

How does it work?

The RMHC® Charlie Bell Scholarship is awarded annually, with applications closing on 30th November each year.

The scholarship is open to anyone, so long as they meet the following criteria:

- 15-20 yrs of age (permission from a parent or guardian is required for children under the age of 18)
- Treatment required hospitalisation at a Children's Hospital or Adolescent Ward for serious illness or injury
- Eligible to attend a tertiary or vocational institution such as University, College or TAFE

Recipients of the scholarships are chosen by the Ronald McDonald House® Awards Committee in each State. Criteria for selection includes the applicant's current educational setting, their personal aims and achievements, community involvement and how the scholarship will help in achieving their future goals. Where possible, those selected for the scholarship are requested to attend an awards ceremony.

Charlie Bell Scholarship:
Where dreams get back on track

Ready to apply?

To apply for the RMHC® Charlie Bell Scholarship, take a look at the checklist below which outlines everything you need to do and provide.



Create a video or write 500 words or less, outlining your personal aims, achievements and any involvement in the community, your education setting and career pursuits. Tell us how you believe this award will assist in achieving your goals for the future.



Provide two written references, one personal and one from your current education environment or employer.



Once you've gathered all the required information, complete the online application form at www.rmhc.org.au/charlie-bell-scholarships



For questions or assistance with applications, please contact Ronald McDonald House Charities®, Toll free number: 1300 307 642 (1300 30 RMHC)



RMHC® Charlie Bell Scholarship

Where dreams
can be achieved



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Australia



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Australia

RMHC® Charlie Bell Scholarship

When a young person is dealing with a serious illness or injury, other parts of their life can sometimes come to a standstill.

As their treatment and recovery become the priority, it can feel almost impossible to carry on with education, professional development or the career path they were pursuing.

To help students get back on their career path and towards the future they dream of, Ronald McDonald House Charities® established the **Charlie Bell Scholarship**. The scholarship awards one-off grants of up to \$5,000 to young people to assist towards their tertiary education.

Whether the money is used for books, supplies, apprenticeship tools or university fees, the scholarship is there to help young people get back on their path to success - wherever that might take them.



About Charlie Bell

Charlie Bell was an inspirational leader, long time supporter of RMHC® and someone with quite a remarkable story.

After starting his career as a part time crew member with McDonald's at the age of 15, he progressed quickly through the ranks, becoming Australia's youngest Store Manager at just 19. By the age of 29, Charlie was a Vice President of McDonald's Australia and on the Australian Board of Directors.

Before long, Charlie was appointed Managing Director, McDonald's Australia and then ultimately, President and Chief Executive Officer of the global McDonald's system in 2004.

Charlie passed away in 2005 after a courageous battle with cancer and he has left behind a legacy that allows many young Australians to follow their dreams, just like he did.



Yasmine's Story

Since its launch in 2006 the RMHC® Charlie Bell Scholarship has helped over hundreds of young people throughout Australia. Yasmine was a recipient of the scholarship in 2007, this is her story.

"In 2003, just before my fourth birthday, I was diagnosed with iritis, an inflammation of the eye, then with glaucoma. I had cataracts removed over six or seven surgeries at Westmead Children's Hospital and a few more at the Sydney Eye Institute.

It all created a visual impairment, meaning I couldn't read until I was in Year Four. I fell a long way behind, but when I got into Year Seven I decided I wasn't going to let a vision impairment or an eye patch define me. I would put in more effort than anybody else. A lot of the tasks took me double the amount of time compared to everybody else, but I just had to do it.

Some teachers who were really understanding put in some extra time to help me, and so did my parents. In my HSC last year I got an ATAR of 97.9, and I was really pleased. Now, I'm studying Law and Commerce at Macquarie University.

The RMHC® Charlie Bell Scholarship means a lot because my family was on one income for quite a long time. It's going to allow me to purchase resources such as law text books, which are very expensive. It means I don't have to work 20 hours a week to pay off the text books, which gives me time to do all the reading that I have to do."

Leonie Bell

Wife of the late Charlie Bell

"The first year the Charlie Bell Scholarship was given out, I was invited to Ronald McDonald House® Randwick. One of the mothers of the recipients came to me and said, 'Thank you so much. This is the difference between my daughter being able to continue her studies or not.'

I tear up every time I think of that moment. I've led a very charmed and lucky life. I have so much and so many other people don't. The only way they can get to climb the ladder is by being educated. I strongly believe in education.

Before Charlie died he and I talked about where he wanted the money to go. He always said he wanted to spend the money on Ronald McDonald House Charities®. Then I recently read an article by Maya Angelou that said the world would be a better place if everybody looked after their own.

I consider this cause to be my own, as did Charlie. He would be very proud of what this scholarship is doing today."