



# Mick Young

**SCHOLARSHIP TRUST**

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The Mick Young Scholarship Trust provides scholarships to financially disadvantaged Australians to assist them in reaching their potential through education. Scholarships are available in the fields of skills acquisition, vocational training, education, science, literature, the arts and music. Age, gender, religion or previous educational qualifications are irrelevant. Scholarships are simply based on financial need. The desire and commitment of participants to further their education, and improve their life circumstances, is the only motivation we seek.

Educational institutions administer the process and advertise the availability of Trust scholarships. Scholarship recipients get the chance to complete their education at universities, TAFE and colleges nationally. In its inaugural year, 1997, the Trust distributed \$11,000 to just three colleges. Since then scholarships paid to recipients have totalled more than \$940,000. In 2009 alone, more than \$210,000 was allocated to students in 33 education institutions across the country.

## **Inspiration**

The Trust is named after the man who had the compassionate idea 23 years ago to provide, from his own pocket, scholarships to assist people doing it tough in his electorate of Port Adelaide. Mick Young, without fanfare, provided practical help for the cause of equal opportunity through education. The Trust stands as testimony to the egalitarian beliefs of one man who made an enormous contribution to Australia as a shearer, a union organiser, a Labor Party official, Member of Parliament and Federal Minister. Mick's abiding belief was that "education is a right, not a privilege". He knew that it was vital "to break the cycle of unemployment and disadvantage that can restrict a person's potential".

## **Upwards.....onwards**

Australia remains in desperate need of skilled and experienced workers, an issue that resonates with the nation's politicians, employers, institutions, social policy makers, academics, teachers, parents and students. In fact, just about anyone who cares deeply for Australia's future.

The Trust recognises the Industry Skills Councils' important role in covering the skills needs of Australian industry. We are keen:

- to learn more about the work of the ISC and present the Trust to ISC members
- to explore mutually beneficial sponsorship opportunities
- to discuss the pool of possible scholarship beneficiaries in line with ISC's key priority occupations/sectors or locations.
- to promote the Trust's website via a link on ISC websites

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### **Patrons**

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Margaret Whitlam AO

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