



HEALTH CARE CARD TUITION FEE DISCOUNT SCHEME

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. When was the HCC Tuition Fee Discount Scheme introduced?

2005.

2. How long will the Scheme operate?

It is expected the Scheme will continue to operate for the length of the child's enrolment at the school whilst a valid family Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card is held.

3. Who can access the Scheme?

For the purposes of this Scheme, references to a means tested Health Care Card (HCC) holder include,

- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card.
- Centrelink Family Health Care Card:
Card holders must be Parent/Guardian using a family card only. Claims cannot be made by a parent using a student's card (ie. student may hold a card for disability purposes) or by a parent quoting a student's card number.
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card (Blue card only).

The Scheme will apply to:

- Catholic and non-Catholic families;
- New and current students.

4. Which Concession Cards are not eligible under this Scheme?

Centrelink issues a number of cards for a variety of reasons. For some cards the income test requirements are stringent whilst for other cards it is more generous or non-existent. The aim of the Scheme is to assist families with limited financial resources and therefore, only cards with the lower income test requirements are automatically eligible.

The Scheme does **not** apply to:

- ABSTUDY students who can access alternative government support;
- Holders of the Mobility Allowance Health Care Card,
- Department of Veterans Affairs TPI and Gold Pensioner Concession Cards.

5. What if I have the "wrong" card or no card?

If you currently hold a concession card other than the ones listed as eligible and have limited financial resources, you should apply for fee assistance through the school Principal, as has always been the case. You will be asked to provide information to assist



the school in assessing your individual claim for assistance. You should obtain an Income Statement from Centrelink. (This can be obtained via the internet, by telephone or from a Centrelink office). If you do not have a Centrelink card and wish to apply for the discount you should apply in person through the school Principal.

6. How much will I have to pay?

In 2020, the discounted HCC tuition fees will be:

- \$230 p.a. for kindergarten students;
- \$230 p.a. for primary students (PP-6 and Year 7 on Primary site)
- \$1500 p.a. for secondary students (Year 7-12).

These fees will be reviewed at the end of 2020.

7. What about the State Government Educational Program Allowance under the Secondary Assistance Scheme for eligible Secondary students?

The State Government Educational Program Allowance (EPA) (currently \$235) is paid to schools. In effect the fee for eligible secondary students will be \$1,735, less the \$235 EPA, leaving eligible parents to pay \$1,500. Where schools issue a book voucher for this amount, parents will be invoiced for this amount.

8. What does the discounted fee cover?

The discounted fee covers **tuition fees only**.

It does **not** cover additional charges such as camps, book hire, building levy, insurance, subject levies; however, parents can apply to the Principal to have these additional charges discounted, as has always been the case.

9. What if I have more than one child at the school?

The school's normal sibling discounts will continue to apply to the already discounted amount.

10. What do I need to do to access this Scheme?

- You will need to go through the school's normal enrolment procedures in order to access a place for your child at the school;
- Once a position has been confirmed, you will be informed that HCC discounts are available; and
- To access the discount, parents/guardians will need to show a valid card and complete a simple Application Form. (A second check may be requested later in the year after the card expires to ensure you are still eligible.)

11. How will this affect the custodial/non-custodial HCC holder?

The discount is available if the person responsible for the payment of fees is the HCC holder. If the person responsible for the payment of fees is not a valid HCC holder and has limited financial resources, then an application for fee discounts should be made to



the school Principal. If there is joint responsibility for payment of the fees, the discounted rate applies only to the eligible card holder.

12. Will this Scheme result in an increase in fees to non-HCC holders?

No. Fee increases will remain within the normal Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (CECWA) approved “recommended maximum fee increase” levels.

13. Are HCC holders guaranteed a position at the school of their choice or will they be prevented from gaining a place because they are not paying full fees?

Normal enrolment procedures will apply as per the CECWA Student Enrolment Policy with the following enrolment priorities:

Primary

- Catholic students from the Parish with a Parish Priest reference
- Catholic students from outside the Parish with a Parish Priest reference
- Other Catholic students
- Siblings of non-Catholic students
- Non-Catholic students from other Christian denominations
- Other non-Catholic students

Secondary

- Catholic students from Catholic Primary schools with a Parish Priest reference
- Catholic students from non-Catholic Primary Schools with Parish Priest reference
- Other Catholic students from Catholic Primary schools
- Other Catholic students from non-Catholic Primary schools
- Siblings of non-Catholic students
- Non-Catholic students from Catholic Primary schools
- Non-Catholic students from other Christian denominations
- Other non-Catholic students

14. What happens if I receive a HCC during the school year but after Term 1?

The reduced fee will apply on a prorata basis. For example, if you receive the card in June you will be charged two terms at the full rate and two terms at the reduced rate.

15. What happens if I pay the tuition fee for the whole year and my card is no longer valid or is not renewed?

You should inform the school immediately once the card is no longer valid. A new account will be issued and the additional amount charged.

Primary School Example:

Total tuition fee for year	\$950
Card expires mid-year	
Payment in advance	\$230
Revised Account:	
Full Tuition Fees 2 nd Semester	\$475
Less payment received (2 nd Semester)	\$115
Balance Owing	<u>\$360</u>



16. If I am receiving the HCC tuition fee discount, does this mean my child will not be able to take part in school activities, trips and excursions?

No. Providing your child meets the school's requirements for all students, your child will not be prevented from taking part because they are receiving a fee discount. However, you may be required to pay for activities which require additional payment.

17. What happens when my child turns 16 and gets their own card?

When a student turns 16 their name no longer appears on the family card but those students are still covered by the family card. A card in the name of the student is not eligible.

18. Where can I get more details on Health Care Cards?

HCCs are issued through Centrelink. For more information on HCCs, you can contact Centrelink on 132 468 (local call charge except for mobiles which will be charged at mobile rates) or you can log onto:

www.humanservices.gov.au