



MERLENE SMITH (nee JACKSON) SCHOLARSHIP – 2026

Sponsored by Riga Medical

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Australian Women Pilots' Association through the support of Riga Medical is pleased to announce the availability of this scholarship.

This scholarship is available to trainee or licensed women pilots who have been inspired to pursue a career in aviation by either:

- a personal experience in aviation assisting the delivery of a medical service or
- the example of another female pilot, either historical or contemporary, involved in the delivery of a medical service.

Valued at \$2000, the scholarship could be used by the recipient to assist with gaining, retaining or furthering a flying qualification, endorsement or rating.

Accordingly, while the scholarship is focused on pilots in training, it is also open to licensed pilots who wish to advance their expertise particularly where they are focused on how to use their aviation skills in the delivery of medical services in rural and remote areas.

The scholarship winner will be announced during the presentation dinner at the Awards and Presentation Dinner in Airlie Beach QLD on Saturday 9 May 2026.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Student pilot training in the CASA stream with a Part 141 or 142 operator
- Must be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident or reside in Australia
- Current CASA aviation medical
- Be at least 15 years of age (minimum age for student pilot).
- (Note: Where an applicant is under 18 years of age, the application must be accompanied by a letter of consent signed by a parent or guardian).

Applications must include the following items:

- Completed correct application form
- A copy of both sides of the last two pages of your pilot's log book
- A copy of your pilot licence (if applicable) and aviation medical
- Letter of reference from your flying instructor, HOO/ CFI or other aviation professional; do not ask a relative, partner or spouse for this reference
- An essay (maximum 500 words) that describes how you were inspired to pursue a career in aviation with a focus on delivery of medical services particularly in areas outside the major urban centres, by either:
 - your personal experience in aviation assisting the delivery of a medical service, or
 - the example of another female pilot, either historical or contemporary, involved in the delivery of a medical service.

SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS:

1. The scholarship is personal to the recipient and cannot be transferred to another person.
2. Membership of AWPA is not a requirement for application but would be a requirement for the successful recipient for the duration of the scholarship term.
3. Applications will be assessed on merit. The decision of the selection panel will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
4. The panel reserves the right not to present the scholarship if, in their judgment, there are no applications of sufficient merit.
5. Claims for funds may commence after the presentation of the scholarship for training conducted between the period 1 February 2026 to 30 June 2027.
6. Payment of funds will be made only for training relevant to the recipient's stated goal; invoices that state the details of the training must be submitted to the AWPA National Treasurer by the flying school, or by the recipient providing invoices and receipts.
7. An applicant cannot have previously won this scholarship.
8. Scholarship funds may either be paid directly to a Part 141 or 142 Flight Training Operator or the applicant may have scholarships funds reimbursed to them if proof of payment to a Part 141 or 142 Flight Training Operator is provided.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications are to be submitted electronically via the website.

Should you require a paper form of the application please Email:

scholarship.coordinator@awpa.org.au

Applications close on 31 January 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

Enquiries: scholarship.coordinator@awpa.org.au

Multiple scholarship applications will be accepted but an applicant can only be awarded one scholarship.