



BRIGHT FUTURES FUND GUIDELINES

BHC's Bright Futures Responsive Fund is designed to assist younger residents (under 18s) to enhance their educational outcomes, opportunities for social inclusion and general well-being.

In 2024, Bright Futures has funding to distribute in the form of grants to support young residents' educational and extracurricular needs. Grant funding can assist with cost of items or initiatives such as:

Education: uniforms, school fees, book lists, after school care, school camp costs, BYO devices etc

Participation: extracurricular courses, social activities, hobbies, sporting fees/equipment etc

Wellbeing: health supports (excluding medications)

Requests for financial assistance of up to \$800* per young person can be submitted, with applications assessed by BHC's Community Development team. These grants are open from Thursday 18 January, 2024 and will close when the Fund is fully allocated.

**No cash payments will be made for successful applications, direct payments will be made to suppliers/retailers on behalf of the successful applicants.*

Bright Futures Fund Example

Alexis has a 10-year-old daughter, Willow, who has a passion for music. Willow loves her weekly music lessons and they have really helped with her confidence and reducing her social isolation. Willow has been enrolled in music lessons at her primary school but has recently had to stop as Alexis can no longer afford them.

Alexis applied for a grant from BHC's Bright Futures Responsive Fund to restart these lessons. Alexis provided a copy of the invoice for the music lessons, and BHC liaised directly with supplier to pay invoice and ensure Willow could access music lessons.

Is my household eligible to apply?

To be eligible for a Bright Futures grant:

- Only one person per household can apply
- The young person who will benefit from the grant must be a BHC resident aged 0 – 18 years
- The nominating adult must be a current household member of the same household
- Household must not be in rental arrears or have other debt owing to BHC, unless a current payment plan is in place and the required repayments are being met
- Each grant recipient can only receive one grant each financial year from this Fund
- Applications should not exceed the total value of \$800 (a range of applications will be funded to ensure the maximum number of residents are assisted)
- Applications must clearly explain how the activity or item will assist in improving the young person's education, inclusion, or wellbeing outcomes.
- Must be a BHC resident for longer than 3-months

Please note that the intent of this grant is to support residents who are not eligible for existing funding / grant opportunities available in the community. As part of the grant process, BHC may refer residents into other existing programs available in the community should they be suitable. Only applications which cannot be supported through existing community programs will be considered.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be reviewed against the following assessment criteria.

To be successful, applicants must clearly explain on the application form:

- What the item or initiative is (including details of who provides it, how much it costs)
- What outcomes/benefit the young person will experience from the item/initiative
- Why the assistance of the grant is needed.

Please note: As funds are limited and there are likely to be more applications than funds available, applications that do not address the assessment criteria will not proceed to the assessment stage. Assistance is available should you need support with your application (please see details below).

How to apply

To apply for a grant through the Bright Futures Responsive Fund, please follow these simple steps:

- Read these Guidelines to check your eligibility
- Speak with your Housing Manager or a member of the Community Development Team on 3307 3000 or impact@bhcl.com.au to obtain any further information or answer any questions you have,
- Complete this short online application form [here](#) or hardcopy on request.
- The Community Development team will consider all applications as they are received and advise you of the outcome within 4 weeks of submitting your application.

Timeframes

Bright Futures Responsive Fund grants are open from Thursday 18 January, 2024 and will close once all funds have been allocated. Applications will be assessed as they are received.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application as quickly as possible.

Finding out more

For further information, any questions regarding the application process or for assistance with your application, please contact BHC's Community Development Team via email at impact@bhcl.com.au, telephone 3307 3000 or speak with your Housing Manager.

Bright Futures successful applicant

BHC's resident Polly and her teenage son were supported through the Bright Futures Fund.

"We are so grateful to BHC for their support in helping our family, in particular my teenage son, with his learning. The BHC Grant has generously provided him with the technology he needs to not only read more and learn new skills, but to thrive and discover career options that he didn't have before."

To read stories of successful grant recipients, visit: bhcl.com.au/impact/case-studies



Community Development Manager, Kaitlyn with BHC Resident Polly