

Medical Professional Development (MPD) program

2019 Guidelines

Introduction

The Medical Professional Development (MPD) program supports the ongoing professional development and medical education of medical practitioners in rural and regional Victoria. Furthermore, the program aims to encourage trainee doctors to complete rural and regional placements by providing access to professional development subsidies.

The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (the department) recognises the importance of appropriately educated and distributed rural workforce to meet the State's primary health care needs, particularly for the delivery of public and community health services in rural and regional hospitals.

Funding assists with the development, recruitment and retention of skilled medical workforce for rural and regional Victoria. The long term objective of the program is to ensure that practising medical practitioners in rural and regional Victoria are supported in undertaking medical professional development relevant to their area of practice and the community needs.

Program funding

Funding assists medical practitioners or general practice registrars enrolled in the Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPT) currently practising in general practice in rural and regional Victoria, and interns who are required to complete a minimum of 13 weeks in a Victorian rural community placement.

Program funding is separate from existing professional development arrangements available under enterprise agreements or other professional development support provided to a medical practitioner by their employing health service under contractual terms. Health services must ensure that funding is not used to replace or diminish other professional development entitlements.

The total funding contribution from the department is capped, and there are also funding limits of each eligible subsidy in an application.

Furthermore, priority for program funding will be given to:

- Applications from interns and general practice registrars, where the skill to be acquired, contributes to the service needs of the community in which they practice; and
- Applications from practising rural medical practitioners seeking to fulfill a service need in their community.

The program is administered by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) on behalf of the department. RWAV is responsible for managing all funding and ensuring that any proposed training will address the medical service needs of the community.

Funding is designed to support and subsidise medical practitioners in undertaking professional development, as opposed to providing full cost recovery. The guidelines are based on this fundamental principle. In accordance to public funding guidelines, original receipts will be required for all claims.

The total funding contribution from the department is capped, and there are also funding limits of each eligible subsidy per application. The total funding available per applicant per financial year is \$3,000.

Item	Eligible claim amount	Ineligible claim amount
Registration / course fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of the registration fee up to annual limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tertiary or VET qualification fees
Driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculated at \$0.66 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"> Up to \$140 per night irrespective of location (rural or metropolitan) At a registered commercial premises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private accommodation at non-commercial premises will not be covered (e.g. AirBnB)
Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$60 per day For a maximum of five days per year at a registered organisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private childcare at non-commercial premises will not be covered

Medical Professional Development Priorities

Addiction medicine

Chronic disease management

Emergency Medicine

Family Violence

General Medicine

General Surgery

Geriatrics

Indigenous Health

Maternity Services

Medical Administration

Paediatrics

Pathology

Psychiatry/Mental Health

Women's Health

Applications and Administration

Submissions for funding must be submitted to RWAV. All applications for funding must be submitted within the current financial year of the activity. Applications beyond this time will not be eligible for funding.

Applications must be lodged by the medical practitioner who attends the training and must be accompanied by:

- Completed Application Form (form available from RWAV).
- Original receipts of all claims made (detailing name of attendee, name of training, training provider, dates and amounts paid).
- Proof of attendance.

Evaluation

Applicants must complete the evaluation questions outlined in the application form to be eligible for a grant. RWAV may also contact applicants for further evaluation data after the admission of a grant.

Eligibility

Subsidies under the program are available for medical practitioners practising in rural and regional Victoria (MMM 2-7) and are:

- Fellowed General Practitioners;
- International Medical Graduates
- Australian Medical Graduates working in general practice;
- Registrars in the Australian GP Training Program; or
- Interns, who are required to complete a minimum of 13 weeks in a rural community placement.

Contact

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria

E: grants@rwav.com.au

T: 03 9349 7800

F: 03 9820 0401