

# Early Childhood Teacher Scholarships for Pathway Students

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development provides support for children to participate in a quality kindergarten program delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher in the year before they commence school. Many children miss out on a kindergarten program because they attend a long day care centre that does not employ a qualified early childhood teacher. To address this issue the Early Childhood Teacher Scholarships for Pathway Students scheme was established in 2007 to provide financial assistance for Diploma qualified child care staff to undertake further study to upgrade their qualification to an early childhood teaching degree.

It is a great time to consider a professional career in early childhood teaching. The focus on neurological development has generated increased interest and attention on the early years by families, communities and government. Quality early childhood education and experiences are critical to the thinking, problem solving and emotional development of young children and deliver better outcomes in pre-reading and social development.

## What's available?

Early Childhood Teacher Scholarships for Pathway Students are available for staff currently working in long day care centres who hold a Diploma in Children's Services (or equivalent) to upgrade their qualification to an early childhood

teaching degree. Successful applicants will be required to work for two years as an early childhood teacher in a funded kindergarten program in a long day care centre upon completion of their studies. Scholarships are available for students commencing or continuing their studies in 2009/10.

Successful applicants will receive payments of up to \$6,000 over two years to contribute towards the cost of their course, and will be eligible to receive literacy assistance while they are studying. In addition, their employer is eligible for reimbursement of costs to release their staff member for up to 20 days to undertake study requirements.

## How to apply

Download application documentation at [www.education.vic.gov.au/careers/earlychildhood/](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/careers/earlychildhood/)

Complete the application form attaching relevant paperwork and return to the address shown on the form or via email to [early.years.workforce@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:early.years.workforce@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## Contact us

For more information visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/careers/earlychildhood/](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/careers/earlychildhood/)

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