

Transport and Planning Portfolio Yani Bangal First Peoples Scholarship Program

Information Pack 2026

Introduction

The Transport and Planning Portfolio Yani Bangal Scholarship Program (the Program) is a key initiative of Yani Bangal Transport and Planning Portfolio First Peoples Careers Strategy 2023-2028. The Program offers a limited number of scholarships to First Peoples Secondary School/VCE VM, TAFE and University Students. The Program aims to support recipients through their completion of studies and create employment pathways into the Transport and Planning Portfolio such as internships, work placements and graduate programs.

Key objectives of the Program are to:

- Provide financial support to assist First Peoples students with the completion of their studies,
- Increase the number of First Peoples working in the portfolio,
- Establish a talent pipeline for future leadership roles in the portfolio,
- Strengthen relationships with First Peoples in Victoria.

Transport and Planning Portfolio Agencies



General Information

The Transport and Planning Portfolio offers a limited number of scholarships each year to Secondary and Tertiary (TAFE and University) students residing in Victoria who identify as First Peoples. Tertiary students are preferably studying in fields related to transport and planning, including areas such as, but not limited to:

- Civil engineering, construction, and maintenance
- Human resources, health safety, and wellbeing
- Infrastructure project management
- Environmental science and management
- Planning, cultural heritage, media, IT, finance, and law

Scholarships will be awarded based on need, eligibility, commitment and desire to work in the Transport and Planning Portfolio on completion of studies. Recipients will sign a contractual agreement with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and begin receiving payment/s as outlined in this document.

Successful scholarship recipients may be eligible to reapply in subsequent years should they continue to meet eligibility requirements. All applications are assessed by a selection panel comprising of members of the First Peoples Staff Network and the Careers and Cultural Safety team.

Scholarship Categories

Secondary scholarships recipients will receive annual funding in a single payment during semester one. Note: Secondary School/VCE VM recipients as part of the 2026 intake will receive progressive annual payments until their graduation year of study.

- Year 10 – \$1,250
- Year 11 – \$1,875
- Year 12 – \$2,500

TAFE scholarships recipients will receive a one-off annual payment of \$5,000 during semester one.

University scholarships recipients will receive \$15,000 annual funding, paid in two instalments one in the first half of the year and one in the second half of the year.

Disclaimers

All scholarship funds are paid directly to the successful recipients, with secondary school recipients able to choose to have funds paid to a parent/guardian if agreed. FEE-HELP payments must be made by the recipient. The Department may vary the number and value of scholarships at any time.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a scholarship, you must:

- Reside in Victoria full-time (border town students studying in other states are eligible),
- Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander with community connections,
- Be enrolled in a Secondary School, TAFE or University.
- Submit further documentation if requested after the application deadline.

University applicants:

- Preferably:
 - Studying in a Transport and Planning-related field,
- Must have:
 - Completed the secondary school scholarship stream or, completed the first year of an undergraduate degree,
 - Entered a relevant postgraduate course, or
 - Completed the first year of an accredited online under/post graduate course.

TAFE applicants:

- Must be enrolled in a study program, preferably related to the Transport and Planning sector. Please refer to the general information section above for list of related fields.

Shortlisted applicants could be requested to provide a First Peoples community referee at the selection panels discretion, prior to the awarding of any scholarships.

Scholarship Requirements

Scholarship recipients will be required to sign a contractual agreement which will include the following requirements:

- Maintain satisfactory academic and/or work placement performance,
- Provide proof of enrolment, endorsed by your educational institution,
- Submit academic results,
- Provide their Tax File Number,
- Inform the Department of any study changes,
- Provide any change to contact details in writing.

Academic Requirements

A scholarship recipients must complete their proposed units of study within the duration of their scholarship period. Failure in any subject may result in the scholarship being terminated.

Applicants may be required to provide a written academic reference.

Work Placement Opportunities

Scholarship recipients will be encouraged to participate in practical work placements within the Transport and Planning Portfolio during study breaks. Opportunities may include:

- Work placements,
- Attending key meetings,
- Shadowing,
- Mentoring through the Transport and Planning Portfolio First Peoples Staff Network,
- Employment pathway programs such as internships.

Placements are arranged in consultation with the Careers and Cultural Safety Team and may require a Working with Children Check. A break before returning to study is encouraged after placement.

At the completion of the scholarship, recipients will be supported to apply for employment opportunities across the Portfolio, including graduate programs or direct employment.

Alumni Community

The alumni community connects current and previous scholarship recipients, offering a hub of resources and pathways into various employment opportunities within the Transport and Planning Portfolio. It fosters ongoing connection, career support and peer networking. Key initiatives include:

- **Awards presentation** – in-person and/or online event to accept their scholarship,
- **Portfolio Employment Programs** – information on internships, graduate roles and work experience,
- **Newsletter Updates** – updates on self-determination initiatives and portfolio updates,
- **Professional Development** – resume and interview preparation sessions with First Peoples employment consultants.

Taxation

The Department of Transport and Planning cannot advise scholarship applicants on tax matters. Successful recipients of the scholarship must seek independent advice from a tax professional. For information regarding tax and your scholarship, please use the following links:

- Information about whether your scholarship is considered income by Centrelink can be found on the [Australian Government's Guide to Social Security Law](#)
- To help you work out if your scholarship is taxable by the Australian Tax Office (ATO) you can use there [Is your scholarship taxable tool](#).

How to Apply

Stage 1: Application Form

Submit the online application form with required attachments by the due date.

Note: Online applications are highly preferred however, you may request a hard copy application form at: firstpeoplescareersandculturalsafety@transport.vic.gov.au.

Application Forms and Deadlines:

Secondary: Friday (5pm) 12 June 2026 [Apply Online Here](#)

Tertiary: Friday (5pm) 12 June 2026 [Apply Online Here](#)

Stage 2: Application Assessment

Scholarship applications are assessed by a selection panel based on eligibility criteria outlined in this document. Shortlisted applicants may be asked to provide additional information.

Assessment is based solely on submitted documentation. Applicants must notify the Careers and Cultural Safety team if they receive other financial support while applying.

The selection will be assessed on:

- competitiveness of the application,
- eligibility criteria,
- relevance of the course to the Transport and Planning sector,
- commitment to career in the sector.

Stage 3: Application discussion

Secondary shortlisted applicants will not be required to discuss their application with the selection panel.

University and TAFE shortlisted applicants may be invited to discuss their application and careers goals.

Stage 4: Notification

Successful applicants will be notified by email or phone, followed by formal notification of the outcome of their application.

Unsuccessful applications will be notified by email and encouraged to apply in future applications with the option to seek feedback from the selection panel.

Templates

Referee Templates Secondary School

Community Referee Report

Community Referee's Comments about the Applicant

Large empty text area for community referee comments.

Referee Signature: _____ Date: _____

School Referee Report

School Referee's Comments about the Applicant

Large empty text area for school referee comments.

Referee Signature: _____ Date: _____

