



# Health Workforce Scholarship Program Applicant Information

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## Overview

The Health Workforce Scholarship Program provides Bursaries and Scholarships for primary health care professionals working in the fields of medicine, nursing and allied health in rural and remote locations.

The 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 in primary health care

## Program Scope

The Health Workforce 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.



## 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 primary health care 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 primary health care 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.

Successful applicants' name and scholarship/bursary will be published.

## Eligibility

### Locations

South Australia's rural and remote areas classified as MMM 3-7 (Modified Monash Model 3 to 7) are eligible locations for the Health Workforce Scholarship Program. A location's MMM can be confirmed at: <http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/locator>

### Health Professions

Health professionals who are providing private primary health care services in the fields of medicine, nursing or allied health (including Aboriginal Health Workers), who are working in eligible locations, or intend providing services to eligible locations, are 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.



## Assessment Priorities

While anyone in an eligible profession can apply, priority will be given to applicants who are providing primary health care services in locations MMM 5-7 in South Australia, and to health professionals working in Aboriginal Health Services or where the professional development activity relates to improving service provision to Aboriginal people in locations MMM 3-7 in South Australia.

The Health Workforce Scholarship Program is administered with consideration to priority of needs across rural and remote South Australia. Needs have been determined on the basis of a comprehensive Health Workforce Needs Assessment. Through the Health Workforce Needs Assessment, the RDWA recognises a priority need to expand support and grant programs to provide high quality access to continuing education and specialised training.

The following health professions align to the priority needs identified through the Health Workforce Needs Assessment:

- General Practitioners
- Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners
- Accredited Mental Health professionals (i.e. Mental Health Nurses, Psychologists, Social Workers)

A list of the priority towns as identified in the Health Workforce Needs Assessment can be accessed [here](#).

Applicants will be asked to provide a description of the following key criteria, and the responses will be considered by the assessment panel to determine a ranking of applicants:

- The community need that is being addressed through the course/activity
- How the activity will increase the applicant's skills or capacity to provide health services, or scope of primary health care practice

## Application

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

Only one application for one activity/course per applicant will be considered in each round of applications.

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

Please note that the application form must be completed in one session as it cannot be saved mid-session.



## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- 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)

Applications are assessed on a competitive basis at the close of each round. The assessment process involves ranking applications and offers are made depending on available funds.

Applications determined to be a priority will receive provisional grant offer indicating the proposed value of the grant. A short telephone interview will be set up with the applicant to confirm details and discuss the offer. A formal Grant Agreement will be offered when the interview process has been satisfactorily completed.

Once an offer has been accepted, recipients will work with the RDWA Grant Coordinator to track progress in completing the obligations.

Some scholarships and bursaries will require a return of service obligation, which will be discussed at the interview following provisional offer and reflected in any agreement. Recipients who do not complete obligations will be required to agree to repay grant funds.

## Decisions

Unsuccessful applicants who wish to discuss their application should initially contact the 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.