

# RURAL GP/RG RELOCATION GRANT APPLICANT GUIDELINES



## 1 Introduction

RDWA's Rural GP/RG Relocation Grant (the Grant) aims to improve access to services in rural and remote areas of South Australia (SA) by supporting rural GPs to relocate to their new job in rural SA.

The Grant provides up to \$6,000 for eligible medical practitioners to reimburse personal costs or subsidise rent in the first six months of living in their new town.

## 2 Scope

The Grant is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care and the SA Regional Local Health Networks.

Doctors need to be living in their rural location and work at least 18 hours per week (five sessions) of general practice consulting (0.5 full time equivalent).

The Grant is for:

- reimbursement of removal costs
- travel and accommodation
- rent subsidy for the first six months.

Doctors will need to remain working in the new role in that town for at least one year, or they will need to repay the Grant. RDWA and the doctor will have a written Grant Agreement that sets out the terms.

Doctors relocating from interstate or overseas can apply for additional travel costs. In certain situations, the Grant can apply to family travel costs. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis by RDWA. When funding is higher than \$6,000, doctors may need to remain working in the role in the location for up to two years. This will be determined by RDWA and included in the Grant terms and conditions.

## 3 Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be a registered medical practitioner
- Starting (within the last 30 days) in a general practitioner role in rural SA<sup>1</sup>
- Be in a private or not-for-profit general practice
- Working at least five private general practice sessions per week;
- Have moved to the new rural SA town from a South Australian metropolitan, interstate or overseas location.

Final year registrars who intend remaining in their last training location can apply – if they are not eligible for relocation funding from their training provider.

Applicants cannot apply for the Grant if their employer/practice is paying for relocation expenses, providing housing or rent subsidy for the first six months. Doctors who are commuting from outside a rural SA location or who work solely for State, Commonwealth or Local Government are not eligible to apply.

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<sup>1</sup> South Australian rural locations are defined by the Modified Monash Model (MM2-7). To check the practice and the residential addresses are in a rural SA location, use the [Health Workforce Locator online tool](#).

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## 4 Process

### 4.1 Application

Applicants must read the Grant Guidelines before applying.

Applicants who wish to discuss the Grant before applying, can contact RDWA's Recruitment team by email [recruitment@ruraldoc.com.au](mailto:recruitment@ruraldoc.com.au) or phone 08 8234 8277.

To apply, use the Application Form available on the RDWA website <https://www.ruraldoc.com.au/gp-recruitment>

Applicants will need to supply personal details, expected or actual costs and dates, and consent to privacy and data collection terms.

### 4.2 Assessment and notification

RDWA will assess the application and may contact Applicants for more information to assess their application. RDWA will assess applications using the Grant aims, eligibility criteria and the perceived benefit, and the amount of funding available to RDWA.

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate high benefit in an area of workforce or service need.

RDWA will notify applicants by email, and the notification will include details on the outcome of the assessment and the basis for the assessment.

For Grants for interstate or overseas applicants, RDWA will assess and determine the amounts on a case-by-case basis and may, at its sole discretion, increase the Grant to more than \$6,000.

### 4.3 Grant Agreement

Applicants who are offered a Grant will be offered a Grant Agreement that will set out the terms and conditions for the Grant.

Applicants are not obliged to accept the Grant Agreement.

If the Applicant wishes to accept the Grant offer and its terms and conditions, the Applicant will sign the agreement and return to RDWA within seven days, or the offer will lapse.

### 4.4 Payment of the Grant

Payment details are set out in the Grant Agreement.

Claims for payment are made using the RDWA-supplied Claim Form, and Applicants must complete the form and attach the required evidence if requested to do so.

Payment will be made by electronic funds transfer, and payment details will be provided by emailed remittance advice.

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## 4.5 Contact and information activities with RDWA

Applicants who accept a Grant will be required to participate in a number of activities including regular contact with, and providing information to, RDWA. The RDWA contact is named in the Grant Agreement.

Activities that the Applicant will be asked to undertake can include:

- Progress updates
- Completion reports
- Feedback and evaluation surveys.

## 5 Return of Service Obligation

Applicants who accept a Relocation Grant of up to \$6,000 will be committing to remain in that role working the hours per week for a minimum of 12 months, or they must repay the grant.

Applicants who receive a Relocation Grant of more than \$6,000 may be required to commit to up to two years of work in the location and role. RDWA will determine this on a case-by-case basis related to the value of the Grant.

## 6 Independent advice

Applicants should consider independent advice before applying for or accepting a grant, including independent advice on the grant obligations and the Applicant's personal financial circumstances.

## 7 RDWA Contact

Angela Tridente  
Director Rural GP/RG Recruitment  
[recruitment@ruraldoc.com.au](mailto:recruitment@ruraldoc.com.au)  
Phone (business hours) 08 8234 8277.

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