

Early Childhood Aboriginal Pathways Scholarships Program Guidelines

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About these guidelines

The Early Childhood Aboriginal Pathways Scholarships Program (APSP) Guidelines have been updated to include enhancements that were introduced to the Early Childhood Scholarships Program (ECSP) in December 2025. The key changes applied to APSP include more flexibility and time to transition into the workforce, as well as a greater proportion of financial support during study period for students studying a bachelor qualification.

These changes will automatically apply to all new APSP scholarship applications.

If you are an APSP scholarship recipient that was awarded your scholarship before 1 December 2025, you may have access to an extended Grace Period after course completion and more flexibility in the first year of employment. If you are eligible and choose to access these changes, they will be applied to your existing agreement.

BUSY at Work manages the APSP for the Department of Education. If you have any questions about these guidelines or APSP more generally please contact BUSY at Work's First Nations coordinator here:

- Email: EC.financial.support@education.vic.gov.au
- Phone: 1300 161 396

About the program

Early Childhood Aboriginal Pathways Scholarships (APSP Scholarships) are available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who want to become an early childhood teacher or educator, including those looking to upskill and those already studying. Working in early childhood education is a great way to support all children to develop a sense of place, identity and connection to Country.

The following scholarships are available through this program (all amounts listed are **before tax**):

- For a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care: up to **\$2,500**
- For a Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care: up to **\$9,000**
- For a bachelor's degree: up to **\$31,000** for *Current Students* and up to **\$34,000** for *New Students*
- For a graduate diploma: up to **\$13,000** for *Current Students* and up to **\$16,000** for *New Students*
- For a master's degree: up to **\$21,000** for *Current Students* and up to **\$24,000** for *New Students*

Scholarship recipients can choose how they use their scholarship funding. Scholarship funding can help cover cost-of-living expenses while studying and working, particularly while on placement. Scholarship funding is paid in instalments across study and employment milestones.

The total value of each scholarship is higher for *New Students* than it is for *Current Students*.

- *New Students* are students who have not commenced any units or subjects in the course for which they are seeking the scholarship. Students who have commenced their course but have completed less than 50 per cent of the total course credit points are also considered *New Students*.
- *Current Students* are students who have completed 50% or more, but less than 90 per cent of their total course credit points at the time of applying for APSP.

Further details are set out in the [Recipient Agreements](#) and [Appendices 2-8](#) of these Guidelines.

Recipient Support and Check-ins

The APSP is administered by BUSY At Work (BUSY) on behalf of the department. A dedicated First Nations coordinator from BUSY supports applicants throughout the application process and at each milestone across study, grace (see [Appendix 8](#)) and employment periods for the duration of the scholarship term. Recipients have access to:

- Optional online drop-in information sessions held every two months to share program information, outline recipient obligations and provide a forum for questions.
- The BUSY Member Network, an online platform for scholarship recipients who have completed their qualifications, offering professional connection and networking opportunities to support them as they progress their employment milestones.
- Workshops on preparing CVs for job applications, run quarterly to support the transition into employment.

Recipients are also encouraged to join the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc (VAEAI) monthly online “First Nations Early Years Educator and Teachers Network” meetings.

- For more information on VAEAI’s network see: [VAEAI First Nations Early Years Educator and Teacher Network Registration](#).
- To join VAEAI’s network, visit: [VAEAI First Nations Early Years Educator and Teacher Network Registration](#).

Eligibility requirements

To apply for a scholarship for any course under this program, applicants must:

- be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or hold a permanent residency visa.
- live in Victoria, or in a cross-border local government area listed on the Victorian Cross-Border Commissioner [website](#).
- identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person
- have been accepted into an [Approved Course](#) that commences within 3 months of lodging their application OR be currently studying an Approved Course.
- not be receiving any other scholarship, financial support or grant from the department for the Approved Course they have been accepted into or are studying. This excludes Free TAFE for those studying a Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) or Certificate III in ECEC.
- If the applicant previously withdrew from an Approved Course supported by this program, the Early Childhood Scholarships Program, Certificate III Upskill Support Program, or a scholarship from an Early Childhood Innovative Initial Teacher Education course or any other course funded by the department, they must have repaid any funds as per the former agreement before applying.

