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, so that all could share her daily enjoyment of living.

Louisa was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at an early age. This provided little handicap to her as she progressed 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 has been established to perpetuate the memory of this remarkable woman. The Fund is run by a Committee and used to support public lectures in areas encapsulating Louisa’s work and her philosophy of life. The Fund also provides an annual Award of Excellence and Commitment in Research, and a scholarship to assist a student with a disability.
Dr Louisa Alessandri Memorial Fund Scholarship

The Committee of the Dr Louisa Alessandri Memorial Fund, based at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Subiaco, Western Australia, awards an annual scholarship to a student with a disability.

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

2. **Eligibility Criteria:** Eligible students will
   - have a disability which significantly 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 successful completion of at least one semester of relevant tertiary or postsecondary study;
   - provide evidence of current enrolment in study, with a recognised institution;
   - have demonstrated leadership qualities, and community involvement, and
   - be an Australian Citizen.

3. The Scholarship shall be awarded by a Selection Committee appointed by the Dr Louisa Alessandri Memorial Fund Committee.

4. The value of the Scholarship is AUD $3000. Secondary scholarships may be awarded at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

5. **Applications must include:**
   - A statement from the candidate, addressing all the eligibility criteria and including how the disability impacts his/her ability to undertake study.
   - The names of three referees who know the candidate personally and/or professionally, and are able to address their comments to the above eligibility criteria.

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

7. 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.

8. **Enquiries** are welcome by calling the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, 100 Roberts Road, Subiaco WA 6008; Telephone (08) 9489 7777, or by emailing Linda Watson: linda@ichr.uwa.edu.au

9. Application forms will be available from the above.

10. Completed applications should be forwarded to:
    The Chairperson, LAMF Scholarship Committee
    Telethon Institute for Child Health Research
    PO Box 855, WEST PERTH  WA  6872
    or by emailing linda@ichr.uwa.edu.au

11. **Applications must be received by the close of business on Friday, 20th October 2006.**