



ACT Health highly values the skills & knowledge of mental health consumers. It is working toward improving the pathways of engaging mental health consumers in employment across a range of settings.

■ WHAT'S ON OFFER?

ACT Health has contracted with the CIT Solutions to provide a **two phased approach** to optimise the opportunities for mental health consumers to further their studies and subsequently their employment within the human services area. This contract agreement is called the "ACT Mental Health Consumer Training and Scholarship".

The first phase of the ACT Mental Health Consumer Training and Scholarship is the opportunity to obtain a Statement of Attainment.

The second phase is funding that covers course fees only for study in one of the Certificate IV courses in the Community Services and Development Programs in the CIT Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing. This funding is called the "Mental Health Consumer Scholarship".

■ WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Anyone over the age of 17 years old who has a mental illness/disorder is eligible to apply to study for a Statement of Attainment. Preference will be given to applicants who have not completed post-secondary studies and are unemployed.

■ WHERE DO I BEGIN?

PHASE 1 STATEMENT OF ATTAINMENT

This Statement of Attainment will consist of three competencies: two core and one elective from the Certificate IV in Mental Health delivered in two subjects. This will be taught at no cost to the consumer. Consumers will study for this Statement of Attainment in a small group. This group will be run four (4) hours per week over a 17 week semester. These are core subjects for all Certificate IV courses in the Community Services and Development Programs in the CIT Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing.

Two core subjects are:

Mental Health Basics: Competency:

CHCMH401A

'Work effectively in mental health settings'

Introductions to Addictions: Competencies:

CHCAOD402A

'Work effectively in the alcohol and others drugs sector'

CHCCS403B

'Provide brief interventions'



Contact the Mental Health Policy Unit on:

T (02) 6205 1178

W www.health.act.gov.au



■ OK I'M INTERESTED? WHAT'S NEXT?

To be considered for the Statement of Attainment through this scheme you need to apply for it. It is a simple and brief application.

Applying to do a Statement of Attainment?

Applications for ACT Mental Health Consumer training and Scholarship -Statement of Attainment are held with the Community Development and Education Officer at the Mental Health Policy Unit, ACT Health. You can obtain a form by ringing them on 6205 1178 or downloading one off the ACT Mental Health Consumer Network website www.actmhc.org.au.

Once you have completed your application form it is to be sent to:

Community Development and Education Officer
ACT Health, Mental Health Policy Unit GPO BOX 825
Canberra City ACT 2601

I've finished the Statement of Attainment and would like to keep studying for a Certificate IV under this scheme.

■ WHAT DO I DO NOW?

PHASE 2 CERTIFICATE IV

It is hoped that once you have completed the Statement of Attainment that you will want to continue to study and complete a Certificate IV. To encourage this CIT are holding in trust on behalf of ACT Health funds for mental health consumers to enable them to do this. These funds are called Mental Health Consumer Scholarship and will cover course fees only for one Certificate IV course.

Therefore, once you have completed the Statement of Attainment you will be eligible to apply to study with scholarship support in any of the following Certificate IV programs:

- Mental Health
- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Community Development
- Youth Work
- Community Services Work

In addition to the scholarship, optional pastoral care and tutorial support will be available for up to 2 hours every three weeks for students who continue in any of the above Certificates IV programs. Mental health consumers are also able to access any additional supports available to all other CIT students.

The recipient is responsible for covering all other costs associated with their study that are not covered by the scholarship such as stationery, text requirements, travel and childcare.





■ HOW WILL IT WORK?

Application process

Mental health consumers who have completed the Statement of Attainment can apply for an ACT Mental Health Scholarship through the Education Manager in the Community Services and Development Programs area in the Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing at CIT.

A student will apply to the CIT via the Education Manager each semester for a scholarship to cover the costs of the subjects in which the student is enrolling. The manager or nominated pastoral care worker will complete with the student any required application forms that are relevant to the mental health consumer scholarship fund.

