

YMCA Open Doors

Information Sheet



YMCA Ballarat is proud to introduce YMCA Open Doors – an important community based intervention to assist people and families experiencing disadvantage access the many health benefits offered by the YMCA. This initiative aims to address and reduce health inequalities by ensuring no-one is denied access to YMCA programs and services that strengthen the mind, body and spirit.

YMCA Ballarat intentionally aims to build strong people, families and communities. YMCA Open Doors does this by providing access to programs and services that have a positive impact on overall health and wellbeing.

To identify programs that would be appropriate or beneficial, please visit www.ballarat.ymca.org.au

Selection of suitable applicants

YMCA Open Doors is targeted at people and families whose financial circumstances make them unable, not unwilling, to pay for the full fee of YMCA programs and services.

For referring agencies, we ask that you nominate people and/or families who are experiencing health inequalities and would benefit from being involved with the YMCA. It is expected that a referring agency would normally be a welfare agency or a school.

YMCA Open Doors criteria to assist nominations:

- Applicants must live locally (preferably within the local government area) to the YMCA branch/program they wish to access or attend a service or school within the area (with the exception of camps).
- Children 10 years and under must be accompanied by an adult when attending the YMCA branch/program (with the exception of camps).
- Applicants will need appropriate attire to participate in some programs. Please liaise with the branch.
- Applicants will need to demonstrate that their circumstance has been improved through their involvement in Open Doors.
- On conclusion of an approved Open Doors program, participants or case managers are required and expected to report on the benefits (and limitations) of their program.

Open Doors application process

1. Referring agency to complete Referring Agency Nomination Form
2. Applicant or Applicants parent/guardian to complete Participant Application Form with assistance from the Referring Agency.
3. Referring Agency to submit completed application and nomination form to the YMCA Ballarat Head Office. **Please Note:** *These forms are used by the YMCA to confirm the financial need of the applicant. Forms will be kept in strict confidence between the YMCA and the Referring Agency.*
4. YMCA to make Open Doors selections – allow 1 month for response.
5. YMCA to notify agencies and applicants of the status of the application.
6. YMCA to organise orientation and program inductions for successful applicants.

YMCA will monitor throughout the program to ensure the participant is attending and their needs are being met. If the participant has not been attending, the YMCA will follow up; if the YMCA are unable to reach the participant we shall liaise with the Referral Agency and have the program postponed if necessary.

Ballarat YMCA

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