Bonded Medical Student Support Fact Sheet

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) and Regional Training Hubs provide support for students on the Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme to increase opportunities for connections and support during medical school.

About RWAV

RWAV works with health professionals and organisations to create sustainable health workforce solutions that support Victoria’s rural, regional and Aboriginal communities. We provide community based health workforce solutions, outreach services, workforce data, support for students and health professionals and support for training and professional development. RWAV supports students to discover and pursue rural health careers in medicine, nursing, midwifery and allied health.

RWAV’s Future Workforce Program aims to:

- Attract, encourage and support bonded students to study medicine in rural areas.
- Support bonded medical students to experience the rural workforce and lifestyle.
- Support bonded students and junior doctors to accept roles and training opportunities in rural and regional areas, including Aboriginal health services.

RWAV supports bonded students by providing:

- Workshops four times a year to discuss the BMP Scheme, Rural Medical Pathways and career pathways
- Workshops that provide information on Future Workforce Grants available for bonded students and additional support from RWAV
- Cultural Safety Training Workshops
- Rural Clinical Placement Grants
- Rural Experience Day Out Grants
- Rural General Practice Experience Program Grants
- Rural Ambassador Leadership Grants
- Rural Health Careers Promotion Grants
- Victorian Rural Health Conference Grants
- Support for Rural Health Clubs
- RWAV encourages and promotes the mentoring program offered by the Regional Training hubs

Contact Details

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Bonded students are encouraged to contact the Future Workforce Program Officer for any queries. RWAV’s workshops and grant guidelines and application forms can be accessed via www.rwav.com.au/future-workforce/scholarships
Regional Training Hubs

There are 26 Regional Training Hubs funded by the Federal Government Department of Health to address medical workforce maldistribution. The Hubs contribute to a ‘rural medical training pathway’ that encompasses medical students, pre-vocational graduates, vocational trainees, GPs and other medical specialists.

The Victorian Hubs & their regions

- The University of Melbourne hosts the Goulburn Valley Regional Training Hub, which has a footprint in Wangaratta, Shepparton and Echuca.
- Monash University has two regional training hubs - North Western Victorian Regional Training Hub and Gippsland Regional Training Hub.
- The North Western Hub covers the Loddon Mallee region, from Bendigo to Mildura.
- The Gippsland Hub works across all of Gippsland.
- Deakin University's Western Victoria Regional Training Hub covers the area between Geelong, Ballarat, Warrnambool & the Victorian/South Australian border.

If you are thinking of working in a regional area outside Victoria there are other training hubs that can support you.

The Hub's role and support available for bonded students:

Key roles include: identifying and supporting medical students and junior doctors with an interest in rural practice, strengthening regional training capacity by upskilling supervisors and assisting health services with accreditation of training posts, and exploring opportunities for expansion of specialist training in the regions.

Support for BMPs include:

- Information about the region – health services, employment prospects, community, environmental, social activities, schools
- Professional and career mentoring
- Near-peer and community mentoring programs
- Dr Pathway App (www.drpathway.org.au)
- Links to Rural Health Clubs
- Networking and career information sessions
- Individualised career planning advice
- Events and experiences local to our region for junior doctors and their partners

Contact Details

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