Checklists are provided at [Appendix 1](#) and provide additional information to help applicants consider their eligibility for the program before applying. A completed checklist is not required to be submitted as part of the application process.

The department reserves the right to amend these guidelines, including eligibility requirements at any time.

Approved Courses and tertiary providers

To become:	Course	Tertiary provider type
A Certificate III-level educator	Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) CHC30121	A registered training organisation or tertiary institution that delivers the Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) CHC30121

A Diploma-level educator	Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) CHC50125*	A registered training organisation or tertiary institution that delivers the Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) CHC50125*
An early childhood teacher (ECT)	A bachelor, master's or graduate diploma level early childhood teaching degree approved by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA). This does not include dual qualifications in early childhood teaching and school teaching.	A university or higher education provider registered by TEQSA and delivering an ACECQA approved early childhood education qualification.

* Applicants enrolled under the preceding Diploma course reference (CHC50121) are still eligible to apply

Application process

The APSP is administered by BUSY at Work (BUSY) on behalf of the department. Applicants can apply for a scholarship online at: <https://bawecsip-cp.enquire.cloud/rounds>.

As part of the application process, applicants will need to provide BUSY with evidence to show they meet the eligibility requirements listed above. A dedicated First Nations Coordinator is available to support applicants with their application. The First Nations Coordinator at BUSY can be reached by emailing EC.financial.support@education.vic.gov.au or calling 1300 161 396.

Applications will be generally assessed within 10 business days of submission. If further evidence or information is required to support the assessment of an application, the assessment timeframe may be extended.

Considerations before applying

The department acknowledges that everyone's circumstances are different. Before applying, applicants should consider the following:

- **Personal financial circumstances:** Scholarship recipients are responsible for paying any costs associated with their Approved Course that exceed the scholarship amount awarded by the department.
- **Taxation and government benefits:** Applicants should seek independent advice about how scholarship payments may affect taxation or eligibility for government benefits, including those administered by Centrelink.
- **Employment responsibilities:** Recipients are responsible for obtaining employment to meet the program's employment milestones. The department does not guarantee employment in the early childhood sector. However, additional supports are available to help graduates transition into the sector (see [Further information](#)).
- **Current scholarship recipients:** Applicants who are currently receiving an Early Childhood Aboriginal Pathways Scholarship or support through the Certificate III Upskill Support Program and wish to undertake further study are encouraged to contact BUSY at Work to discuss their options.
- **Past scholarship recipients:** Applicants who previously received an Early Childhood Aboriginal Pathways Scholarship or support through the Certificate III Upskill Support Program and have completed their scholarship may apply if they wish to undertake further study.
- **Previous withdrawals:** Applicants who previously withdrew from an Approved Course supported by this program, the Early Childhood Scholarships Program, Certificate III Upskill Support Program, or a scholarship from an Early Childhood Innovative Initial Teacher Education course or any other course supported by the department, must have repaid any funds required under their previous agreement before applying.

Recipient agreements and conditions

To receive the scholarship, successful applicants must review, accept and sign a Recipient Agreement. The Recipient Agreement is a legal document between the recipient and the department. It includes:

- the recipient's obligations during the term of the Agreement;
- the milestone conditions (including evidence required) that a recipient must meet to receive each Scholarship Funding Payment;
- the repayment requirements for a recipient if they withdraw from the program or if their Agreement is terminated; and
- the circumstances where the department can terminate a Recipient Agreement including but not limited to breaches of Child Safety Laws or Child Safe Standards (as defined in the Agreement).

Scholarship Funding Payments

Scholarship Funding Payments are linked to the achievement of milestones during a recipient's study period and employment period. To receive each payment, recipients need to provide BUSY with evidence to show they have met the milestone conditions outlined in their Recipient Agreement.

