letter must be dated within three months of the date of submitting the application, **and**
2. A minimum of two of the following:
 - Participation in **extension, enrichment, sports scouts' events, or specialist programs** that develop advanced skills (e.g., academies, clubs, workshops, selective training groups).
 - **Achievements or recognition** in competitions, showcases, performances, exhibitions or representative events.
 - **Samples of work or performance evidence**, such as projects, portfolios, recordings, routines, research pieces or match footage.
 - **Endorsements or evaluations** from coaches, teachers, mentors or specialist educators that demonstrate capability, growth and potential.

What to include in the recommendation letter?

- A brief introduction of the writer (role, qualifications, relationship to the child).
- Clear description of the child's demonstrated talent, potential, and development.
- For **arts** applicants, this may include progress, dedication, technical development, creativity, or originality – **not just awards or competitions**.
- Any achievements, recognitions, performances, progression milestones, or relevant experiences.
- A statement on how the scholarship would support the child's next stage of growth.

Where access to formal instruction or programs is limited, alternative referees may be considered.

Assessment Process

Only eligible applications vetted against the criteria detailed above are shortlisted for assessment by the Variety Tasmania Grants Committee and Board of Directors.

- The Grants Committee reviews each application and provides recommendations to the Board.
- The Board makes all final decisions, including determining funding levels (partial or full), based on Variety's capacity, the application's merit and overall need at the time.
- Applicants will be notified of outcomes via email in the first week of July.
- All decisions are final, and reasons for unsuccessful applications are provided at the Board's discretion.

Grant Conditions

- Successive Scholarships are not guaranteed for previous recipients.
- Previous recipients need to reapply each year and their nomination will be assessed on information provided solely in the application for that year.
- Full funding is not guaranteed. Approved applicants may be allocated partial funding rather than full funding at the discretion of the Grants Committee and the Board.
- Unsuccessful applicants may apply for the next Scholarship round (annual).
- Scholarships are valid for 12 months from the date of approval. All allocated funds must be spent within that period. Any unspent funds must be returned to Variety.
- Scholarship funds can only be used for items listed in the approval letter.
- A scholarship report/survey is requested to be completed at predetermined milestones at the time of granting approval. Forms will be provided by Variety at the time. Please refer to outcome reporting section below.
- Funds will not go directly to the family; invoices are to be sent to info@varietytas.org.au

Outcome Reporting:

The applicant will be requested to complete a short survey within two months of the scholarship completion. This will be emailed to the applicant's parent/carer.

Variety Tasmania may check in periodically on the child's progress to ensure they meet their milestones as per the information provided in the application.

Outside of completing a survey and without obligation, Variety enjoys hearing any updates on a child's progress, well-being, and achievements once they've received their grant.

Variety Heart Scholarship Presentation Ceremony:

All successful applicants and their families will be invited to the Variety Heart Scholarships Presentation Ceremony to be held at the end of July at a date to be confirmed. This ceremony gives families the opportunity to celebrate their child's success and connect with other scholarship recipients and their families.

Details regarding the evening will be sent to families via email closer to the date.

Key Dates

Applications open	Friday 1 May
Applications close	Sunday 31 May
Application assessment	Monday 1 June – 30 June
Outcome notifications	1-3 July
Presentation Ceremony	End of July

Ready to apply? Click [here](#).