



Allied Health and Nursing Upskilling Grant



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1. Grant Overview

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

The Allied Health and Nursing Upskilling Grant is funded by RWAV as part of the Australian Government Department of Health Rural Health Workforce Support program, and provides up to \$1,000 for eligible professions as outlined below..

The purpose of the Allied Health and Nursing Upskilling Grant is to:

- Support allied health practitioners and nursing professionals to access educational, professional and skill development opportunities
- Build allied health and nursing workforce capabilities and quality
- Increase recruitment, retention and career progression opportunities for allied health and nurse professionals
- Improve provision of allied health and nursing services that meet the health and wellbeing needs of the community.
- 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.

2. Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Provide (or can demonstrate that you are about to provide) primary health services in Victoria (MMM 2 locations only)
- Work in private practice or an independently registered and managed community health service at least 8 hours per week
- Eligible professions for this grant:
 - o Aboriginal Health Worker
 - o Diabetes Educator
 - o Dietician
 - o Exercise Physiologist
 - o Midwife
 - o Nurse
 - o Nurse Practitioner
 - o Occupational Therapist
 - o Physiotherapist
 - o Podiatrist
 - o Psychologist
 - o Social Worker
 - o Speech Pathologist
- *Health professionals working solely in a government funded workplace are ineligible*

Health professionals working in MMM3-7 or in Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) or Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS) are **NOT eligible** for the Allied Health and Nursing Upskilling Grant and should refer to the Health Workforce Scholarship Program guidelines for their eligibility.

- *Applicants are not eligible for funding if they have already received funding support for the same professional development activity from a government source.*

3. Eligible Activities

- 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;
- Post-graduate courses.

Applicants may apply for program funding for registration or course fees only. This grant does not cover travel and/or accommodation.

4. Funding Available

The Allied Health and Nursing Upskilling Grant provides payments of up to \$1,000 per applicant per financial year.

This grant will be open for three rounds during the financial year:

Round One

- Applications will open at 9:00 am on 21 July 2023 and close at 11.59 pm on 21 August 2023.
- This round is only open for courses which commence from 21 July 2023 to 30 September 2023.
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by 31 August 2022.

Round Two

- Applications will open at 9:00 am on 1 October 2023 and close at 11.59 pm on 31 October 2023.
- This round is only open for courses which commence from 1 October 2023 to 29 February 2024.
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by 14 November 2023.

Round Three

- Applications will open at 9:00 am on 1 March 2024 and close at 11.59 pm on 28 March 2024.
- This round is only open for courses which commence from 1 March 2024 to 30 June 2024.
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by 14 May 2024.

5. Application Process

All applications must be made through the [MyRWAV](#) portal accessed on the RWAV website prior to the activity taking place.

You may be asked to provide more information to support your application.
Submitting your application does not guarantee you will be successful.

6. Notification of Applications

RWAV will notify you the outcome of your application via email.

Please note applications may take up to six (6) weeks to be assessed, approved and processed.

If your application is unsuccessful, RWAV will provide an explanation as to why your application has been declined.

If your application is successful, we will email you a **Grant Letter of Agreement** for you to sign and return within 30 days.

The Grant Letter of Agreement details:

- The funded course/activity
- The amount of funding available
- Your requirements as a Grantee (successful applicant)

7. Changes to Grant Activities

Written approval from RWAV is required to change the course/activity outlined in your Grant Letter of Agreement. RWAV will review any new activity against the identified health/workforce need, your original application and the reason for the change. Changes to proposed course/activity are 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 Letter of Agreement if the original activity cannot be completed.

8. Termination of Grant Letter of Agreement

RWAV may terminate a Grant Letter of Agreement if it reasonably believes the applicant:

- Has transferred to a different activity without consent from RWAV
- Has breached the Grant Agreement
- Has provided false or misleading information in their application
- Fails to complete the activity

9. Debt Recovery

Where a Grantee (successful applicant) does not fulfil their requirements as detailed in the Grant Letter of Agreement, RWAV may seek to recover the relevant monies. Each Grantee will be asked to sign a Grant Letter of 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.

The Grants Officer will support the Grantee during the period outlined in the Grant Letter of Agreement to address issues as/before they arise. This will minimise the need for debt recovery in most cases. Where this fails, and the Grantee is unable to meet their obligations, the Grants Officer will contact the Grantee to inform them that the debt recovery process will begin.

10. Complaints and Appeals

Unsuccessful applicants who wish to appeal the outcome of their application should initially email the grants team at grants@rwav.com.au to determine if they may be eligible to access funding and/or support from other sources to meet their upskilling or professional development needs. If the matter is not resolved applicants can appeal to the Senior Manager, Health Workforce Solutions to consider their case.

11. More Information

Any questions relating to the Allied Health and Nursing Upskilling Grant should be directed to the Grants Administrator at grants@rwav.com.au or via phone on 03 9349 7800



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