

CONCESSION CARD DISCOUNTS

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What do the cards look like and what information do they contain?

Two categories of cards are eligible for the automatic 70% Tuition Fee Discount. A sample of each can be seen below.

A: Health Care Cards



Payment type indicates the category under which the HCC has been issued. See below for eligible cards.

B: Pensioner Concession Cards



Payment type indicates the category under which the HCC has been issued. See below for eligible cards.

2. Which Concession Cards meet the criteria for eligibility?

To be eligible for the 70% concession on Tuition Fees (after Family Discount):

- The child must appear on the card as the cardholder or a "Dependent".
- The card must be "Means Tested". Refer to the list below of eligible and ineligible cards.
- The card holder must be the person legally responsible for paying the school fees i.e. the person who has signed the enrolment form.
- The card must be current on the first day of the term for which discount is being applied.

| ELIGIBLE CARDS (Meet criteria) | INELIGIBLE CARDS (Don't meet criteria) |
|--|---|
| 1) Health Care Card: - Period of Issue: 1 year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Newstart Allowance (NSA, NS) ➤ Sickness Allowance (SA) ➤ Youth Allowance (YA) ➤ Partner Allowance (PA) ➤ Parenting Payment (partnered) (PPP, PP) ➤ Widow Allowance (WA) ➤ Special Benefit (SpB, SL) ➤ Carer Payment (CP) ➤ Family Tax Benefit Part A (max rate) (FTB) ➤ Farm Household Allowance (LHS, FH) ➤ Low Income Earner (LI) ➤ Family Tax Benefit (FA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ex-Carer Allowance (Child) Health Care Card (CA, EH) ➤ Foster Child Health Care Card (FO) ➤ Mobility Allowance (MOB) ➤ Carer Allowance caring for a child under 16yrs (CA) ➤ Medicare Card ➤ Child with Disability (CD) ➤ Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Health Cards: Gold, White and Orange (see note below) |
| 2) Pensioner Concession Card: - Period of Issue: 2 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Age Pension (AGE) ➤ Bereavement Allowance (BVA) ➤ Carer Payment (CP, CAR) ➤ Disability Support Pension (DSP) ➤ Newstart Allowance (NSA, NS) ➤ Youth Allowance (YA) ➤ Parenting Payment (single) (PPS, PPP) ➤ Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (SHC) | |

Note: There are a number of pensions paid by the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) and some of these are means-tested. DVA pension concession cardholders should provide the school/college with supporting documentation that identifies the type of pension they receive to determine eligibility.

3. Does the Concession Card Discount apply to school levies?

The Concession Card Discount applies to **tuition fees** only. School fees also include levies which vary from school to school and may include items such as Building Levy, Parents & Friends Association Levy, Information Technology Levy and other subject and general levies. The Concession Card Discount **does not** apply to these levies.

4. What about families on ineligible cards and other low income families without any Concession card?

Our diocesan policy on school fees states that, *no student should be excluded from a Catholic school because of the inability of their parents/carers/guardians to pay the prescribed fees.* New or existing parents/carers/guardians, who are experiencing financial hardship and, may or may not hold a concession card, are encouraged to discuss fee discounts directly with the school Principal, who will treat the situation confidentially. Through this consultation process total or partial exemption from payment of school fees may be arranged according to individual family circumstances.

5. Can the Concession Card Discount be backdated to apply to previous terms?

The Concession Card Discount initiative commences in Term 1, 2017. Discounts **do not** apply to school terms prior to the commencement date. If a family presents with a Concession Card part way through the term, the concession will apply for that **whole term**.

6. What if my card becomes invalid due to a change in circumstance?

The Concession Card Discount applies where the applicant's Health Care or Pensioner Card is valid. If circumstances change within the expiry period nominated on the card, it is the responsibility of the card holder to advise the school of the change in circumstance so that school fees can be adjusted. Families who continue to experience financial hardship and do not hold a valid concession card are encouraged to discuss alternate fee discounts directly with the school Principal.

7. Where can I get more information?

For more information about applying for a means-tested Australian government Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card please visit the Centrelink website: <http://www.centrelink.gov.au>

For more information about applying for a Concession Card Discount on your school tuition fees please contact your Catholic school or college.