

# ALLIED HEALTH AND NURSING EDUCATION GRANT

## GRANT OVERVIEW

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) is a not-for profit government-funded organisation improving healthcare for rural, regional and Aboriginal communities in Victoria.

**The RWAV Allied Health and Nursing Education Grant supports allied health practitioners and nursing professionals to access educational, professional and skill development opportunities. Opportunities supported by this grant must be relevant to the development and provision of rural health services and meet the health needs of the community.**

This grant is available to practitioners working in private practice or in an independently registered and managed community health service in a MMM2 location in Victoria.

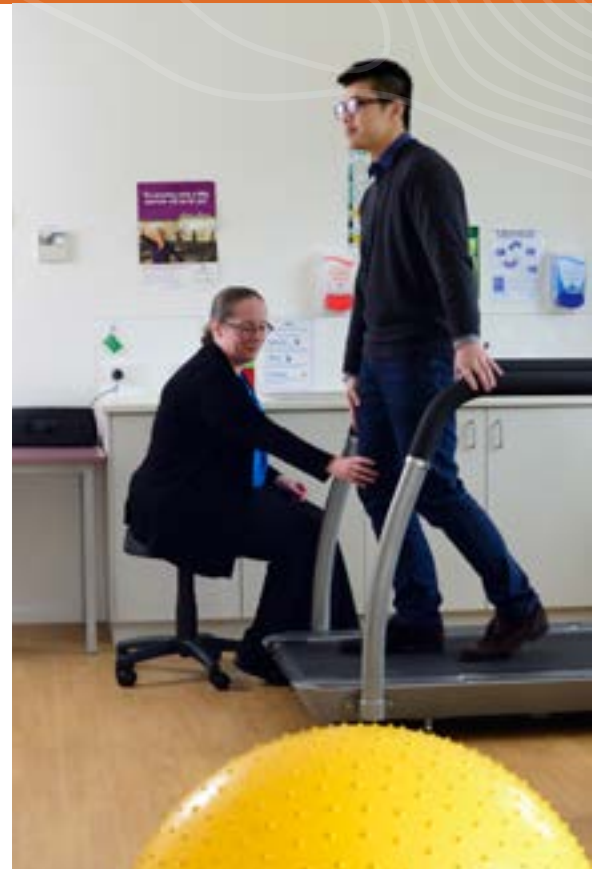
The grant is designed to support and subsidise practitioners to undertake professional development. The grant aims to improve access to health services for rural and regional Victorians through:

- Improved access to professional development and education for allied health and nursing professionals;
- Building allied health and nursing workforce capabilities and quality;
- Increased recruitment, retention and career progression opportunities for allied health and nurse professionals; and
- Improved provision of allied health and nursing services that meet the health and wellbeing needs of the community.

## ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be working in:

- Private practice or an independently registered and managed community health service; and
- A rural or remote area of Victoria MMM2 only. (Healthcare providers in MMM3-7 locations should apply for the Health Workforce Scholarship Program Grant); or
- Allied Health Assistants working in an Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS) or Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) in a MMM1-7 location should apply for this grant. All other healthcare providers working in an AMS or ACCO should apply for the [Health Workforce Scholarship Program Grant](#).



## APPLICATION PROCESS

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

Applications must be submitted via the RWAV [website](#).

\*Please note by submitting an application, you are committing to the terms and conditions of the grant.

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## GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

- Professional development funding is limited to \$2,000 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.**

Funding can be used for courses such as:

- Short courses;
- Workshops;
- Conferences and seminars;
- Webinars and online training;
- Training that meets the professional development requirements of the applicant's professional registration and/or association.

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

- Registration/course fees;
- Travel (economy airfares or road);
- Accommodation (commercial registered premises only).

Costs for stop overs, car parking, tolls, ride shares and private accommodation are ineligible for funding.

