The Ron and Margaret Dobell Foundation Music Theatre Award provides significant assistance to help an aspiring VCA Music Theatre student embark on a successful career following graduation. The following information is provided so that potential Award applicants can understand the application and selection process, as well as the responsibilities of the Award recipient.

**Applicant Eligibility**

To be eligible, applicants need to:

- Be in their final year of studies within the VCA Music Theatre program;
- Show potential to have a successful professional career in Music Theatre, whether in the commercial sector of professional productions and/or other recognised forms of music theatre performance such as cabaret;
- Submit an application and complete an audition as described below.

**Application Process**

Candidates must apply for the Ron and Margaret Dobell Foundation Music Theatre Award through the VCA and MCM’s standard scholarship application process, as outlined on the Faculty scholarships website.

The application must include a proposal explaining how the applicant intends to use the Award to assist in advancing his/her career in Music Theatre, including a detailed budget. Applicants should provide as much detail about their plans as possible and state how those plans would advance their particular career goals. Applicants are encouraged to include a draft schedule of activities in support of the plan.

There is flexibility and room for negotiation on how the Award is used. For instance, it may fund overseas travel for further study (including master classes, intensives or courses in any of the areas that comprise music theatre performance; and attending shows, festivals and other allied artistic events during travels); it may fund the development or production of a new work; or it may support other development activities that the applicant and Selection Committee deem to be appropriate and of significant benefit to the recipient and his/her career aspirations.
Candidates may be requested to meet with the Selection Committee to discuss their plans and goals and/or refine their applications.

Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Selection Criteria
Applicants will be judged based on three criteria.

- **75% of decision based on academic performance during the candidate’s studies in VCA Music Theatre program**
  The Head of Music Theatre and a Music Theatre Lecturer will select a representative number of BFA (Music Theatre) staff who have taught the candidates in their area of specialty (singing, acting, and dance) and have a good knowledge of their work and progress. The Head, Lecturer and selected staff will assess and rank the applicants in their respective areas, taking into consideration the applicants' work and progress during their time within the program, current level of attainment, and potential for further development. These rankings will be combined, with equal weight given to each of the three specialty areas, to form an overall ranking of the applicants. Applicants should have demonstrated excellence in Music Theatre skills and artistry; capability and aspirations for a significant performing career; consistently high level of application to course studies; and made a positive contribution to the spirit of ensemble learning and performance.

- **15% will be based on an audition**
  The Audition Panel will judge the candidates’ abilities and potential based on the strength of their audition during a special full-day audition held for VCA Music Theatre students. The audition comprises three components (singing, acting, and dancing). It reflects commercial Music Theatre auditions and provides insight on how the applicants may be evaluated as professionals.

- **10% based on candidate’s submitted proposal**
  The Selection Committee will review the applicants’ proposals regarding their intended plans for use of the Award funds. Committee members will take into account the feasibility of the proposal and the capacity for the plans to effectively develop the applicants’ abilities and career to achieve success.

Selection Process
A special Selection Committee will choose top applicants based on academic performance (75% of Award decision) and submitted proposal (10% of Award decision). The Selection Committee comprises one representative instructor from each area of specialty within Music Theatre (singing, acting, and dance). The Head of Music Theatre will serve as the representative for her area of specialty (acting), and will appoint a representative from each of the other two areas; members will have equal weight in the review and selection process.

An Audition Panel will select the top applicant based on audition results (15% of Award decision). The Audition Panel comprises the three-member Selection Committee plus an outside industry professional of high standing, such as a major Australian casting agent or representative of a casting agency, invited by the Head of Music Theatre. Panel members have equal weight in the audition review and selection process.
Donors to the Ron and Margaret Dobell Foundation Music Theatre Award may be present at the audition, but they do not participate in the selection process.

The Selection Committee will nominate the recipient based on the results determined by the Selection Committee and the Audition Panel. The nomination will be presented to the Dean of the Faculty of the VCA and MCM for approval.

**Award Payment**
Following selection, the recipient will receive formal notification along with instructions and forms from the VCA and MCM Scholarships Office. Payment for the full amount of the award will be made once the recipient has completed two tasks: 1) All required paperwork must be completed and returned to the Scholarships Office. 2) The recipient must show the Head of Theatre that activities funded by the award have been set in motion (e.g., by showing that a course has been booked, a flight reserved, or similar arrangements). Once satisfied that plans are underway, the Head of Music Theatre will notify the Scholarships Office that payment can be made to the recipient.

Recipients are advised to obtain independent tax advice in order to review their individual circumstances and determine whether they owe tax on the Award.

**Acquittal of Award**
Recipients are required to provide a final report within 30 days of the completion of the activities funded by the Award. The report must include a full financial acquittal, as well as descriptions of the primary objectives; activities undertaken; key learnings and outcomes; how they will help the recipient’s success in a Music Theatre career; and near-term career plans. An acquittal template is available to help recipients prepare a report that meets requirements.

If the activities funded by the Award have not been completed within one year, an interim progress report is also required. It should include a description of the activities undertaken to date and the reason for any delays in completing the plans outlined in the recipient’s Award application.

The recipient of the Award will be expected to share their experiences with students of VCA Music Theatre program in a scheduled forum within the year following completion of the activities funded by the Award.

**Promotion of Award**
The VCA may publish the contents of acquittals and utilise the information provided to promote the outcomes of funding provided to its students and alumni.

The VCA reserves the right to arrange for the reproduction in any newspaper, magazine, film or other medium of all or any of the works completed during the term of the Award.

The Award recipient must include an acknowledgment of the VCA and the name of the Award in any promotional material produced as a result of this Award.
Recipient Agreement
The Award recipient will be required to sign acceptance of the terms relating to the Payment, Acquittal and Promotion of the Award.