The value, timing and evidence requirements for Scholarship Funding Payments vary depending on the qualification studied. Detailed information on these payments, milestone conditions and evidence requirements can be found in:

- [Appendix 2: Bachelor's degree \(New Students\)](#)
- [Appendix 3: Bachelor's degree \(Current Students\)](#)
- [Appendix 4: Master's degree \(New and Current Students\)](#)
- [Appendix 5: Graduate diploma \(New and Current Students\)](#)
- [Appendix 6: Diploma of ECEC](#)
- [Appendix 7: Certificate III in ECEC](#)

Failure to provide the evidence required to demonstrate milestone conditions have been met may result in termination of the Recipient Agreement and an obligation to repay some or all Scholarship Funding Payments already received. Further information about circumstances of termination and repayment requirements is included in the Recipient Agreements.

Recipients can continue to receive Scholarship Funding Payments if they change employment, but they must first notify BUSY to confirm their new role and employer is approved.

Compassionate consideration

If something unexpected happens that stops the recipient from meeting the conditions of their scholarship milestones, there are options available.

For example, the recipient can ask the department (through BUSY) about taking a leave of absence from the program. If a leave of absence is not suitable, and the recipient is still in their study period, the recipient can withdraw from the program and ask for their repayment obligation to be reduced or waived. These requests are assessed on a case-by-case basis and may require supporting evidence.

A repayment obligation means having to repay Scholarship Funding Payment(s) received during the study period, if the course is not completed. If the recipient completes their course in accordance with the relevant study period milestones, they do not need to repay any payment/s. However, they must still meet the employment milestones if they want to receive the employment period Scholarship Funding Payments.

Please note:

- If a repayment obligation is waived for compassionate reasons and the recipient later applies for another scholarship, they will not be able to receive payment again for the milestone repayment that was waived.
- If a recipient withdraws from the program and their repayment obligation is not repaid or waived, they will not be eligible for further financial support under this program.

Further information

These guidelines, including program settings and eligibility, may change from time to time. The most up to date guidelines and supporting information is published on the [department's website](#).

About the program

- Information about the Early Childhood Aboriginal Pathways Scholarships Program is available at <https://www.vic.gov.au/financial-support-study-and-work-early-childhood>.
- Applicants and recipients can contact BUSY At Work for more information (including help checking your eligibility) at EC.Financial.Support@education.vic.gov.au or 1300 161 396.

Department initiatives to support searching for employment

- Use the Find a Kinder Program interactive map to find potential employers that deliver kinder programs funded by the Victorian Government in locations convenient to you: <https://findakinder.vic.gov.au>
- Get in touch with the panel of specialist recruitment agencies working with the department to fill vacant roles across Victoria : <https://www.vic.gov.au/register-recruiter-find-early-childhood-jobs>

Appendix 1: Scholarship eligibility checklists

These checklists are designed to help you understand your eligibility for the relevant scholarship. A completed checklist is not required to be submitted with your scholarship application.

To become a Certificate III-level educator

You must tick Yes or Not Applicable for every requirement to be eligible

	Requirement	Answer
1	Are you an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or the holder of a permanent residency visa?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2	Do you identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3	Do you live in Victoria or one of the cross-border local government areas listed on the Victorian Cross-Border Commissioner website ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4	Have you been accepted into a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care and will commence studies within 3 months of lodging your application? OR Are you currently studying a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5	Will this be the only scholarship, financial support or grant from the Victorian Department of Education you receive for this course? Note this excludes Free TAFE.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

To become a Diploma-level educator

You must tick Yes or Not Applicable for every requirement to be eligible

	Requirement	Answer
1	Are you an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or the holder of a permanent residency visa?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2	Do you identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3	Do you live in Victoria or one of the cross-border local government areas listed on the Victorian Cross-Border Commissioner website ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4	Have you been accepted into the Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care CHC50125 and will commence studies within 3 months of lodging your application? OR Are you currently studying a Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care CHC50125?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5	Will this be the only scholarship, financial support or grant from the Department of Education you receive for this course? Note this excludes Free TAFE.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6	If you have previously received financial support through the Early Childhood Aboriginal Pathways Scholarships Program for a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care or Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care, have you satisfied one of the following? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you completed the qualification that you received the financial support for? OR • If you withdrew before completing your course, have you repaid any funds as required under that scholarship agreement? OR • If not, was your repayment obligation waived by the Department of Education (through BUSY at Work) for compassionate reasons? If you have not previously received financial support as outlined above, please tick <i>Not Applicable</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable * Please note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a repayment obligation is waived for compassionate reasons and the recipient later applies for another scholarship, they will not be eligible to receive payment again for the milestone/s that were waived. • If a recipient withdraws from the program and their repayment obligation is not repaid or waived, they will not be eligible for further support under this program. • Current APSP recipients who have received financial support to complete a Certificate III and are looking to upskill further are encouraged to contact BUSY at Work to discuss their options.

