

Pathways fund guide



What is the Pathways Fund?

Leaving school is a major milestone. It marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another, but for many young people, that change can feel uncertain. At Margaret Jurd College, we know that the support, structure, and encouragement students receive during their time here play an important role in helping them succeed. When that support network is no longer there, the next steps into further study, training, or work can sometimes feel overwhelming.

The Pathways Fund was established to make that transition easier. It exists to provide practical, targeted help for former students who are ready to take their next step, but who may face financial or personal barriers in doing so. The support offered is flexible and designed to respond to the individual needs of each student. This could mean assistance with course fees, work clothing, textbooks, driving lessons, or other costs that make a difference in opening doors to opportunity.

The fund is guided by the Pathways Fund Advisory Committee, a group responsible for reviewing applications and making sure support is given fairly and wisely. The committee looks at each application on a case-by-case basis, recognising that every young person's journey is unique. Their role is to ensure that the assistance provided is meaningful, appropriate, and used in ways that will directly support education, training, or employment outcomes.

Who Can Apply?

The Pathways Fund is designed to support former students of Margaret Jurd College. This includes:

- **Graduates from the past 2 - 3 years** - these students are encouraged to apply as they are often at the key point of beginning their post-school pathways.
- **Students preparing to graduate** - applications can be made in advance of leaving school to ensure that support is ready when it is needed.
- **Flexibility for others** - while there is a general two-year timeframe, the committee understands that some students may need assistance beyond this window. In many cases, arrangements can be made if the support requested is reasonable and well-justified.

What Support is Available?

The fund can cover a wide range of expenses that help with work or study, such as:

- Course and enrolment fees
- Apprenticeship or traineeship costs (tools, uniforms, safety gear)
- Textbooks or laptops
- University application fees
- Driving lessons or licence testing
- Transport costs related to work or study

In exceptional cases, other costs may also be considered, if they clearly support a young person's education or employment.

What is not covered?

- Personal expenses not linked to work or study
- Requests that are unnecessary or considered risky

Funding amounts

- Applications up to \$5,000 are usually considered.
- Larger requests may be funded in stages.
- Payments are usually made directly to providers or through vouchers, rather than cash.

How to Apply

1 Enquiry Form

Start by filling out a short enquiry form. This lets MJC know what kind of support you're looking for

2 Talk with Your Caseworker

Your caseworker will meet with you to discuss your goals and check what support might be available.

3 Application Form

Together with your caseworker, you'll fill in the Pathways Fund Application Form.

4 Provide Documentation

Include quotes or proof of costs (for example, from a training provider, store, or service).

The Pathways Fund Advisory Committee considers your application and makes a decision.

5 Submit Your Application

Your caseworker submits the completed application to MJC.

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When to Apply

- Applications are open all year.
- On average, decisions take 6 - 8 weeks.
- Urgent requests can be prioritised.

How Decisions are Made

The committee looks at:

- Your needs and personal circumstances
- Your readiness to take the next step
- Whether your caseworker believes your plan is achievable
- Other financial resources you may already have

Sometimes, if the full amount cannot be approved, the committee may fund part of the request (for example, covering application fees or textbooks instead of a whole university degree).

Ready to Take Your Next Step?

The Pathways Fund exists to help you move confidently from school into further study, training, or work. If you think this support could make a difference for you, we invite you to complete the online enquiry form.

This is the first step in letting us know what you need. From there, a caseworker will be in touch to talk through your options and guide you through the application process.

Start your Pathways Fund enquiry today and let us help you open the door to new opportunities. Click [here](#) or head to <https://forms.office.com/r/P1Br8vSfDk>. For further enquiries email pathways@mjc.nsw.edu.au