

# RURAL CLINICAL PLACEMENT GRANT

**Guidelines July 2020**

For:

**VICTORIAN STUDENTS**

**PLACEMENT IN MMM 2 - 7**

**MEDICINE**

**ALLIED HEALTH**

**NURSING**

**ABORIGINAL HEALTH**

## Grant Purpose

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) is a not-for-profit government-funded organisation improving healthcare for rural, regional and Aboriginal communities in Victoria. RWAV's Rural Clinical Placement Grant supports medical, nursing and allied health students to undertake placements in regional or rural Victoria.

This grant is designed to support students who cannot access university, hospital or health clinic accommodation or are not eligible for alternative grants due to the location of their placement.

## Selection

Applicants will be assessed on their ability to meet the grant requirements, and the amount of funding granted will depend upon the applicant's individual placement circumstances. This grant offers financial assistance for travel and accommodation costs up to \$1000 (including GST) associated with the clinical placement. A clinical placement is considered as a continuous period in one location.

*\*Aboriginal Health students – please see 'Considerations' regarding your placement length.*

## LIST OF ELIGIBLE COURSES

- **Medicine**
- **Nursing**
- **Nurse Practitioner**
- **Allied Health:**
  - » 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

## Eligibility

All applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Full-time study at a Victorian university campus in undergraduate, graduate or postgraduate medicine, nursing, midwifery or an allied health discipline;
- or full-time study with a Victorian Vocational Training provider in a discipline that offers a clinical health qualification e.g. Diploma of Nursing, Certificate III in Disability, Aged Care, Pathology, Aboriginal Health.
- Clinical placement must be undertaken in regional or rural Victoria (MMM 2-7). See <http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/> for MMM 2-7 location information.
- Students travelling 50km or more from their home base, who are completing a clinical placement in a rural setting across Hume, Ovens, Murray, Goulburn, Ballarat and Grampians regions, are not eligible to apply for RWAV's grant, however can apply for the Going Rural Health – Student Support Scheme.
- If you are an enrolled nursing student, completing a placement that is less than 3 weeks in length, in an MMM2-7 location across Hume, Ovens, Murray, Goulburn, Ballarat and Grampians regions, then you are eligible to apply for the RWAV Rural Clinical Placement Grant.
- Clinical placement will be completed in the 20/21 financial year.
- The application must be received prior to the commencement of the clinical placement.
- Written evidence of the clinical placement location, dates and duration must be supplied. This must include correspondence from the registered training organisation or health service.
- Placements must be at least four consecutive days in duration with no more than two days between each block in one location (students studying Aboriginal Health with a Victorian Vocational Training provider are excepted).
- Applicants who are recipients of any other 2020 scholarships or grants relating to this clinical placement are not eligible to apply for the RWAV Rural Clinical Placement Grant. This includes the Going Rural Health – Student Support Scheme
- Applicants are only eligible to apply for one RWAV Rural Clinical Placement Grant per financial year.
- Federation University students are to apply for financial support via the Kickstart Grants program.
- Applicants must be Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents to apply.

## Considerations

Prior to applying all applicants should consider the below;

- If university or health service accommodation is available in the placement location applicants must utilise this accommodation. Applicants accessing university to health service accommodation are not able to claim, as this form of accommodation is provided at a heavily discounted rate. Students can still claim travel costs.
- Ensure that all required documentation includes the student's name; this includes accommodation quotes, invoices etc. If a group booking is made, ask that the invoice includes all guest names. If the student is studying Aboriginal Health with a Victorian Vocational Training provider, accommodation bookings can be made by their training provider on behalf of the student.
- This grant opens on a semester basis and only applications for the corresponding semester will be assessed. Exceptions for students studying Aboriginal Health with a Victorian Vocational Training provider, may be considered at the discretion of the Future Workforce Program Officer.
- Car travel includes one return trip, within Victoria, from the applicant's permanent residence to the health service. It does not include back and forth travel from the health service to the applicant's temporary accommodation while on placement. As per ATO guidelines car travel will be calculated at a rate of 0.72 cents per kilometre.
- Maximum accommodation costs payment is \$140 per night
- Considerations regarding placement length will be made for students studying Aboriginal Health, considering their placement schedules can differ from other health disciplines.
- Aboriginal Health Practitioner students are eligible to apply.
- Successful applicants are required to complete a post-evaluation survey. Applicants who do not return their surveys may be liable to return their grant funding. Students studying Aboriginal Health have the option to complete their evaluation via phone.
- If a placement does not go ahead, successful applicants must inform RWAV as soon as possible.

*\*While RWAV aims to provide an excellent service, students are required to read the RWAV Complaint Management Policy document <https://www.rwav.com.au/contact-us/complaint-policy/>. Any complaint must be reported to the Future Workforce Program Officer at [FutureWorkforce@rwav.com.au](mailto:FutureWorkforce@rwav.com.au)*

## Semester 2 2020

**Applications open:** 01/07/2020 at 9:00am

**Applications close:** 30/11/2020 at 5:00pm

## Semester 1 2021

**Applications open:** 01/01/2021 at 9:00am

**Applications close:** 30/06/2021 at 5:00pm

## How to apply

1. Complete the Rural Clinical Placement Grant 2020 Application form and submit prior to the commencement of the clinical placement. The application form can be accessed via the RWAV website <https://www.rwav.com.au/myrwav/?action=application&type=edit&form=50>
2. Attach written evidence of clinical placement location, dates and duration. This must be an official letter from your registered training organisation or health service with your name on it. Screenshots of dates etc. will not be accepted.
3. Payment of the grant will not be paid until after the placement has concluded and/or copies of the accommodation tax invoice and receipt submitted. Ensure that all documentation includes the student's name for verification. Payment will not be made without the correct documentation.
4. If subsidised accommodation is not available in your placement location you will need to provide written evidence from the registered training organisation university/and or Health Service.

## Grant allocation

- Applications will be assessed, and payment of grant made upon receipt of required documentation.
- All grants will be assessed and successful recipients determined by the Future Workforce Program.
- Assessment will include a review of the responses to the questions posed, the location of the clinical placement, and the setting of the clinical placement.
- Applications submitted after the placement commencement date will not be accepted.
- Applications submitted after the grant closing date and time will not be accepted.
- Please note applications may take up to four weeks to be assessed, approved and processed. All applicants will be notified via email of the outcome of their application.

## Grant payment

The grant amount will be paid via electronic funds transfer after the placement has concluded and copies of the accommodation tax invoice and receipt submitted. Funds can take up to ten (10) business days to process after submission of the evidentiary documentation.

## More information

For more information about the RWAV Rural Clinical Placement Grants 2020, contact:

**Future Workforce Program Officer, RWAV**

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