

RURAL GP RECRUITMENT SUPPORT GRANT APPLICANT GUIDELINES



1. Purpose

Rural Doctors Workforce Agency (RDWA) delivers a comprehensive range of services and incentives to attract and retain a general practitioner (GP) and rural generalist (RG) workforce to serve the medical and health care needs of South Australia's (SA) rural and remote communities through private general practice and rural hospitals.

The purpose of the Rural GP Recruitment Support Grant is to reduce the financial barriers for a GP who needs to move residence to a rural SA location to start providing general practitioner services to the local community.

Support for GP recruitment is a core objective of the SA state and Australian Government funding for RDWA. This enables comprehensive and high-quality recruitment services to be provided at no cost to the rural or remote practice or the medical practitioner, and for the provision of incentives such as the Rural GP Recruitment Support Grant ('the Grant').

2. Scope

RDWA offers qualified and experienced GPs a comprehensive recruitment service, including support for identifying suitable practice locations and roles depending on the medical practitioner candidate's individual qualifications, experience and circumstances.

RDWA also offers financial support to GPs who have made a minimum 12-month service commitment to the rural location and practice. Depending on individual circumstances, the Grant can include payment for a period of orientation to rural practice, reimbursement of the cost of moving furniture and personal effects, rental subsidy or in some cases, funds toward the costs of essential household goods.

The Grant aims to support rural GPs who will work rural SA private general practice to move from metropolitan Adelaide, interstate or overseas to a SA rural community to serve the local health needs.

Where formal orientation is assessed as being of benefit in commencing in a new practice, up to \$2,000 (ex GST) per week for up to two weeks can be paid. The Grant generally offers up to \$5,000 (ex GST) in total for removalist reimbursement, rental subsidy or essential household goods.

RDWA can also recognise circumstances where there might be higher than average costs of moving to a remote or very remote location in South Australia and on a case-by-case basis, additional grant funds may be offered in recognition of this financial situation.

Medical practitioners who are assessed as eligible for a Grant will be asked to complete a minimum of 12 months and up to two years in the location, depending on the value of the grant funding. If you are awarded a grant and subsequently leave the location before the required service commitment, you will be expected to repay the grant.

3. Eligibility

You can apply for a grant if you:

- Are a registered medical practitioner who intends to or has made a minimum 12-month service commitment of at least 0.5FTE per week to work in private general practice; and
- intend to move your primary residence to a MMM 2-7 rural or remote community in South Australia from a MMM 1 SA, interstate or overseas location; and
- have incurred, or will incur, removal and/or rental costs, and/or has a demonstrated need to purchase essential household goods.

Medical practitioners who work solely in Local, State or Commonwealth government are not eligible to apply for the Grant. Location eligibility can be checked using the [Health Workforce Locator doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/locator](https://doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/locator)

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4. How to Apply

The Grant is open for the 2022-23 financial year for eligible applicants who will commence in rural SA practice between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023.

If you meet the eligibility criteria you can contact the RDWA GP recruitment team for an initial conversation, and the team will provide you with a personal link to an application form you will complete online. For medical practitioners who expect to have higher removal due to the significant distance of the destination location from the original location, or exceptionally high rental costs, you are encouraged to discuss your situation with the RDWA GP recruitment team.

5. Assessment and notification

All applicants will be notified of their application outcome by email. RDWA will assess applications by reviewing your application against the eligibility criteria. If your application does not provide enough information for us to make our assessment, we may contact you for more information.

Where RDWA assesses the application as ineligible, we will advise you in writing the reasons for the decision. Grants will be offered within available funding.

If you are awarded a grant, we will send a grant agreement for your consideration which will detail the terms and conditions of the grant. If you wish to accept the grant on those terms, you will execute the agreement and return the signed copy to RDWA. You do not need to accept the grant if you have changed your mind.

Once you accept the grant and have commenced in rural practice, we will provide you a claim form for your declarations and bank details. You will be asked to return the claim form with a copy of the invoice/receipt for costs incurred by you personally.

6. Funding

The grant will be paid as a reimbursement to you for personal costs incurred by you. The details of the payment will be set out in the Grant agreement.

Grants will be considered within available funding and RDWA will publish an earlier closing date for this grant if available funds are exhausted prior to the end of the financial year.

More Information

For more information on how the grant works or eligible courses, talk to our GP recruitment team on 8234 8277 or at recruitment@ruraldoc.com.au

Effective 21 December 2022