To become an Early Childhood Teacher

You must tick Yes or Not Applicable for every requirement to be eligible.

	Requirement	Answer
1	Are you an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or the holder of a permanent residency visa?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2	Do you identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3	Do you live in Victoria or one of the cross-border local government areas listed on the Victorian Cross-Border Commissioner website ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4	Have you been accepted into a bachelor or masters' early childhood teaching program approved by ACECQA and will commence studies within 3 months of lodging your application OR Are you currently studying a bachelor or masters' early childhood teaching program approved by ACECQA?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No *Please note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are already a qualified ECT wishing to study a master's qualification to extend your skills and knowledge of early childhood education and care, please contact BUSY At Work for more information.
5	Will this be the only scholarship, financial support or grant from the Victorian Department of Education you receive for this course?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6	If you have previously received financial support through the Early Childhood Scholarships Program (ECSP, Early Childhood Aboriginal Pathways Scholarships Program (APSP), Certificate III Upskill Support Program (CUSP), have you satisfied one of the following? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you completed the qualification that you received the financial support for? OR If you withdrew before completing your course, have you repaid any funds as required under that scholarship agreement? OR If not, did you receive a waiver for this repayment from the department (through BUSY at Work? If you have not previously received financial support as outlined above, please tick <i>Not Applicable</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable * Please note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a repayment obligation is waived for compassionate reasons and the recipient later applies for another scholarship, they will not be eligible to receive payment again for the milestone/s that were waived. If a recipient withdraws from the program and their repayment obligation is not repaid or waived, they will not be eligible for further support under this program. Current recipients of APSP, ECSP or CUSP financial support who are looking to upskill further are encouraged to contact BUSY at Work to discuss their options.

Appendix 2: Bachelor's degree (New Students¹) - Scholarship payments, conditions and evidence

	Study period Milestone 1	Study period Milestone 2	Study period Milestone 3	Employment period Milestone 4	Employment period Milestone 5	Employment period Milestone 6
Milestone condition	Commenced study in <i>Approved Course</i>	Completed 50% of <i>Approved Course</i>	Completed <i>Approved Course</i>	Commenced employment in <i>Approved Role</i>	Completed one year of employment in an <i>Approved Role</i>	Completed 2 years of employment in an <i>Approved Role</i> [Total value of scholarship: up to \$34,000]
Payments	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$6,500	\$0²	\$6,500
Evidence³	Confirmation of enrolment from your Approved Institution.	Evidence that you have completed 50% (or more) of the total credit points for your Approved Course.	Evidence that you have completed your Approved Course.	Evidence that you have commenced employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher and/or Diploma level Early Childhood Educator (in an ongoing, fixed-term or casual role, or via a labour-hire arrangement), registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week.	Evidence that you completed one year of Continuous Employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher and/or Diploma level Early Childhood Educator (in an ongoing, fixed-term or casual role, or via a labour-hire arrangement), registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week.	Evidence that you have completed a second year of Continuous Employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher , registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week. Please note: casual employment, employment on a labour-hire basis and/or a diploma-level educator role are not Approved Roles following the first year of employment.
Format	Statement of enrolment OR student verification letter from your Approved Institution.	Academic transcript from your Approved Institution.	Official Academic transcript from your Approved Institution.	A contract of employment for your Approved Role, a payslip that shows you commenced your employment within the Grace Period ⁴ and evidence of VIT registration.	An <i>Employment Confirmation Letter</i> from each Approved Provider who employed you in this year of employment. <u>Alternatively</u> , this information may be provided in a different format as agreed with the department. For example, through a mix of the following: payslips, employment income tax assessment, employment contract, VIT registration number and/or a statutory declaration.	An <i>Employment Confirmation Letter</i> from each Approved Provider who employed you in this year of employment. <u>Alternatively</u> , this information may be provided in a different format as agreed with the department. For example, through a mix of the following: payslips, employment income tax assessment, employment contract, VIT registration number and/or a statutory declaration.

