SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION







Supporting people with disability achieve their educational goals

Proudly administered by Northcott and The SpineCare Foundation

SpineCare Foundation
A division of Northcott

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Let's see what you can do

Empowering people to believe, strive and achieve

Are you studying or planning to study at University, TAFE or a Registered Training Organisation? Do you have a disability and are motivated to gain a formal qualification?

Northcott and The SpineCare Foundation are proud to award scholarships to people with a physical disability who are considering or currently enrolled in tertiary study. These offerings are made possible by the support of several Trusts and Foundations, united by a common commitment to support people with disabiliy to further their education.

The purpose

The aim of each scholarship is to support a student's integration into tertiary education. It is known that students with disability may have additional obstacles to overcome in accessing tertiary education, particularly the additional costs involved, which can be considerable and variable.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must have a primary disability, be an Australian citizen, have been accepted into or be enrolled in tertiary study in NSW. Students who are proceeding to a higher degree (post-graduate) in Australia or overseas are also welcome to apply.

Use of funds

Awarded scholarship recipients may use the funds to assist with tertiary study costs such as library and internet charges, purchase of text books, on-campus accommodation, transport costs, computer hardware and software, stationery, personal care and scribes/tutors. Funds may not be used for course fees (including HECS-HELP and FEE-HELP).

The scholarships

Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarship

The Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarships are supported by the family of the late Gregory and Dolores Farrell. Gregory Patrick Farrell OAM was a Founding Director of The SpineCare Foundation (established in 1981 as the Children's Spinal Research Foundation).

Funded by The Farrell Foundation and family members, this scholarship is open to students attending university who use a wheelchair as a primary form of mobility.

Thomas K.F. Taylor Scholarship

Created in honour of one of The SpineCare Foundation's Founding Directors, Professor Thomas Taylor remained an active contributor of The Foundation until his passing in 2016. This scholarship is a legacy of Professor Taylor's immense passion for people who use wheelchairs furthering their education.

Funded by The SpineCare Foundation, this scholarship is open to students with a disability attending university who use a wheelchair as a primary form of mobility

Thomas Hepburn Lennox Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Thomas Hepburn Lennox ("Tom"). Tom migrated to Australia from Scotland in the 1940s, learned his trade as a plumber and acquired his passion as a plumbing teacher at TAFE, where he worked for over 40 years. Tom's convivial and inspiring character endeared him to his students, many of whom became lifelong friends. That character of generosity extended to Tom's involvement with The Northcott Society, where he worked as a volunteer for nearly 20 years.

During his time at Northcott the scholarship was established to assist customers in areas which may fall outside other available benefits. Tom's passion for education is reflected in the objectives of the scholarship to assist Northcott customers in broad educational needs.

Funded by Thomas Hepburn Lennox Scholarship Trust, this scholarship is open to students with a physical disability who are past or present Northcott customers, studying at University, TAFE or a Registered Training Organisation. Priority of support is to people from disadvantaged financial backgrounds.

Where are they now?

Since the inception of the scholarships, more than 200 students have received support to continue their education. We caught up with some of them to learn how going through tertiary education opened the door to new opportunities.



BENJAMIN KENDE

After an accident whilst representing Hong Kong at the under-20 Asian Rugby Championships in Thailand in 2010, Ben's life changed forever. He was forced to endure relentless physical and mental battles with quadriplegia but he persevered.

Ben decided to pursue a career in law, and he initially struggled to fund the degree. The SpineCare Foundation's Gregory and Delores Farrell Scholarship made a big difference for both him and his family.

Where is Ben now?

"I'm working as a lawyer at Norton Rose Fulbright, as part of their graduate program and I am really enjoying it. I'm learning so much every day and can see myself in the industry for a very long time."

When asked about a piece of advice for others with disability considering tertiary study, Ben says: "Just take the plunge. There are awesome services and people who will help you through it all. Get in touch with the disability services team at the university you'd like to go; there is a lot out there for you."



DINESH PALIPANA

Dinesh was the first medical student with quadriplegia to go through university in Australia. A recipient of the Gregory and Delores Farrell Scholarship from The SpineCare Foundation, Dinesh recognises the significant impact that the scholarship made in his education and training. Having a spinal cord injury and studying to be a doctor presented many unique challenges. The scholarship provided the necessary support to cover the additional education costs, and even facilitated a placement to Harvard Medical School for enriched study in radiology.

Where is Dinesh now?

"I am a doctor in the emergency department of the Gold Coast University Hospital. I am also a researcher in spinal cord injury at Griffith University, where I am also a lecturer. I am a doctor for the Gold Coast Titans disability rugby league team.

When I applied for the scholarship, there were very few scholarships for medical students. It gave me a huge financial leg up and also boosted my morale, because Northcott believed in me."

As a piece of advice for others with disability considering tertiary study, Dinesh says: "Do it. Education is a powerful thing; it will empower you to pursue your dreams and to change the world."

How to apply

1. Refer to the student handbook
2. Complete the application form
3. Submit your application according to the instructions in the application form. Applications close mid January each year.

The selection process

1. Your application will be reviewed to determine the scholarship/s for which you meet the eligibility criteria
2. Each Scholarship Advisory Committee will short-list applicants for interview. If your application progresses to interview stage, you will be contacted by the end of January.
3. Interviews will occur in early February each year, either face-to-face at the Northcott Head Office in North Parramatta or via videoconference
4. Reference checks will be completed
5. Successful applicants will be informed no later than mid February
6. Confirmation of enrollment is required prior to release of the first scholarship payment.

Let's see what you can do

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northcott.com.au/our-community/spinecare

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