How will you receive the money?

There will be no exchange of monies between the recipient and CIT. The Education Manager will ensure that the successful recipient course fees will be invoiced and automatically sent to the section within the CIT who will be managing the scholarship.

How long is the scholarship valid?

Scholarship recipients who will not complete their course in two years must reapply for a scholarship in the third year of study. Priority will be given to applicants who have recently obtained a Statement of Attainment as part of this scheme, and then from previous scholarship recipients for their second year of study providing it is a continuation of the same course and on the receipt of satisfactory academic performance.

Some training and scholarship conditions

If a mental health consumer is unable to complete a course or no longer wishes to pursue the course in which they are enrolled it is expected they will discuss this matter first with the Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing, Education Manager before withdrawing. This is to ensure that the student has access to all possible supports and any barriers preventing the student from studying are minimised.

What if I become unwell during my study?

It is important for the student to let the Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing, Education Manager know as soon as possible. Recipients of the scholarship have two years after they complete the Statement of Attainment to complete their certificate IV course. However, if there has been extenuating circumstances e.g. illness relapse, hospitalisation etc that required the student to take considerable time off to recover then the CIT would be flexible and allow more time if appropriate.



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ACT Health recognises the importance of providing opportunities for mental health consumers to further their education & increase their employment opportunities.

As such ACT Health has made funding available and has contracted with the CIT to provide training opportunities for mental health consumers.

A student who fails

Where a student fails a subject, repeating it on scholarship fees would have to involve approval by ACT Health, Mental Health Policy unit and the CIT.

However, it is CIT policy to allow students to resubmit work that is not yet competent and to consider students individual needs in assessment(may need to do them verbally rather than essay form etc)The pastoral care provided along with extended time to do the course and with CIT's learning support can assist successful completions.

Withdrawal

Students can withdraw up to the due date of fees without drawing on the scholarship fees. However, if a student gets halfway through a subject and has to withdraw because of illness, (with adequate evidence to support this), CIT would allow them to return to the subject in another semester without having to pay again. This would be done once only for a student for any specific subject – but it could happen to a number of subjects over the period it takes to complete the course.

If a student commenced a subject and the week after the fee due date decided to drop out, and informed CIT of this immediately, dependent on the particular circumstances CIT would seek advice and approval from the centre Director to request that in this individual case the fee need not be paid. However, it would be seeking approval for this and cannot guarantee that it could happen. Fees would definitely be lost if the student just stopped attending a few weeks after the due date.

We want you to succeed

ACT Health, CIT and ACT MH Consumer network all want you to succeed. It is important that if things crop up and the study does get difficult for whatever reason that you approach the Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing, Education Manager and or the ACT mental health consumer network for support.

Further information about the scholarship is available from the Mental Health Policy Unit of ACT: Community Development and Education Officer: 62051178

Further information about the Certificate IV program is available through the CIT website www.cit.act.edu.au or Education Manger: Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing 6207 4914.



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Given Name

Surname

Are you over the age of 17? Yes/No

Address

.....

Email

Phone Mobile

What you are applying for? (please circle)

a) Statement of Attainment or b) Recognition of Prior Learning.

What is your highest level of education? (please circle)

Year 7 Year 8 Year 9 Year 10 Year 11 Year 12
 Post Secondary studies Tertiary Studies

What year did you finish studying?

Are you currently employed? Yes / No

If yes, please circle: Permanent / Part time / Casual

Briefly, why would you like to receive this scholarship?

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I am a mental health consumer? Yes/No

I have read, understand and agree to the conditions of the scholarship? Yes/No

Signature Date

Application closing date

Application forms are to be sent to Community Development and Education Officer
 ACT Health, Mental Health Policy Unit GPO BOX 825, Canberra City ACT 2601

All applicants will be notified by mail within 2 weeks of this closing date.
 Successful applicants will be informed of the process for enrolment and course outlines.