¹ New Students for APSP are defined as those who are yet to commence their course as well as those who are currently studying but have completed less than 50% of their course.

² Whilst there is no payment attached to Milestone 5, completion is required to continue participating in the program. If it is not completed, you will not be eligible for Milestone 6, which does include a payment.

³ You need to provide the evidence listed under each milestone to BUSY at Work by the due date specified in your Recipient Agreement. For all queries related to evidence, please contact BUSY at Work.

⁴ You have a 12-month period in which to commence employment in an Approved Role at an Approved Provider (Grace Period) from the completion of your Approved Course.

Appendix 3: Bachelor's degree (Current Students⁵) - Scholarship payments, conditions and evidence

	Study period Milestone 1	Study period Milestone 2	Employment period Milestone 3	Employment period Milestone 4	Employment period Milestone 5
Milestone condition	Commenced study in <i>Approved Course</i>	Completed <i>Approved Course</i>	Commenced employment in <i>Approved Role</i>	Completed one year of employment in an <i>Approved Role</i>	Completed 2 years of employment in an <i>Approved Role</i> [Total value of scholarship: up to \$31,000]
Payments	\$7,750	\$10,750	\$6,250	\$0⁶	\$6,250
Evidence⁷	Confirmation of enrolment from your Approved Institution.	Evidence that you have completed your Approved Course.	Evidence that you have commenced employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher and/or Diploma level Early Childhood Educator (in an ongoing, fixed-term or casual role, or via a labour-hire arrangement), registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week.	Evidence that you completed one year of Continuous Employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher and/or Diploma level Early Childhood Educator (in an ongoing, fixed-term or casual role, or via a labour-hire arrangement), registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week.	Evidence that you completed a second year of Continuous Employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher (in an ongoing, fixed-term or casual role), registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week. Please note: casual employment, employment on a labour-hire basis and/or a diploma-level educator role are not Approved Roles following the first year of employment.
Format	Statement of enrolment OR student verification letter from your Approved Institution.	Official Academic transcript from your Approved Institution.	A contract of employment for your Approved Role, a payslip that shows you commenced your employment within the Grace Period ⁸ and evidence of VIT registration.	An <i>Employment Confirmation Letter</i> from each Approved Provider who employed you in this year of employment. <u>Alternatively</u> , this information may be provided in a different format as agreed with the department. For example, through a mix of the following: payslips, employment income tax assessment, employment contract, VIT registration number and/or a statutory declaration.	An <i>Employment Confirmation Letter</i> from each Approved Provider who employed you in this year of employment. <u>Alternatively</u> , this information may be provided in a different format as agreed with the department. For example, through a mix of the following: payslips, employment income tax assessment, employment contract, VIT registration number and/or a statutory declaration.

⁵ Current Students for APSP are defined as those who have completed 50% or more, but less than 90%, or more of their course.

⁶ Whilst there is no payment attached to Milestone 4, completion is required to continue participating in the program. If it is not completed, you will not be eligible for Milestone 5, which does include a payment.

⁷ You need to provide the evidence listed under each milestone to BUSY at Work by the due date specified in your Recipient Agreement. For all queries related to evidence, please contact BUSY at Work.

⁸ You have a 12-month period in which to commence employment in an Approved Role at an Approved Provider (Grace Period) from the completion of your Approved Course.

