

PRINCIPAL'S REFERENCE GUIDELINES (Please give a copy of these guidelines to your Principal)

A student at your school is currently applying for a Harding Miller Education Foundation Scholarship for 2021. These scholarships provide resources and support to Australian girls who have high academic potential and are experiencing socio-economic hardship. **To be eligible**, a student must be in year 8 in 2020 entering year 9 in 2021. They must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident enrolled in an Australian government school.

The scholarships are worth \$20,000 over the course of 4-years. In the first year of the scholarship, successful applicants will receive a high-quality laptop with mobile data and remote helpdesk support as well as an invitation to attend an Awards Night in May/July 2021. Every year of the scholarship, the successful applicants will also receive:

- o \$2500 personal tutoring (paid for by HMEF)
- o Unlimited online study help (Studiosity)
- o Pre-paid card to assist with school expenses
- o The support of a personal coach

As part of the scholarship application, we are asking you to provide supporting information to allow the judges to choose the students that best meet the scholarship criteria. Your contribution to this application is an **essential source of information** for the judges as it provides local, expert and independent verification of the claims that the student has made in her application. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated and will help us make the best decisions about the allocation of this valuable scholarship.

Could you please answer the following questions on a school letterhead and then sign it. You may provide additional information and answer in any format that suits you, but please ensure you have covered the four questions within your response. **Please return to the student who will then upload it to her online application. (Note: Applications close 23rd September 2020)**

1. Does this student have high academic potential?

Please explain whether you think that this applicant has high academic potential or is already displaying high academic achievement. Include details on how she displays commitment to her secondary education and whether she has aspirations of attending university. Please also explain how you think the scholarship will assist her to meet this potential.

2. Is this student experiencing socio-economic hardship? Please describe the type/s of hardship she is experiencing.

Judges will be assessing the applicant's academic potential in combination with their socio-economic hardship. It can be difficult for a student to understand their socio-economic situation within a broader context (which they are generally unfamiliar with). Please explain whether this student is experiencing hardship and how that might prevent her from successfully completing high school or continuing onto university.

3. Do you support this student's scholarship application?

In forming your decision, please consider whether she meets both criteria (high academic AND experiencing socio-economic hardship)?

- o Will she make the most of the scholarship resources?
- o Does she have ambitions to attend university?

Thanks again for your time. The judges carefully consider the Principal's reference and in such a competitive process, they make a significant difference for the applicants.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions, concerns or would like to submit your reference to me personally.

My phone number is 02 7201 9085 and my email is caroline@hardingmiller.org.au and our website is www.hardingmillereducationfoundation.org.au