

ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION GRANT

Guidelines July 2020

For Victorian health professionals working in:

PRIVATE PRACTICE

MMM 2

ALLIED HEALTH

ABORIGINAL HEALTH

BACKGROUND

RWAV Allied Health Education Grant supports allied health practitioners working in private practice in MM2 locations in Victoria to access educational, professional and skill development opportunities that are relevant to the development and provision of rural health and meet the needs of the community.

The grant is designed to support and subsidise practitioners undertaking professional development and aims to improve access to health and human services for rural and regional Victorians through:

- improved access to professional development and education for allied health practitioners
- building allied health workforce capabilities and quality
- increased recruitment, retention and career progression opportunities for allied health practitioners, and
- improved provision of allied health services that meet the health and wellbeing needs of the community.

The total funding pool available in 2020-21 is capped. In the event that program funding is exhausted before the end of the financial year, a notification will be posted on RWAV's website advising of this outcome.

****Please note that submitting your application does not mean you will be offered a grant.***

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents working in:

- private practice
- a rural and remote area of Victoria (MMM 2)
- Activities undertaken at Aboriginal medical services and aboriginal community controlled health organisations in MM1-7 localities are eligible

Applicants must apply for the grant prior to the educational activity taking place.

Applicants must be employed Allied Health Practitioners within the following disciplines:

- » Aboriginal Health Worker
- » Dietetics and Nutrition
- » Exercise Physiology
- » Occupational Therapy
- » Oral Health
- » Osteopathy
- » Orthotics and Prosthetics
- » Physiotherapy
- » Podiatry
- » Psychology
- » Speech Pathology
- » Audiology
- » Optometry
- » Pharmacy
- » Radiography
- » Sonography
- » Social Work

GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

- Professional development funding is limited to \$1,000 per person in a single financial year.
- Professional development activities undertaken outside of Australia are ineligible for funding.
- Stand-alone requests for reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs (i.e. where registration/course fees have been funded separately) are ineligible for funding.

In the context of ongoing physical distancing restrictions associated with COVID-19, there are no restrictions on eligibility for attendance at 'virtual' conferences or courses and educational activities offered via teleconference or webinar.

Bursaries can be used for courses such as:

- Short courses, workshops, conferences and seminars;
- Vocational education and training courses (e.g. Australian Skills Quality Authorisation (ASQA) recognised training packages);
- Training that meets the professional development requirements of the applicant's professional registration and/or association (including fellowship preparation courses);
- Recognised industry skills training and upskilling for individual health professionals;
- Resources for exam preparation.

Applicants may apply for program funding to subsidise one or more of the following expenses:

Item	Eligible claim amount	Ineligible claim amount
Registration / course fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 100% of the fee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tertiary or VET qualification fees
Driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculated at \$0.72c per kilometre based on a return trip from the applicant's place of residence to the respective training location (and return). Travel subsidies are calculated via the most direct and practical route. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stopovers or additional journeys are not covered.
Air travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full cost of the cheapest economy airfare via the most direct route. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs associated with car hire, parking, tolls, taxis, ride shares are not covered.
Accommodation expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation reimbursements will be assessed against the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) rates. Accommodation must be sourced via a registered commercial premise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private accommodation or accommodation sourced via non-commercial premises will not be covered (e.g. Airbnb).

*Where a professional development activity was provided free of charge, the provision of subsidies for travel and accommodation costs will be contingent upon demonstration of clear learning outcomes and benefit to the community.

Applicants are not eligible for funding if they have already received funding support for the same professional development activity from another source (for example, their employing organisation or the Commonwealth Government's Health Workforce Scholarship Program - HWSP).

APPLICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

All applications must be made through the RWAV website, www.rwav.com.au. By submitting an application, you are committing to the terms and conditions of these guidelines. Successful applicants must repay funding in full if they fail to comply with the conditions of these guidelines.

Application Process	Professional development
Initial approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RWAV will coordinate two rounds of funding submissions for the 2020-21 financial year.• Applications must be submitted via the RWAV website online application portal.• Where the exact cost of expenses (e.g. travel costs) are still to be established, approval will be granted on estimated costs, with the final funding amount to be determined following submission of supporting documentation.
Approval notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in writing after the closing date for submissions (usually within 2 weeks).
Submission of supporting documentation	Once the professional development activity has taken place, applicants must submit the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tax invoice demonstrating expenditure• Proof of attendance• Travel itinerary specifying flight details
Change of details	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants who have received initial funding approval must notify RWAV immediately of any changes in contact or employment details, and/or withdrawal from, or any changes to, the professional development or postgraduate study activity.

ASSESSMENT

Applications are assessed against:

- eligibility criteria as outlined within the program guidelines.
- relevance of education/training to the needs of Victorian rural and regional communities.

Applications must be deemed to be 'complete' to be considered for program funding – including provision of all relevant supporting documents.

EVALUATION

By applying for and receiving funding via the RWAV Allied Health Education Grant, practitioners consent to participate in all program evaluation activities.

Applicants must complete the evaluation questions outlined in the application form.

RWAV may also contact applicants to obtain further evaluation data after receipt of funding support.

CONTACT

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