



**AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'  
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST**

## **Worrying About Living Costs While Doing Tertiary Study?**

In 2009 the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) is offering financial assistance for up to 75 students under many different scholarship schemes. All schemes help the selected children in need of the Australian veteran community with the costs of tertiary education. Applicants are considered for all schemes for which they are eligible.

Applications open on 18 August. To apply you must be:

- a. Within the means test. That is eligible on assets and income grounds for Youth Allowance benefits for full-time education.
- b. Enrolled, or planning to enrol in a full-time course of tertiary education in Australia by attendance at a university, TAFE or college. The course must be of one or more academic years length and at undergraduate level.
- c. The child or grandchild of a person who has operational service with the Australian Army, Navy or Air Force, or if not has three or more years continuous full-time service as a member of the Australian Defence Force.
- d. Under the age of 25 when applying, unless exceptional circumstances related to veteran's service exist.

The largest scheme is the Long Tan Bursary funded by the Australian Government. As part of the Commemoration Program for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, the number of bursaries has been increased from 30 to 50 each year from 2007 and the value of each bursary from \$6,000 to \$9,000 paid at \$3,000 per year for three years. Currently, to apply you must be the child of an Australian Vietnam Veteran, be resident in Australia, be planning to enter your first year of tertiary study, and not have previously received a Long Tan Bursary.

The other schemes vary between \$3,000 and \$6,000 per year each. Some schemes are national and others are restricted to location of residence or studies. Most grants require veteran service in Vietnam but others are broader. Most schemes continue payments for later years of study. All schemes but one pay monthly instalments. That scheme helps with tuition costs for courses in commerce, economics and accountancy. One scheme is for indigenous students doing substance abuse or related studies. For this scheme there is no upper age limit nor a need to be related to a veteran.

The Long Tan Bursary is a national scheme with quotas for each State and Territory. The other national schemes are the RSL Scholarship, (2 grants) and the RSL Reg Saunders Memorial Scholarship (1 grant), the Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Australia Scholarships (2 grants per year, plus the George Quinsey) and the AVCAT Bursary (1 grant) .

There are also regional grants. In NSW Legacy Gosford / Wyong (2 grants), Legacy Coolangatta / Tweed Heads (1 grant) and anonymous donors (2 grants) offer scholarships to resident applicants. The RSL Davistown (1 grant) does likewise for applicants resident in the NSW Central Coast. The Regular Defence Force Association, NSW Branch and the NSW TPI Association offer 1 grant each. In SA, the VVAA (SA) offers 1 grant.

To receive an application form register interest on 1800 620 361 .Children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans should do so now, as should any others who believe that they are eligible. If not sure, ask :

Applications close on 31 October each year.

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