Appendix 4: Master's degree (New and Current Students) – Scholarship payments, conditions and evidence

	Study period Milestone 1	Study period Milestone 2	Employment period Milestone 3	Employment period Milestone 4	Employment period Milestone 5
Milestone condition	Commenced study in <i>Approved Course</i>	Completed <i>Approved Course</i>	Commenced employment in <i>Approved Role</i>	Completed one year of employment in an <i>Approved Role</i>	Completed 2 years of employment in an <i>Approved Role</i> [Total value of scholarship: Up to \$24,000 for New Students and up to \$21,000 for Current Students]
Payments	\$8,000* [*\$5,000 for Current Students]	\$0	\$8,000	\$0⁹	\$8,000
Evidence ¹⁰	Confirmation of enrolment from your <i>Approved Institution</i> .	Evidence that you have completed your <i>Approved Course</i> .	Evidence that you commenced employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher and/or Diploma level Early Childhood Educator (in an ongoing, fixed-term or casual role, or via a labour-hire arrangement), registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week.	Evidence that you completed one year of Continuous Employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher and/or Diploma level Early Childhood Educator (in an ongoing, fixed-term or casual role, or via a labour-hire arrangement), registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week.	Evidence that you completed a second year of Continuous Employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher (in an ongoing, fixed-term or casual role), registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week. Please note: casual employment, employment on a labour-hire basis and/or a diploma-level educator role are not Approved Roles following the first year of employment.
Format	Statement of enrolment OR student verification letter from your <i>Approved Institution</i> .	Official Academic transcript from your <i>Approved Institution</i> .	A contract of employment for the <i>Approved Role</i> ; a payslip that shows you commenced your employment within the <i>Grace Period</i> ¹¹ and evidence of VIT registration.	<i>An Employment Confirmation Letter</i> from each <i>Approved Provider</i> who employed you in this year of employment. <u>Alternatively</u> , this information may be provided in a different format as agreed with the department. For example, through a mix of the following: payslips, employment income tax assessment, employment contract, VIT registration number and/or a statutory declaration.	<i>An Employment Confirmation Letter</i> from each <i>Approved Provider</i> who employed you in this year of employment. <u>Alternatively</u> , this information may be provided in a different format as agreed with the department. For example, through a mix of the following: payslips, employment income tax assessment, employment contract, VIT registration number and/or a statutory declaration.

⁹ Whilst there is no payment attached to Milestones 2 and 4, completion is required to continue participating in the program. If it is not completed, you will not be eligible for any further Milestones that do include a payment.

¹⁰ You need to provide the evidence listed under each milestone to BUSY at Work by the due date specified in your Recipient Agreement. For all queries related to evidence, please contact [BUSY at Work](#).

¹¹ You have a 12-month period in which to commence employment in an *Approved Role* at an *Approved Provider* (*Grace Period*) from the completion of your *Approved Course*.

Appendix 5: Graduate diploma (New and Current Students) - Scholarship payments, conditions and evidence

	Study period Milestone 1	Study period Milestone 2	Employment period Milestone 3	Employment period Milestone 4	Employment period Milestone 5
Milestone condition	Commenced study in <i>Approved Course</i> ¹²	Completed <i>Approved Course</i>	Commenced employment in <i>Approved Role</i>	Completed one year of employment in an <i>Approved Role</i>	Completed 2 years of employment in an <i>Approved Role</i> [Total value of scholarship: up to \$16,000 for New Students and up to \$13,000 for Current Students]
Payments	\$5,333* [*\$2,333 for Current Students]	\$0	\$5,333	\$0 ¹³	\$5,334
Evidence ¹⁴	Confirmation of enrolment from your Approved Institution.	Evidence that you have completed your Approved Course.	Evidence that you have commenced employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher and/or Diploma level Early Childhood Educator (in an ongoing, fixed-term or casual role, or via a labour-hire arrangement), registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week.	Evidence that you completed one year of Continuous Employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher and/or Diploma level Early Childhood Educator (in an ongoing, fixed-term or casual role, or via a labour-hire arrangement), registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week.	Evidence that you have completed a second year of Continuous Employment in an Approved Role. Also that this second year was a fixed term or ongoing role with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher , registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week. Please note: casual employment, employment on a labour-hire basis and/or a diploma-level educator role are not Approved Roles following the first year of employment.
Format	Statement of enrolment OR student verification letter from your Approved Institution.	Official Academic transcript from your Approved Institution.	A contract of employment for your Approved Role, a payslip that shows you commenced your employment within the Grace Period ¹⁵ and evidence of VIT registration.	An <i>Employment Confirmation Letter</i> from each Approved Provider who employed you in this year of employment. <i>Alternatively</i> , this information may be provided in a different format as agreed with the department. For example, through a mix of the following: payslips, employment income tax assessment, employment contract, VIT registration number and/or a statutory declaration.	An <i>Employment Confirmation Letter</i> from each Approved Provider who employed you in this year of employment. <i>Alternatively</i> , this information may be provided in a different format as agreed with the department. For example, through a mix of the following: payslips, employment income tax assessment, employment contract, VIT registration number and/or a statutory declaration.

