

## CHS Education Assistance Policy

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## 1. Purpose

CHS recognises that appropriate continual learning can be valuable for the development and welfare of its employees. Appropriate education can contribute to the quality and competence of employees and in turn increase further the productivity and success of CHS's business.

The objective of this policy is to outline the assistance CHS will provide to employees who wish to undertake relevant continuing education courses with CHS's approval. This policy covers both the financial assistance and assistance with working arrangements, which may be provided by CHS, to assist employees to balance the demands of work and further studies.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to employees who wish to undertake further education courses and who meet the eligibility requirements listed below. This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment.

## 3. Definitions

Item	Definition
<i>Education course</i>	Includes, but is not limited to; further part-time and distance learning education courses leading to the award of a recognised academic or vocational qualification, from a recognised educational institution.

## 4. Provision of Assistance

CHS may, at its absolute discretion, provide assistance to employees to complete education courses where the:

- proposed educational course is relevant to CHS's business requirements;
- proposed course is relevant to the employee's career development with CHS; and
- employee has consistently demonstrated a satisfactory or above average job performance.

## 5. Eligibility

Employees will be eligible to apply for educational assistance where:

- the employee has been employed by CHS for a minimum period of 12 months, prior to commencing the course of study; and
- the course directly relates to the employee's current/prospective job description and responsibilities with CHS.

## 6. Application Process

Employees are required to make a written application for educational assistance prior to enrolment in the relevant educational course.

Written applications should include the following details:

- course name;
- type of qualification being pursued;
- the name of the educational institution in which the course will be undertaken;

- the duration of the course, indicating whether it will be completed on a part-time, full-time or by distance learning basis;
- a list of the course subjects and a summary of the contents of each course;
- where the employee has already completed some components of the course, a list of the subjects already completed and evidence of the grading received for each completed subject;
- a list of the prescribed reading materials (textbooks/resources etc.);
- an itemised list of the costs involved in completing the course (e.g. course fees and other expenses expected to be incurred, such as textbooks, travel time etc.) and evidence to confirm these costs;
- an explanation of how the course of study directly relates to the employee's current/prospective job description and responsibilities and how it will contribute to the employee's career development; and
- an explanation of how the course of study is relevant to the business objectives of CHS.

## 7. Approval Process

Once an application has been received, the CEO will advise in writing whether CHS will provide educational assistance, and if so in what form this assistance will be provided, and over what period. For example, CHS may choose to provide assistance on a term by term basis.

Any assistance provided is at the absolute discretion of CHS and may be withdrawn at the end of the specified approved period without additional assistance being provided. As such, employees should bear this in mind prior to enrolling in an education course.

The employee will be required to incur all education costs upfront and CHS will reimburse those approved expenses provided the employee has satisfied all other requirements. The provision of assistance is also conditional upon the following:

- the employee passing the relevant units/subject for which assistance has been approved and providing evidence to CHS's satisfaction of this;
- the employee has, during the course of study, consistently maintained a satisfactory or above standard in their work performance;
- the employee is still employed by CHS, at the completion of the relevant course units/subject for which assistance has been approved; and
- the employee agrees to repay the financial assistance provided in the circumstances listed below.

Retrospective assistance will not be granted. Therefore, applications for financial assistance made after the completion of a course will not be accepted. An employee is required to make an application in writing, notifying CHS prior to enrolment in the course.

Approval for educational assistance is valid for a maximum period of twelve months. Employees are required to re-apply at the end of the approval period, prior to re-enrolling in an education course. Continuation of assistance is subject to the satisfactory completion of course units in the prior approval period and the additional criteria listed above.

## 8. Repayment of Education Assistance Costs

Where an employee ceases to be engaged by CHS for any reason: while completing the education course; or within 2 years of completion of the education course or part thereof, for any part of which the employee has been reimbursed or had the fees otherwise paid by or on behalf of CHS, the employee will be required to repay to CHS as a debt, in accordance with the following scale, all relevant financial assistance provided by CHS in connection with the education course:

- up to 12 months from the date of the relevant reimbursement date – 100% of the costs reimbursed by CHS;
- from 12 months to 18 months from the date of the relevant reimbursement date -50% of the costs reimbursed by CHS;

- from 18 months to 24 months from the date of the relevant reimbursement date -25% of the costs reimbursed by CHS.

If CHS, in its absolute discretion, decides to pay any education costs on behalf of an employee in advance, if the employee commences but later withdraws from the education course, the employee agrees to immediately repay to CHS that part of the education costs which have been paid by CHS as at the date of the employee's withdrawal from the education course.

The employee agrees that any debt that the employee is due to repay to CHS may be deducted from any monies owed to the employee by CHS on the date of termination of their employment. If no such monies are owed to the employee, the employee agrees to repay the debt immediately.

## **9. Types of Assistance Available**

CHS aims to make continuing education more expedient and/or less costly for its employees. The following forms of assistance may be provided in CHS's absolute discretion.

### **9.1. Financial**

Fees for approved education courses are reimbursed to relevant employees (who are still in CHS's employment) at the end of each semester (or unit of study) upon provision of evidence of successful completion, including a copy of the employee's academic transcript and demonstration of satisfactory or above average work performance. Other approved expenses, such as purchase of prescribed textbooks and other required resources, may be reimbursed by CHS upon the employee meeting the same requirements and in addition, by providing evidence of such purchases (e.g. purchase receipts).

Employees will only be able to claim reimbursement for subject/course units successfully completed and for reasonable expenses incurred. Reimbursement will take place by electronic fund transfer (EFT) unless otherwise agreed.

Financial assistance is limited to \$4,000.00 (inclusive of GST) for each employee.