Health Care Card Tuition Fee Discount Scheme
Frequently Asked Questions

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

Eligible Cards must fit the scheme’s means testing requirements. For example, PPP (Parenting Payment -partnered), FA (Family Allowance), LIC (Low Income), NSA (New Start Allowance), PA (Partner Allowance), SA (Sickness Allowance), SL (Special Benefit), WA (Widow Allowance) and MAA (Mature Age Allowance), DSP (Disability Support Pension), CAR (Carer Payment), PPS (Parenting Payment Single), NSA (New Start Allowance), Department of Veterans’ Affairs Pensioner Concession Card (Blue card only).

Eligible cards show the parent/guardian name and those of the students who are covered by the card. If the child is over 16 years of age he/she will be issued with his/her own card, their name will not appear on the family card. If the parent/guardian still holds an eligible card, these students are still eligible for the automatic discount.

Card holders must be Parent/Guardian using a family card only. Claims cannot be made by a parent using a student’s card or by a parent quoting a student’s card number.

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 cards under the Mobility Allowance (MOB) category; and
- 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 can apply for fee assistance through the school. 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 make contact with the school Finance Department.

6. How much will I have to pay?
In 2015, the total tuition fees payable after receiving the HCC discount:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fees</th>
<th>$1,635 p/a for secondary students (Year 7-12).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less</td>
<td>$235 SGEPA Secondary Assistance Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,400 annual <strong>Tuition Charge</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These fees will be reviewed at the end of 2015.

7. What is the State Government Educational Program Allowance under the Secondary Assistance Scheme for eligible Secondary students?
The State Government Educational Program Allowance (EPA) of $235, is paid to schools following application by the parents. As shown above, the fee for eligible secondary students will be $1,635, less the $235 EPA, leaving eligible parents to pay $1,400. Parents should contact the school for EPA application forms.

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 levies, insurance or levies.

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.

2 children at Irene McCormack Catholic College $250 is deducted from the annual tuition account. 3 children at Irene McCormack Catholic College $500 is deducted from the annual tuition account. 4 children at Irene McCormack Catholic College $3,500 is deducted from the annual tuition account.

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 will 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 can be made to the school through contact with the Family Fees Officer. 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 and the College Enrolment Policy with the following enrolment priorities:
   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

   Note - All enrolment offers remain at the final decision of the Principal