¹² A maximum study timeframe of 8 years applies for all ECT qualifications.

¹³ Whilst there is no payment attached to Milestones 2 and 4, completion is required to continue participating in the program. If it is not completed, you will not be eligible for any future Milestones that do include a payment.

¹⁴ You must provide the evidence listed under each milestone to BUSY at Work by the due date specified in your Recipient Agreement. For all queries related to evidence, please contact BUSY at Work.

¹⁵ You have a 12-month period in which to commence employment in an Approved Role at an Approved Provider (Grace Period) from the completion of your Approved Course.

Appendix 6: Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care - Scholarship payments, conditions and evidence

	Study period Milestone 1	Study period Milestone 2	Employment period Milestone 3	Employment period Milestone 4
Milestone condition	Commenced study in <i>Approved Course</i>	Completed <i>Approved Course</i>	Commenced employment in <i>Approved Role</i>	Completed one year of employment in an <i>Approved Role</i> [Total value of scholarship: Up to \$,9000]
Payments	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0¹⁶	\$3,000
Evidence¹⁷	Confirmation of enrolment from your Approved Institution.	Confirmation that you have completed an Approved Course.	Evidence that you have commenced employment with an Approved Provider as an-Early Childhood Educator and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week.	Evidence that you completed one year of Continuous Employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Educator (in an ongoing or fixed-term role), and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week.
Format	Statement of enrolment OR student verification letter from your Approved Institution.	Official Academic transcript from your Approved Institution.	A contract of employment for the Approved Role and a pay slip that shows you commenced your employment within the Grace Period ¹⁸ .	An <i>Employment Confirmation Letter</i> from each Approved Provider who employed you in this year of employment. <u>Alternatively</u> , this information may be provided in a different format as agreed with the department. For example, through a mix of the following: payslips, employment income tax assessment, employment contract, and/or a statutory declaration.

¹⁶ Whilst there is no payment attached to Milestone 3, completion is required to continue participating in the program. If it is not completed, you will not be eligible for Milestone 4, which does include a payment.

¹⁷ You must provide the evidence listed under each milestone to BUSY at Work by the due date specified in your Recipient Agreement. For all queries related to evidence, please contact BUSY at Work.

¹⁸ You have a 12-month period in which to commence employment in an Approved Role at an Approved Provider (Grace Period) from the completion of your Approved Course.

Appendix 7: Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care - Scholarship payments, conditions and evidence

	Study period Milestone 1	Study period Milestone 2	Employment period Milestone 3	Employment period Milestone 4
Milestone condition	Commenced study in <i>Approved Course</i>	Completed <i>Approved Course</i>	Commenced employment in <i>Approved Role</i>	Completed one year of employment in an <i>Approved Role</i> [Total value of scholarship: Up to \$2,500]
Payments	\$833	\$833	\$0¹⁹	\$834
Evidence²⁰	Confirmation of enrolment from your Approved Institution.	Confirmation that you have completed an Approved Course.	Evidence that you have commenced employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Educator and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week.	Evidence that you completed one year of Continuous Employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Educator and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week.
Format	Statement of enrolment OR student verification letter from your Approved Institution.	Official Academic transcript from your Approved Institution.	A contract of employment for the Approved Role and a pay slip that shows you commenced your employment within the Grace Period ²¹ .	An <i>Employment Confirmation Letter</i> from each Approved Provider who employed you in this year of employment. <i>Alternatively</i> , this information may be provided in a different format as agreed with the department. For example, through a mix of the following: payslips, employment income tax assessment, employment contract, and/or a statutory declaration.

