Rural Health Workforce Scholarship Program
Applicant Information

Overview
The Rural Health Workforce Scholarship Program is a new program that provides Bursaries and Scholarships for primary health care professionals in the fields of medicine, nursing and allied health working in rural and remote locations.

The Rural Health Workforce Scholarship Program aims to improve access for communities to services needed in rural and remote areas (Modified Monash Model 3 to 7).

The Program offers grants to enable privately employed medical, nursing or allied health professionals to target services to rural and remote areas where they are most needed.

Applicants will be asked to demonstrate how the Scholarship or Bursary will increase their:
- Skills;
- Capacity; and / or
- Scope of practice

Program Scope
The Rural Health Scholarship Program will provide:
- Scholarships to rural health professionals undertaking further study at a university or other tertiary institutions (full or part-time) in the field of medicine, nursing or allied health; and
- Bursary or support payments to rural professionals in the field of medicine, nursing or allied health participating in development and upskilling courses.

Scholarships payments of up to $10,000 per year for a maximum of two years are available to support participants.

One-off bursary payments of up to $5,000 will be available to cover the cost of training or course fees and/or to cover or contribute toward training related expenses such as accommodation and transport, where appropriate.

Each recipient will have an RDWA Grant Coordinator for the duration of the Scholarship, and recipients will be required to advise RDWA of progress regularly. Successful applicants name and scholarship/bursary will be published.
Eligibility

Locations
South Australia’s rural and remote areas classified as MMM 3-7 are eligible locations for the Rural Health Scholarship Program. A location’s MMM can be confirmed at: http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/MMM_locator

Scholars
Health professionals in the fields of medicine, nursing or allied health (including Aboriginal Health Workers) who intend providing services to South Australian MMM 3-7 communities are also eligible to apply if they can demonstrate they will be supplying services to those communities (by providing evidence of employment at the time of application).

Health professionals employed solely by State Government agencies are not eligible to apply.

Scholarship and Bursary Types
Scholarships of up to $10,000 per year can be provided (for a maximum of two years).

Scholarships must be directly related to training and upskilling health professionals who will provide services to rural and remote areas. Scholarship values will be determined against the perceived workforce benefit of the training.

All scholarships have a return of service obligation, which will be negotiated with the applicants at the time an offer of scholarship is made.

Bursaries are one-off payments that cover the cost of training or course fees and/or cover or partially cover training related expenses such as accommodation and transport where appropriate.

Bursaries must directly relate to training and upskilling health professionals who are or will be providing services to rural and remote areas. Bursary values will be determined against the perceived workforce benefit of the training.

Courses and activities do not need to be accredited but will be assessed by RDWA for relevance, value for money and the likelihood to meet the identified learning need.

Scholarships and bursaries will not be available for:
- Retrospective costs
- Overseas expenses
- Study funded by other sources
- Activities for which other Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local Government bodies have primary responsibility. This includes training for health professionals working solely in a public hospital.
Process

Preparation

All applications will be assessed and prioritised against the program criteria and available funding.

Preparation before applying is an important first step in completing an application.

The following checklist is provided to assist with preparation for completing the on-line application. Before commencing the on-line application, the following information should be prepared:

- Course/activity name
- Course/activity provider name
- Course/activity location
- Course/activity dates
- Course/activity costs
- Employer name and address
- A description of the community need that will be addressed through course/activity completion (100 word max)
- A description of how your skills as a health care professional will be increased at the completion of the course/activity (50 word max)
- A description of how your capacity to provide health services will be increased at the completion of the course/activity (50 word max)
- A description of how your scope of primary care practice will be increased at the completion of the course/activity (50 word max)

Application

Potential scholars who work in South Australia and meet the eligibility criteria should apply directly to RDWA using the online application form.

Case Management

Successful applicants will be allocated an RDWA Grant Coordinator for the duration of the scholarship/bursary activity. Successful scholarship and bursary recipients are expected to report progress on the activity and inform the Grant Coordinator about the achievement of any Return of Service Obligation.
Agreement

RDWA will offer each successful applicant an Agreement that will set out the terms and conditions of the scholarship or bursary offer, including payment. Applicants should ensure they have investigated and understood how accepting scholarship or bursary funding will affect their personal financial circumstances prior to applying for a scholarship or bursary.

Return of Service Obligations

Return of Service Obligation (ROSO) will be negotiated with the scholar as part of the application process. The ROSO will be clearly stated in the Agreement with RDWA.

Debt Recovery

Where a participant does not fulfil their Agreement with RDWA, RDWA will seek to recover the relevant monies.

Complaints and Appeals

Unsuccessful applicants who wish to discuss their application should initially contact Director, Primary Health Care Workforce to determine if they may be eligible for a future round of grants or if there are other avenues to access funding and/or support to meet their upskilling or professional development needs.

Should this not resolve the concern, the unsuccessful applicant can write to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) requesting the CEO consider the issues. The CEO is the final arbiter for any appeal.