



Subsidised Grant to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025

Empowering Young Leaders for the Future of the Church

Overview

The Australia Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) 2025 is a national gathering of young people, designed to celebrate and deepen their faith, encounter Christ, and be empowered for mission in the world. Hosted in Melbourne, this year's festival promises to be a transformative experience of worship, learning, and community.

Cairns Catholic Youth Ministry is excited to offer a Subsidised Grant for young people Yr 9 to 25yrs of age who are passionate about their faith and committed to leadership in their communities. This grant is intended to subsidise costs such as registration, travel, and accommodation expenses.

Purpose of the Grant

The purpose of the grant is to:

- Support accessibility for young people, particularly those currently in or aiming to be in youth ministry leadership positions
- Inspire vocational discernment, encouraging paths in religious life and lay ministry
- Contributing to building resilient, faith-filled communities led by empowered young people
- Strengthening local parish, school and community youth ministries post-event

Who Should Apply?

We are seeking applications from:

- **Current youth ministry leaders** serving in parishes, schools, or diocesan groups.
- **Young teachers** in Catholic schools who are passionate about faith formation and the ongoing spiritual formation of school students.
- **Aspiring youth ministry leaders** who feel called to serve and lead young people in the Church.
- **Students eligible to attend ACYF 2025 (Yr 9's and above)** *must be accompanied and supervised by an adult, such as a teacher or group coordinator*

Note: this grant is only accessible to young people within the Diocese of Cairns, and all applicants must meet the eligibility criteria to attend ACYF 2025.

What's Included?

- **Subsidised Grant of up to \$800** per person to attend ACYF 2025

- Access to keynote speakers, workshops, liturgies, and concerts via ACYF 2025 attendance.
- Opportunities to network with Catholic leaders and peers from across Australia.
- Support and formation before and after the festival.

Expectations of Grant Recipients

To ensure this opportunity has a lasting impact, successful applicants will be expected to:

Before the Festival

- Attend a pre-festival formation session (in-person) organised by Cairns Catholic Youth Ministry (Cairns CYM)
- Contact Cairns CYM to coordinate registration and all necessary arrangements in preparation to attend ACYF 2025

During the Festival

- Actively and fully participate in all sessions and events at ACYF 2025, from Sunday 30th November until Tuesday 2nd December 2025
- Represent your school, parish, or community with enthusiasm and integrity
- Engage with other young leaders and build connections for future collaboration
- Engage with gatherings organised by Cairns CYM during the ACYF 2025

After the Festival

- Share your experience through a presentation, article or video for your school, parish or community.
- Lead or support a local community engagement initiative, such as:
 - A youth retreat or reflection day
 - Multiple youth group or youth ministry sessions
 - A social justice or service project
 - A faith-sharing group or leadership training session
 - Organising a prayer or reflection event

Selection Process

A selection panel will evaluate the applications and make determinations regarding grant allocations. The composition of this panel will include:

- Leadership representative from Diocesan Outreach and Mission Services
- Coordinator – Cairns CYM

How to Apply

Interested young people should complete the ACYF 2025 Grant Application Form, which includes:

- Personal Details
- A short personal statement (600 words total) explaining:
 - Why do you want to attend ACYF 2025

- How are you currently involved in your faith community
 - How do you plan to give back before and after the festival
- A letter of support from a parish priest, school principal/APRE or ministry coordinator
- Any other supporting documents (optional)

Applications close: Friday 22 August 2025

Contact

For further enquiries, please contact:

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