¹⁹ Whilst there is no payment attached to Milestone 3, completion is required to continue participating in the program. If it is not completed, you will not be eligible for Milestone 4, which does include a payment.

²⁰ You must provide the evidence listed under each milestone to BUSY at Work by the due date specified in your Recipient Agreement. For all queries related to evidence, please contact [BUSY at Work](#).

²¹ You have a 12-month period in which to commence employment in an Approved Role at an Approved Provider (Grace Period) from the completion of your Approved Course.

Appendix 8: Early Childhood Aboriginal Pathways Scholarships Program - Definitions

APSP Definitions applicable to all Qualifications	
<i>Approved Provider*</i>	An employee, person or entity that provides centre-based early childhood services and has been granted provider approval under Part 2 of the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010.
<i>Continuous Employment</i>	Employment is deemed continuous unless you leave your Approved Role, or you're away from work without approved leave. Approved absences like annual, parental, carer's or sick leave don't break your continuity. If you start another Approved Role within 12 weeks of leaving, your continuity is preserved. Unpaid leave or time not working in an Approved Role doesn't count toward the length of your Continuous Employment, but paid leave does.
<i>Current Student</i>	A student enrolled in an Approved Course who, at the time of application for APSP, has completed 50% or more, but less than 90% of their total course credit points.
<i>New Student</i>	A student who has not yet commenced any units or subjects in the Approved Course for which they are seeking the scholarship. Students who have commenced their Approved Course but have completed less than 50 per cent of the total course credit points are also considered New Students for APSP.
<i>Employment Confirmation Letter</i>	A letter confirming your employment at an Approved Provider. It must include: name of Approved Provider, address where employment was based; confirmation you were employed in an Approved Role, the period of employment, confirmation of Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registration (not applicable for Certificate III or Diploma scholarship recipients) and details of any leave taken.
<i>Grace Period</i>	You have 12-months in which to commence employment in an Approved Role at an Approved Provider from the completion of your Approved Course.
BACHELOR – APSP Definitions specific to recipients on a bachelor's degree Scholarship Agreement	
<i>Approved Course</i>	A bachelor's degree in early childhood teaching that has been approved by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) but excludes any bachelor level early childhood teaching degree course that leads to dual qualifications in early childhood teaching and school teaching.
<i>Approved Role*</i>	M4 & M5 (New Students) and M3 & M4 (Current Students): Employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher and registered with VIT and/or Diploma level Early Childhood Educator (in an ongoing, fixed-term or casual role or via a labour-hire arrangement), which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week. M6 (New Students) and M5 (Current Students): Employment as a registered Early Childhood Teacher with an Approved Provider (in an ongoing or fixed-term role) and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week. Excludes casual roles and employment on a labour-hire basis.
MASTER & GRADUATE DIPLOMA– APSP Definitions specific to recipients on a master's degree or graduate diploma Scholarship Agreement	
<i>Approved Course</i>	A master's degree or graduate diploma in early childhood teaching that has been approved by ACECQA but excludes any master's level early childhood teaching degree course that leads to dual qualifications in early childhood teaching and school teaching.
<i>Approved Role*</i>	M3 & M4 (New and Current Students): Employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Teacher registered with VIT and/or Diploma level Early Childhood Educator (in an ongoing, fixed-term or casual role, or via a labour-hire arrangement), and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week. M5: (New and Current Students): Employment as a registered Early Childhood Teacher with an Approved Provider (in an ongoing or fixed term role) and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week. Excludes casual roles and employment on a labour-hire basis.
DIPLOMA & CERTIFICATE III – APSP Definitions specific to recipients on the VET Qualification Scholarship Agreement	
<i>Approved Course</i>	Diploma of Early Childhood Education (ECEC) (CHC501251) or a recognised preceding or superseding Diploma of ECEC/Certificate III in ECEC.
<i>Approved Role*</i>	Employment with an Approved Provider as an Early Childhood Educator and which is based in Victoria for a minimum of 15 hours per week.
*The department will consider exceptions to the Approved Provider and Approved Role definitions on a case-by-case basis. Please contact BUSY to discuss your options.	