*Dr Louisa Alessandri (1963-1997) had an immense love of life. Her compassion and concern for humanity led her on a search for equity and justice for all people with the desire for everyone to share her daily enjoyment of living.*

*Louisa was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at an early age. This did not stop her from progressing through her academic career, gaining a BSc (Hons) in Microbiology and a PhD in Medicine, both from the University of Western Australia.*

*It was her ability and not her disability that was her defining force.*

*Louisa loved children and the focus of her research career was to improve conditions for them and for their families. Her PhD looked at the risk factors associated with explained and unexplained fetal deaths before the onset of labour. As part of this work, Louisa became involved in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) research and made many friends and colleagues within the international community of SIDS researchers and families, where her qualities of scientific rigour and discipline were well recognised.*

*Louisa was also committed to the cause of those with disabilities and served as Chair of the Western Australian Advisory Council for Disability Services and as a Board member of the Disability Services Commission.*

*The Dr Louisa Alessandri Memorial Fund was established to perpetuate the memory of this remarkable woman. The Fund is run by a Committee and is used to provide a scholarship to assist a student with a disability.*

# The Dr Louisa Alessandri Memorial Fund Scholarship

Dr Louisa Alessandri with her Godchild, Hayden Brooke

# Dr Louisa Alessandri Memorial Fund Scholarship

The Committee of the Dr Louisa Alessandri Memorial Fund, based at the Telethon Kids Institute, Nedlands, WA, awards an annual scholarship to a student with a physical disability.

***Purpose:*** The Scholarship is intended to assist a student with a physical disability to achieve his or her career aspirations. Funds may be used for a variety of purposes, including course fees, equipment, support, interpreters, transport, etc.

***Eligibility Criteria:*** Eligible students must

- have a physical disability, or a visual or hearing impairment, and provide a statement describing how the disability impacts on his/her ability to undertake study
- be able to demonstrate a strong commitment to an area of study that can lead to a possible career path in the future
- provide evidence of current enrolment in study with a recognised institution
- provide evidence of successful completion of at least one semester of relevant tertiary or post-secondary study
- have demonstrated leadership qualities and community involvement
- be under 40 years of age at close of applications on 30 September 2022
- be an Australian citizen and reside in WA.

The Scholarship is awarded by a Selection Panel appointed by the Dr Louisa Alessandri Memorial Fund Committee.

The value of the Scholarship is AUD $10,000. One or more Achievement Awards of $2000 may be granted at the discretion of the Selection Panel.

***Applications:***

- Must address all eligibility criteria including a statement describing how the disability impacts his/her ability to undertake study.
- Must include references from two referees who are able to support the applicant in terms of the eligibility criteria. Only persons who know the applicant personally or professionally but are not family relatives may act as referees.

Interviews may be conducted with short-listed applicants at the discretion of the Selection Panel.

A recipient of the Scholarship will not be eligible to apply for the Scholarship a second time. Previous applicants who met the criteria and were not successful may apply again.

The Scholarship Committee reserves the right not to award the scholarship in any given year.

***Enquiries*** are welcome by contacting Linda Watson: Tel: 0403 806 932; Email: Linda.Watson@telethonkids.org.au
Application forms available from Linda Watson as above or https://www.telethonkids.org.au/be-involved/student-opportunities/scholarships-and-awards/louisa-alessandri-memorial-fund-scholarship/

Completed applications can be posted or emailed to:

Linda Watson
WARDA, King Edward Memorial Hospital
PO Box 314 SUBIACO WA 6904

Email: Linda.Watson@telethonkids.org.au

**Applications must be received by close of business on Friday, 30 September 2022.**