

WEST COAST TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Development West Coast is pleased to announce the establishment of four tertiary scholarships as a way to keep talented Coasters working in West Coast businesses.

DWC Chief Executive Heath Milne says, "The annual scholarships are designed to grow and retain highly qualified residents on the West Coast by removing barriers to training and employment."

"These scholarships signal the importance DWC places on investing in our people to grow business to grow the Coast."

The four annual scholarships are valued up to \$32,500 per student over the three to four years of their tertiary study.

"DWC is proud to partner with West Coast businesses to provide scholarship opportunities that include a mixture of fee payment, summer work and guaranteed employment on the West Coast upon completion of the student's tertiary study," Mr Milne said.

"Investing in and retaining highly capable Coasters aligns with the West Coast Economic Strategy that is currently in final draft. West

Coast businesses have identified that we need to think differently to address issues of attraction and retention.

"There are many interesting and diverse career opportunities here with some well-established and progressive businesses. Unfortunately some of our best and brightest are enticed off the Coast when they study outside of the region. With these scholarships we can hopefully keep some of them here."

One scholarship will be made available per District, with an additional regional scholarship.

The scholarship opportunities are for first-time tertiary students and are not limited to school leavers.

DWC invites anyone who is planning to study at tertiary level next year and who is committed to work and live on the West Coast following completion of their study to apply.

Applications for Development West Coast Tertiary Scholarships are open and available online.

[More info: westcoast.co.nz](https://www.westcoast.co.nz)

AGED CARE HOUSING PROJECT A STEP CLOSER FOR GREYMOOUTH

A new shared housing facility for older people is a step closer to being built in Greymouth, thanks to a \$500,000 commitment from DWC and land donated by the Grey District Council.

Local group Abbeyfield Greymouth is working with Abbeyfield Properties to develop an Abbeyfield house catering for 12 over-65s. The house will provide much-needed affordable rental housing for the older age group.

Abbeyfield Greymouth has been working on establishing a house for 15 years. The Grey District Council has already donated a site, on the corner of Palmerston St and Marsden Rd, but the project has stalled until now due to a lack of development capital.

DWC has now revived the project with its \$500,000 commitment. Abbeyfield New Zealand Executive Officer, Susan Jenkins, applauded the agency for its foresight.

"Development West Coast has recognised the importance of this project for the West Coast. There is a dire shortage of suitable accommodation for older people in the region; council-owned retirement units are full, with long waiting lists, and rest home options are limited. Many older Coasters are living in caravans or sleepouts or trying to stay on in the family home when it is no longer safe for them to do so," she said.

"We still need to raise significant funding to build this house and we hope the West Coast community will get behind it and support our local committee. When established, it will mean more Coasters can live out their lives in their local community, rather than being forced to leave the region to find suitable housing."

DWC Chief Executive Heath Milne said the project is aligned to the region's housing and aged care strategies.

"We are pleased to be working with Abbeyfield and the Grey District Council to help increase the availability of affordable, stable and welcoming housing for older Coasters.

"The project will have a positive economic benefit for the region and is a good example of the community working together to take care of each other."

Grey District Mayor Tania Gibson said the Abbeyfield committee are a group of passionate, hardworking people in our community who have been advocating for the complex for many years.

"It is great to see that now it is going to happen, and all their hard work will pay off. There is a very big housing need in general on the West Coast and demand for housing for older adults in our community.

"Grey District Council's 118 units for the older age group have a constantly long waiting list. This offers new hope and another option that will be a new development, be affordable, warm, safe and inclusive but offer independence as well."

The Abbeyfield shared housing model is a little like "flattening" for the over-65s. Each resident has their own studio room and lives independently, but they come together to share meals, which are prepared by a housekeeper/cook. Residents can enjoy the companionship of others in a family-style environment.

The houses provide an affordable rental option for people whose only income is superannuation, and there is no capital entry charge.

There are currently 14 Abbeyfield houses throughout New Zealand, each catering for 11-14 residents. Each house is managed by a local Abbeyfield committee, made up of volunteers. The volunteers' contribution ensures the rent remains affordable and the residents are well supported.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Directors Duties Seminar | Greymouth**
Tuesday, 8 November 11:30am - 12:30pm
DWC Boardroom | FREE
Register online at www.dwc.org.nz
- **COVID-19 and the Workplace | Hokitika**
Thursday, 11 November 7:30am - 8:30am
Beachfront Hotel | \$20 - breakfast included
Register online at www.dwc.org.nz
- **HR Managment for Non-HR | Hokitika**
Thursday, 11 November 9am - 4pm
Beachfront Hotel | \$480+GST - funding options available
Register online at www.dwc.org.nz
- **Leading Light Awards Entrants Workshop**
Tuesday, 23 November 11am - 12 noon
Online | FREE
Register online at www.dwc.org.nz
- **DWC Leading Light Business Excellence Awards**
Friday, 18 March, 2022
Shantytown, Greymouth
More info: www.leadinglight.co.nz

HOLIDAY BOOSTER \$100 OFF WEST COAST PACKAGES

The Holiday Booster campaign is offering \$100 off West Coast packages to entice people to explore the Coast and make the most of the upcoming summer months.

With special offers from world-class operators, DWC, in partnership with the tourism industry, has added an extra incentive for the first 200 buyers - \$100 off already sharp packages.

The success of these packages throughout the year was the inspiration behind the campaign. Allowing people to explore the region and make the most of the summer without breaking the bank.

It's been an incredibly stressful time for many Coasters. The ongoing pandemic and the recent flooding in Buller have presented significant challenges to businesses and the mental well-being of our wider community.

The Holiday Booster campaign provides the perfect opportunity to take a break, refresh and appreciate what we have on our doorstep, while also supporting West Coast businesses and communities who are facing another summer without international visitors.

The offer will open first to Coasters, who will have a week more than anyone else to get their hands on some of the best deals out there - and score a cool \$100 off on top!

[westcoast.co.nz/visit/holiday-booster/](https://www.westcoast.co.nz/visit/holiday-booster/)

