Aboriginal Scholarship Programme

Purpose:
The College Board provides Aboriginal scholarships for the following purpose:
- To provide Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal students with an opportunity to interact positively within a Catholic school environment.
- To enable equity of access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to educational services provided at Mercedes College.
- To raise the rate of participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in education to those of all Australians.
- To achieve equitable and appropriate educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
- To encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander involvement in educational decision making.

Eligibility Criteria:
- Applicants must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.
- The student is to have a strong desire for a Catholic education.
- The applicant should be willing to become involved in the College's co-curricular activities in accordance with the ethos of Mercedes College.
- For 2019, the student is to be entering Year Seven at Mercedes College.

Details and Value of the Scholarship:
- Two scholarships are to be provided at each year level.
- Each scholarship will be awarded for a period of up to six years, renewed on an annual basis, subject to a satisfactory review (see below).
- The minimum value of the scholarship shall be the cost of tuition fees (2016 value $8,622 per annum). In some instances, half scholarships will be offered.

Composition of selection panel:
- Mercedes College Principal
- A prominent member of the local Aboriginal community OR
- Aboriginal consultant (or similar) from the Catholic Education Office OR
- A staff member representative from the College Pastoral Council.

Review process:
For each recipient, the following factors will be considered in reviewing (on an annual basis) the continuation of the scholarship:
- Regular attendance
- Consistent application to course work
- Compliance with the standard College Enrolment Contract
- Continuing to provide a positive image of Aboriginal people to the school community.

Each scholarship is to be reviewed on an annual basis by the College Principal who may choose to consult the staff mentor and/or a member of the local Aboriginal community, as appropriate.
Application forms:
In addition to the standard Mercedes College enrolment application form and relevant attachments - school report etc., scholarship applicants are to complete the attached scholarship application form (supplementary details). No Scholarship application fee will apply.

Documentation which should accompany the application:-
- Completed Enrolment Application form
- Enrolment Application Fee
- Copy of most recent school report
- Copy of Birth certificate*
- Copy of Baptism certificate (if applicable)*
- Proof of Aboriginality
- Aboriginal Scholarship Application Form (Supplementary Details).

* unless previously submitted

Please note:

If an ‘offer of a place’ at the College is made following the enrolment interview, no enrolment confirmation fee will apply.
Aboriginal Scholarship Application Form
SUPPLEMENTARY DETAILS
(to be completed by student)

Student’s Name: ________________________________________________________________

Outline your main reasons for seeking a scholarship to Mercedes College:

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Detail any past or potential commitment to co-curricular activities (e.g. sport, music, and other cultural activities)

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