

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Competency Education Grant Guidelines

## 1. Program Description

The Rural Doctors Workforce Agency (RDWA) provides a range of support services to resident and visiting Primary Health Care (PHC) workforce and PHC practice staff to support their continuing professional development.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Competency Education Grant aims to assist workplaces to develop and enhance strategies for safe, culturally sensitive services.

Cultural competency training can be considered one of the foundational activities for primary health care services in providing health care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in rural and remote communities. It is also considered foundational that health care professionals and practice staff develop an in-depth understanding of the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and of the attitudes and behaviour of the workforce providing care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

To support the development of these activities, the Cultural Competency Education Grant provides up to \$200 reimbursement for the registration costs of completing cultural competence training such as that offered by the Centre for Cultural Competence Australia, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, and other health-related professional bodies and educational institutions.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Competency Education Grant aims to support rural GPs, Allied Health Professionals, Nurses and Midwives who work primarily in PHC, and the administrative staff who support the delivery of services, to access professional development and education to improve health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

## 2. Program Scope

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Competency Education Grant provides eligible resident and outreach rural private GPs, specialists, allied health professionals, nurses and midwives working in rural PHC to apply for reimbursement of costs for successfully completing recognised cultural competence, cultural safety or cultural awareness education or training.

Eligible PHC workforce can submit an application for a grant and when the program has been successfully completed, provide a certificate of completion to access a reimbursement for up to \$200.

For relevant courses with higher costs or those with travel involved, the eligible resident and visiting PHC workforce is encouraged to apply for a scholarship or bursary through the [Health Workforce Scholarship Program](#).

Health professionals and administrative staff who work solely in State or Commonwealth government are not eligible to apply for the Grant.

## 3. Eligibility

Health professionals who are practising in the fields of medicine, nursing or allied health and administrative staff who provide PHC services to MMM 2-7 rural and remote communities are eligible to apply.

Location eligibility can be checked using the Health Workforce Locator.  
[www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/locator](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/locator).

Health professionals employed solely by the State or Commonwealth Government are not eligible to apply.

## 4. Process

### 4.1 Eligibility Assessment

Applicants who can demonstrate they meet the eligibility requirements can apply directly to RDWA using the on-line form on the RDWA webpage.

The Grant commenced 1 July 2021 and any applicable courses completed from 1 July 2021 can be considered for a grant.

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Location eligibility (PHC service delivery within MMM 2-7 location in South Australia);
- Applicant eligibility
- Activity eligibility – successful completion of a recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Competency, Safety or Awareness course.

Grants will be considered within available funding.

Applicants will be advised the outcome of their application.

#### 4.2 Submitting a claim

Applicants who have been advised that their application has been approved will be provided a reimbursement claim form which includes declarations about the completion of the course. The claim form must be completed and submitted to RDWA, along with evidence of successful course completion and the course fee tax invoice that clearly shows the cost of the activity that has been personally incurred by the Applicant.

Eligible claimants will be reimbursed up to \$200 for the cost of the education.

## 5. Guidelines

These Guidelines apply to practising PHC professionals and administrative staff who work in the rural PHC service in MMM 2-7 in South Australia.

Education grants are offered based on the Applicant's eligibility in accordance with these guidelines and are dependent on the availability of funding.

The terms and conditions of the Education Grant are defined in these Guidelines and the Application Form.

These Guidelines are effective from 1 September 2021.