



The Department of Psychological Medicine

WESTMEAD FEELINGS PROGRAM FACILITATOR SCHOLARSHIPS INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS 2021/2022

Please read all the information below before completing the online Scholarship Application Form here at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CYNYFBK>.

Introduction

The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW) is seeking applicants for the Westmead Feelings Program Facilitator Scholarships round, with the aim of supporting the mental health of children with autism and intellectual disability in NSW and to help us evaluate the Westmead Feelings Program online facilitator learning platform.

The Westmead Feelings Program (WFP) is a sixteen-week mental health promotion intervention and emotion-based learning program for children aged 8 to 12 years old with autism spectrum disorder and mild intellectual disability. To participate in WFP, the children need the ability to attend for at least a few minutes and have phrase speech. The children do not need to read or write to access WFP. The intervention is designed to be delivered to small groups (ideally four to six children) but can be delivered individually. Sessions for parents and teachers help them learn how to be emotion coaches for their children.

Scholarships will be awarded for either:

- **Westmead Feelings Program 1** - for children with autism and a mild intellectual disability. *Westmead Feelings Program 1 is aimed at verbal children, who may or may not read, can draw simple pictures or write a few key words and can pay attention for at least a few minutes at a time.*
- **Westmead Feelings Program 2** - for children with autism and no intellectual disability. *Westmead Feelings Program 2 is aimed at children who have fluent speech, and who are able to read and write.*

Twelve scholarships will be awarded to professionals in NSW to complete the WFP online facilitator certification course. The online facilitator certification course will give professionals the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver WFP to children with autism and mild intellectual disability, their parents and teachers. Included in the scholarships will be the WFP therapeutic kit and WFP therapeutic manuals for up to six children, their parents and teachers. The twelve scholars will be supported via various mentoring opportunities throughout 2022. Each scholarship package is valued at over \$2,500. (NB: There is no cash payment or leave relief associated with this scholarship opportunity).

Eligibility

To be eligible for the scholarship you must:

- Be a professional in NSW who works with children aged 8 to 12 years old in the health, education or disability sector.
- Currently or have an intention to support children with autism with or without an intellectual disability in your workplace.
- Be available to enrol in and complete the Westmead Feelings Program Online Facilitator Certification Course (twenty hours at your own pace) between 12 June 2021 and 17 September 2021.
- Deliver the Westmead Feelings Program, a sixteen-week intervention for children, parents and/or teachers in 2022, starting in February 2022. The intervention is delivered over nine months, comprising of three blocks of five weekly sessions and a booster session.
- Have access to a small classroom-sized room (for group delivery) or a smaller room (for individual delivery) and audio visual facilities to show videos and PowerPoint presentations.

Selection criteria

A number of key criteria will be used to assess the merit of applications. Your online application needs to address the following criteria (in less than 250 words per item):

- 1) **Commitment:** your commitment to delivering Westmead Feelings Program as a service for children with autism and intellectual disability, their parents, and teachers;
- 2) **Access:** how the scholarship will enable children with autism and intellectual disability within your community to access evidence-based mental health treatment;
- 3) **Sustainability:** how you will sustain the Westmead Feelings Program as a service in your area following your completion of the Westmead Feelings Program Online Facilitator Certification Course.

Your application will be looked upon favourably if:

- You have a capacity to deliver the Westmead Feelings Program as a group intervention.
- You demonstrate a significant unmet service need for children with autism and intellectual disability in your area.

Each application must include:

- A completed Westmead Feelings Program Scholarship Online Application
- An upload of your curriculum vitae (maximum four pages) outlining your employment history, specific training and experience working with children and their families, mental health and disability, and
- An upload of a brief letter from your Team Leader or Manager, outlining your current position and in support of your: (1) application, (2) completion of the Westmead Feelings Program online professional learning, (3) delivery of Westmead Feelings Program as part of your role in 2022, and (4) intention to deliver the program post 2022.

Closing dates and timeline

Date	Activity
3 May 2021	Scholarship applications completed online and received by The Children's Hospital at Westmead
14 May 2021	Successful applicants notified by email
12 June 2021 to 17 September 2021	Westmead Feelings Program Online Learning Course (20 hours duration)
February 2022	Westmead Feelings Program session 1 held
November 2022	Westmead Feelings Program final session held

Application evaluation

Each application will be reviewed by a three-person panel at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. The evaluation will be based on the three criteria of commitment, access and sustainability. Applicants who have the capacity to deliver WFP as a group intervention and which highlight an unmet service need for children with autism and intellectual disability will be looked upon favourably.

Applications will not be considered if:

- A document from the Application Checklist is missing (see page 3).
- The word count is exceeded.

The decision of the panel in awarding the scholarships will be final.

Scholarship materials

Scholarship materials consisting of one WFP therapeutic kit for the WFP scholar and WFP therapeutic manuals for six children, their parents and teachers, will be delivered to the WFP scholar at the cost of The Children's Hospital at Westmead. To explore the manuals please visit this website: <https://www.acer.org/au/westmead-feelings-program#pricing-tables>.

Obligations

Acceptance of the scholarship means scholars are obliged to complete the online certification course, deliver Westmead Feelings Program in 2022, and complete evaluation forms about the online learning and scholarship process. WFP scholars will recruit children, parents and teachers to participate in WFP in 2022 according to deadlines set by The Children's Hospital at Westmead and advise CHW of the number of manuals required for WFP participants. This will ensure WFP scholars receive manuals required in a timely manner.

If scholars are unable to meet these obligations, the WFP therapeutic kit and manuals must be returned to The Children's Hospital at Westmead so other facilitators and children, parents and teachers can benefit from the resources.

Privacy notice

All personal information submitted will be stored as secure electronic files at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. Scholarship applications and any other information derived from the Westmead Feelings Program Facilitator Scholarship Program will be retained for seven years following completion of the Westmead Feelings Program Facilitator Scholarship evaluation process. Personal information from applications, evaluation forms, and other information will be only accessed by the three-person panel reviewing applications. Any reports generated will de-identify all WFP scholars.

Further information

We would like to acknowledge Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Hub (MHIDHUB) who have provided funding support for the Westmead Feelings Program Facilitator Scholarships.

The Westmead Feelings Program Facilitator Scholarships are part of a Quality Improvement Activity approved by the Clinical Governance Unit of The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

More information about the Westmead Feelings Program is available here: <https://www.acer.org/westmead-feelings-program>.

For more information about the scholarships please contact Jodie.caruana@health.nsw.gov.au or michelle.wong@health.nsw.gov.au.

Submission checklist

Completed Westmead Feelings Program Scholarship Online Application Form <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CYNYFBK> which includes:

an upload of your curriculum vitae (maximum four pages) and;

an upload of a letter from your Team Leader or Manager in support of your application.

Your scholarship application must be submitted before or on 3 May 2021.