**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](#)).**

## APPROVED APPLICATIONS

- If your application is successful, we will email you a letter of offer. The offer will outline:
- The amount offered (not necessarily full amount of course costs);
- Documentation required for evidence before we can pay you the funding.

We require all supporting documentation to enable payment. Please note applications may take up to six (6) weeks to be assessed, approved and processed.

## 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 'complete' to be considered for program funding - including provision of all relevant supporting documents.

## ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONS FOR THIS GRANT INCLUDE

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner
- Aboriginal Health Worker
- Allied Health Assistant
- Audiologist
- Chinese Medicine Practitioner
- Chiropractor
- Dental Assistant
- Dental Hygienist
- Dental Practitioner
- Dental Prosthetist
- Dietitian
- Exercise Physiologist
- Medical Radiation Practitioner
- Mental Health Credentialed Workforce (must also have an undergraduate qualification on this list)
- Midwife
- Nurse
- Nurse practitioner
- Nutritionist
- Occupational Therapist
- Optometrist
- Orthoptist
- Orthotics and Prosthetics
- Osteopath
- Paramedic
- Pharmacist
- Physiotherapist
- Podiatrist
- Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Sonographer
- Speech Pathologist

Please note that if you are not registered with AHPRA, you are required to provide a copy of your certification or degree.

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## GRANT AGREEMENT

You will receive a Grant Agreement via email documenting the amount to be paid towards your studies. You will need to accept the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement and return a signed copy.

If we do not receive your accepted contract by the nominated date, we will withdraw the offer of funding.

## PAYMENT PROCESS

Funding through the Allied Health and Nursing Education Grant is via reimbursement. Grantees are required to pay for the course and travel costs as outlined in the Grant Agreement and then apply to RWAV for reimbursement.

In situations where the Grantee is experiencing financial hardship, alternative funding arrangements can be discussed with the RWAV Senior Manager, Health Workforce Development.

## CHANGES TO ALLIED HEALTH AND NURSING EDUCATION GRANT ACTIVITIES

Written approval from RWAV is required to change the course/activity outlined in your Grant Agreement. RWAV will review any new activity against the identified health/workforce need, the original application and the reason for the change.

Changes to a proposed course/activity is at the discretion of RWAV and is usually only permitted where the training provider cancels the training or under exceptional circumstances. RWAV reserves the right to cancel the Grant Agreement if the original activity cannot be completed.

### Termination of Grant Agreements:

RWAV may terminate a Grant Agreement if it reasonably believes the Grantee:

- Transferred to a different activity without consent from RWAV; or
- Has breached the Grant Agreement; or
- Provided false or misleading information in their application; or
- Fails to complete the activity.

## MORE INFORMATION

Any questions relating to the RWAV Allied Health and Nursing Education Grant should be directed to:

Grants Administrator, RWAV  
T: 03 9349 7800  
E: [grants@rwav.com.au](mailto:grants@rwav.com.au)

## DEBT RECOVERY

Where a Grantee does not fulfil their Grant Agreement, RWAV will seek to recover the relevant monies. The debt recovery process will be as follows:

Each Grantee will be asked to sign a Grant Agreement, confirming that they have understood the terms and conditions of the agreement including the process for debt recovery should the grantee be unable to meet their obligations.

Each Grant Agreement will clearly state the grantee's requirements, including:

- The funded course/activity;
- The amount of funding available;
- The return of service obligation (if applicable); and
- The process for debt recovery if the above is not met.

Where the Grantee is unable to meet their obligations, RWAV will contact the Grantee to inform them that the debt recovery process will begin.

## COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Unsuccessful applicants who wish to appeal the outcome of their application should initially discuss their situation with the RWAV Senior Manager, Health Workforce Development to determine if they may be eligible to access funding and/ or support from other sources to meet their upskilling or professional development needs. Please email [grants@rwav.com.au](mailto:grants@rwav.com.au) If the matter is not resolved applicants can appeal to the RWAV Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to consider their case. The RWAV CEO is the final arbiter for any appeal.