

ITEM-20 LMM 25/10/22 - LORD MAYOR'S SCHOLARSHIPS RENEWAL

MOTION

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes that the current agreement for the Lord Mayor's Women's Scholarship and the Lord Mayor's Scholarship, which support disadvantaged and low socio-economic status students at the University of Newcastle, are set to expire after 2022;
2. Highlights Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alex Zelinsky AO's comments that 'it is significant to have the Lord Mayor and Council work with us to help students facing disadvantage achieve their educational goals and that 'it sends a wonderful message to the community about your commitment to the power of higher education';
3. Notes the University of Newcastle's ongoing appreciation of the scholarship partnership with Council, with correspondence from University of Newcastle Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Alex Zelinsky AO (Attachment A) and Relationship Manager Leanne Innes (Attachment B) received, requesting the renewal of the Scholarships agreement and suggesting that the Lord Mayor's Scholarships are continued in perpetuity, in line with our Scholarship agreement with the Hunter TAFE Foundation;
4. Endorses the request of the University of Newcastle to continue to support disadvantaged students through the Lord Mayor's Scholarship and the Lord Mayor's Women's Scholarship in perpetuity.

BACKGROUND

The Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women was established on International Women's Day in 2015 and announced with then University of Newcastle Vice-Chancellor, Professor Caroline McMillen to support disadvantaged women achieve their tertiary educational goals.

On 10 October 2019, University of Newcastle Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alex Zelinsky AO, wrote to City of Newcastle to advise of the success of the Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women, noting that the scholarship now attracts the highest number of applications for a single scholarship. Professor Zelinsky further advised that the University of Newcastle believes that expanding the scholarship program would assist more students facing disadvantage.

At the City of Newcastle Ordinary Council Meeting of 22 October 2022, Council resolved to support the expansion of the *Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women* through the establishment of the *Lord Mayor's Scholarship*.

RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 24 March 2015 – LMM: Lord Mayor's Women's Scholarship
- 24 January 2017 – LMM: Lord Mayor's Women's Scholarship
- 22 October 2019 – LMM – Lord Mayor's University of Newcastle Scholarship

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Correspondence from University of Newcastle Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Alex Zelinsky AO.
- B. Correspondence from University of Newcastle Relationship Manager (Scholarships), Leanne Innes.

**PROFESSOR ALEX ZELINSKY AO
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT**

Telephone: +61 2 4921 5101
Facsimile: +61 2 4921 5115
Email: Alex.Zelinsky@newcastle.edu.au



10 October 2019

Councillor Nuatali Nelmes
Lord Mayor, City of Newcastle
City Administration Centre
282 King St
NEWCASTLE 2300

Dear Lord Mayor,

On behalf of the University, I am pleased to advise you of the success to date of *The Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women*. The scholarship has gone from strength to strength, and now attracts the highest number of applications for any single scholarship, receiving 200 applications in 2019.

As you know, equity of access to higher education is a fundamental pillar of the University of Newcastle, with 27% of our students coming from low socio-economic backgrounds, well above the sector average of 16%, and more than half of our students are first in family to study at university. It is significant to have the Lord Mayor and Council work with us to help students facing disadvantage achieve their educational goals. It sends a wonderful message to the community about your commitment to the power of higher education.

Based on the current demand and success of *The Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women*, we would be pleased to work with you to expand the program further to offer additional support for students.

There are a number of potential options that my team would be happy to discuss further with you:

- Increase the number of *The Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women* in 2020
- Establish a new scholarship to complement the current scholarship; for example, this might be named *The Lord Mayor's Scholarship* and could be open to any student facing educational disadvantage
- Increase the duration of *The Lord Mayor's Scholarship for Women* to support students for longer than one year of their degree and/or increase the annual amount of the Scholarship

Thank you again for your generous support, and I look forward to speaking with you about this opportunity to expand the current scholarship program.

Yours sincerely

Professor Alex Zelinsky AO
Vice-Chancellor and President

NEWCASTLE | CENTRAL COAST | PORT MACQUARIE | SYDNEY | SINGAPORE

The University of Newcastle
Callaghan NSW 2308 Australia

enquirycentre@newcastle.edu.au
CRICOS Provider Number: 00109J

T +61 2 4921 5000
www.newcastle.edu.au

OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND PHILANTHROPY

IDC Building
The University of Newcastle
Callaghan NSW 2308
E: donor-relations@newcastle.edu.au
T: 02 4921 8612



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

Thursday 11th August 2022

Councillor Nuatali Nelmes
Lord Mayor, City of Newcastle
City Administration Centre
282 King St
NEWCASTLE 2300

Dear Lord Mayor,

I am writing to you to thank you for your ongoing commitment to disadvantaged students at the University of Newcastle via the Lord Mayor's Scholarship and the Lord Mayor's Womens Scholarship. These two scholarships have been two of our most popular scholarships garnering large application numbers each year. Receiving a scholarship from the Lord Mayor is a prestigious honour for some of our most vulnerable students.

Our current agreement is set to expire this year and I would like to request the continuance of the scholarship. I noticed that the scholarships were mentioned in the Lord Mayoral Minutes along with the City's TAFE Foundation scholarships which have now been continued in perpetuity. I believe this model would be a great fit for your two scholarships and I am hoping you would consider commencement of this for 2023. Alternatively, I can renew our agreement however would suggest a longer 10-to-20-year agreement.

Kind Regards,

Leanne Innes

Relationship Manager (Scholarships)

T +61 2 4921 5394
Leanne.Innes@newcastle.edu.au