



NCDT Scholarship Program

- Program Explanation for Potential Participants

Role of NCDT#2 The Navy Clearance Diver Trust No.2 (**NCDT#2**) is a charitable trust with the object of preventing hardship and necessitous circumstances of the beneficiaries (serving and ex-serving RAN Clearance Divers and their dependents), and to seek and receive donations from the public for this purpose. NCDT's role in this program is to bring together funding to offer scholarships that will assist the highest risk group of transitioned clearance divers, those who have medically discharged, in gaining civilian recognised training qualifications in their chosen area of civilian employment.

Purpose of Scholarship Program

Based on the results of the NCDT welfare survey, 47% of medically transitioned CDs are not satisfied with their new careers. While this is lower than the level of dissatisfaction from those who transitioned for other reasons, this cohort struggle more than other ex-serving CDs to find meaning in their lives and are more likely to feel trapped or worthless in their current circumstances. Many are also reliant on funding from DVA to supplement income and are reluctant to use their limited funds to take on training that may lead to them having a more purposeful life. The aim of these scholarships is to help motivate medically transitioned CDs to take on new challenges through education, and to regain a personal identity and purpose that adds meaning to their new civilian lives.

Support

The NCDT Scholarship is designed to cater for multiple recipients across various paths to post service fulfilment through education and or training.

The NCDT Scholarship provides a maximum of \$5,000 to a single applicant within a single year towards legitimate education and or training costs. Examples include small business or other courses through professional based RTOs, or costs of textbooks, essential equipment, home office costs, travel and placement expenses required to participate in a HECS – HELP funded course.

Recipients of the scholarships would keep the receipts of costs and be reimbursed at the end of the course / semester and continue up until the completion of the course or until the scholarship is exhausted or may request to have the funds paid in advance under circumstances of financial hardship.



Nomination & Eligibility

Ex-serving CDs nominate for the program using a standard form available from the NCDT website. Before assessment by NCDT, a process to confirm that the applicant served as a CD will be undertaken.

Applications for scholarships will open at the commencement of the financial year or a time in which scholarship funding is made available. Applications will remain open for approximately 4 weeks with time allowed for consideration of each application by the Trustees, and to undertake interviews where appropriate. Applications only remain current for the period of consideration. A successful CD is not allowed to apply for a second application to complete the same training at a later time. Unsuccessful applicants may apply again at a later stage however a new application is required to be made

The CD will need to confirm that they are not receiving funding from another ex-service organisation for the same training.

Assessment of Applications

1. Applications must be submitted by the closing date. No late applications will be considered
2. All applications will be considered and assessed against the selection criteria with only eligible applications to move forward in the assessment process.
3. Applications that move to the next stage will be assessed against the selection criteria, performance at the interview stage and against other applications.
4. Applications will be considered on their merits based on:
 - a. Willingness to contribute to and support the NCDT during and post scholarship through pathways such as, but not limited to, fundraising, mentoring, raising awareness of strategic partnerships etc.
 - b. How it compares to other applications.
 - c. Value for Trust funds
 - i. value in this document refers to 'value with relevant Trust funds' which is a judgement representing an effective, economical, and ethical use of funds that have been donated to the Navy Clearance Diver Trust in good faith.



- ii. When considering the application and in turn the use of funds, the NCDT should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each application including, but not limited to:
 - iii. (a) the quality of the application against the criteria;
 - iv. (b) that the absence of the scholarship is likely to increase the likelihood of hardship on the beneficiary, immediate family or next of kin.
- d. Demonstrated commitment to professional development, indicating likely success of completing the requested training.

Other considerations

Where applicants have similar claims in relation to the Selection Criteria, preference may be given to:

1. Achieving diversity of placement across geographical states
2. Representation from diverse CD groups including but not limited to, Rank, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, financial hardship, Regional/Remote areas,
3. Diversity across fields of study
4. Impact on the wider CD community

Assessment of Applications and Selection Process

All applications will be assessed in the following stages

Stage 1: Initial Screening

The Scholarship subcommittee of the NCDT will be responsible for reviewing all applications against the selection and eligibility criteria. Applications that do not meet the outlined criteria will not proceed in the assessment process. This assessment will be done so in a manner that does not disclose the personal details of the applicant.

Stage 2: Detailed assessment of written applications

A detailed assessment will be conducted of the applicants that pass the initial screening against the selection criteria. The assessment will determine an order of merit to the Trustees of the NCDT.

The Trustees will determine as a collective group which applicants will be shortlisted for interview on the basis of the order of merit by the Scholarship sub-committee.



Stage 3: Interview

Shortlisted Applicants will be advised that they are shortlisted and invited to attend an interview with a panel comprising of Trustees of the NCDT and any potential donors

The Panel will rank each Applicant as Highly Recommended, Recommended or Not Recommended on the basis of the Selection Criteria and other considerations and make recommendation to the NCDT for final award of Scholarship/s.

The NCDT decision is final in all matters, including:

1. the approval of the Scholarship.
2. the funding amount to be awarded; and
3. the terms and conditions of the Scholarship.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a Scholarship.

The NCDT Chairperson will advise of the outcome of the application via email. If an applicant is successful, the Chairperson will advise of any specific conditions attached to the Scholarship.

If an applicant is unsuccessful, you can submit a new application for any future scholarship opportunities under the NCDT Scholarship program.

Conditions

It is the expectation of the Trust and, under certain circumstances, the benefactors that support the NCDT, that the course or studies entered into are completed. This ensures the continued success and support of the program for those CD's into the future

As a beneficiary of the Scholarship program, a successful applicant is making a meaningful and enduring commitment to the NCDT, its beneficiaries and the program to the benefit of the long-term success of the Trust.

Successful applicants may be asked to participate in promotional and fundraising activities that further the interest of the Trust.

At the end of the course, or to be eligible for payments that extend beyond a single semester, recipients need to provide information to indicate that they remain in good standing on their course. If for some reason that need to suspend their training, they must advise NCDT of their intention to do so, and the reason for it. NCDT will then assess



whether the scholarship should continue after the individual returns to training.

Eligible Training Applicants must indicate their intended qualification and training provider for use of the scholarship funds. The training provider must be a registered training organisation. Details and verification of providers can be found at: <https://training.gov.au/Search/SearchOrganisation>. Any training organisation not listed will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Tax Implications It is the sole responsibility of recipients to determine any income tax liability of accepting amounts under this program, based on their individual circumstances. Recipients should also consider any other implications, including but not limited to Centrelink, Child Care benefits, government payments, etc. The NCDT is unable to provide advice in this regard and accepts no responsibility for any unforeseen circumstance that may arise as a result of receiving amounts under this program.

Payment Process A form summarising the expenses will be made available from the website. This together with copies of the receipts will be submitted to the Treasurer of NCDT for assessment and payment.

Additional Information

Refer to the NCDT website for forms and additional information.