Territory women who wouldn’t ordinarily have the opportunity to further their study are being encouraged to apply for the Chief Minister’s Study Scholarships to improve their chances of employment.

Minister for Women’s Policy Malarndirri McCarthy said the aim of the scholarships – which were launched in 2001 - is to encourage women to undertake education and training to enhance their employment, general life outcomes and ultimately to improve women’s economic security.

“These scholarships target disadvantaged women who would not be able to undertake further study without assistance,” Ms McCarthy said.

“This year the Chief Minister’s Higher Education Study Scholarship for Women is $15,000 and the recipient also receives a laptop computer to aid in her studies, valued at $1,200.

“The Chief Minister’s VET Study Scholarship for Women is $2,000 and is awarded to two women.”

Recipients of the Award are decided by independent panel.

“In considering the applications the panel pays attention to issues relating to social disadvantage, the potential of the applicant to succeed in her nominated study program, the acquisition of skills of importance to the Territory, and each applicant’s commitment to living and working in the Territory. “

The 2008 Higher Education Study Scholarship recipient was Diane Stall who will study for a Bachelor of Teaching and Learning through Charles Darwin University.

Joanne Shadforth and Denise Millington-Flay are the recipients of the 2008 Vocational Education and Training Scholarship and will study at Charles Darwin University.

The 2009 Chief Minister’s Scholarships for Women (both Higher Education and VET) will close on 6 February 2009.

Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746