



DANCEFACTORY

SKILLS FIRST FUNDING INFORMATION 2022

Dance Factory has great pleasure in announcing that it has secured funding of its full and part time Dance, Dance teaching and Musical Theatre courses through the Victorian Government's "Skills First" training scheme. This means that students that qualify will benefit from **SUBSTANTIAL savings of up to 80%** off normal course prices thanks to the Government subsidies.

"Skills First" is an initiative where **the government will directly cover a substantial proportion of the course fees of eligible students**. This is not a loan scheme such as "VET help" where there is a requirement to repay an amount to government.

To be eligible for funding you must be:

1. Under 20 years of age (15-19) **Or**
 2. Over 20 years of age applying for a qualification higher than what you already hold **Or**
- You must also be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or be a holder of a permanent visa

To be eligible for funding with concession

1. A student with a Health Care Card **Or**
 2. A student with a Pensioner Card **Or**
 3. A student with a Veteran's Gold Card **Or**
 4. A student of Indigenous/Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent
- *Also applies to a dependant spouse or dependant child of card holder of above

WHO CAN APPLY

- Students aged 15-19 years as of 1st January can apply for any course. You do not need to be "upskilling."
- Students aged 20 & over as of 1st January must be "upskilling", applying for a qualification higher than what you already hold.
- Eligible students can enrol in 2 government subsidised courses per year
- Eligible students may enrol in a maximum of 2 government subsidised courses **at the same level** in a lifetime.

HOW TO APPLY

- COMPLETE the Skills First Evidence of Student Eligibility and Student Declaration. Do not include any VCE, VET, VCAL, International Baccalaureate Diploma or senior secondary certificates when listing courses you have completed.
- You must provide evidence of eligibility as listed in Section A of the Skills First Evidence of Student Eligibility and Student Declaration either by producing a hard copy of the original **or** sending a certified photocopy of the original.
- For students aged 15-19, you must also provide proof of age as listed in Section A.
- Students eligible for a concession must also provide a copy of your health care card, pensioner card or Veteran's gold card in either a hard copy or electronically via a screenshot generated via a digital wallet through a Centrelink Express Plus mobile application.

ASYLUM SEEKER VET PROGRAM

Dance Factory may exempt a student from the citizenship eligibility if the individual is referred to training via the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre or the Australian Red Cross Victims of Human Trafficking Program or the Training Provider confirms using the Commonwealth Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) that the individual holds a valid:

- i) Bridging visa class E (BVE);
- ii) Safe Haven Enterprise visa (SHEV);
- iii) Temporary Protection visa (TPV);
- iv) Bridging visa class F (BVF); or
- v) Humanitarian Stay (Temporary) (subclass 449) visa.

THE SKILLS FIRST YOUTH ACCESS INITIATIVE

The Skills First Youth Access Initiative helps young people impacted by child protection and youth justice orders participate in education by providing them with a tuition fee waiver

To be eligible to study under the Skills First Youth Access Initiative and pay no tuition fees, you must be:

- under 24 years as at 1 January in the year of first commencing education and training
- have been, or are currently, on Youth Justice Orders, Child Protection Orders, or a resident of an Education First Youth Foyer

Find out more about the SFYAI, visit <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/Skills-First-Youth-Access-Initiative.aspx>

INDIGENOUS COMPLETIONS INITIATIVE

Students can receive a fee concession for any course at any level if they self-identify as being of aboriginal or Torres Strait islander descent.

ELIGIBILITY EXEMPTIONS INITIATIVE

Government supported exemptions under the Skills First program are available for a limited number of students

Preference is given to a retrenched worker, automotive supply chain worker or JVEN client. Confirmation the individual has attended a Skills and Job Centre to discuss referral to training is required and:

- a separation certificate from the individual's employer;
- a letter from an employer/receiver on company/receiver letterhead stating that the individual has been made redundant;
- a letter from the individual's current employer on company/receiver letterhead specifying that retrenchment will occur for that individual on a nominated date; or
- if the individual is a JVEN client, a signed JVEN registration form.