Health Workforce Scholarship Program (HWSP)
Scholarships and bursaries are available to health professionals to undertake further study or participate in professional development.

• Part of the Australian Government Department of Health’s Health Workforce Program, delivered by the Rural Workforce Agency Network.

• The Program is intended to improve access to health services needed in remote and rural Australia by supporting an increase in skills, capacity and scope of practice.

• The scholarships and bursaries are available to health workers/practitioners working in primary care in the ACCHS sector, non-government organisations and private practice.
THE HEALTH WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE EITHER:

**SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT**

A payment up to $10,000 per year for up to two years to support participants to undertake full or part-time studies (maximum of $20,000 in total over two years) to attain the qualification of either a postgraduate certificate, postgraduate diploma, Master or PhD.

**BURSARY PAYMENT**

A payment up to $10,000 (maximum of $10,000 in total in one year) for participants to put toward the cost of upskilling, training or course fees and training-related expenses such as accommodation and training, where appropriate.
Who is eligible for the program?

- Health professionals who hold a primary professional qualification or who are working in an existing role in the fields of; medicine, nursing, midwifery, allied health, dentistry and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

- Please refer to the HWSP Applicant Guidelines NSW RDN website

- Those who provide services or intend to provide services to MMM 3-7 locations.
  - Please see DoctorConnect to check your MMM location.

- Those who are not employed solely by the State Government, including NSW Health.

Scholarships and bursaries will be provided to eligible health professionals in remote and rural communities in alignment with the greatest primary health workforce and service needs.
Training and skill enhancements identified by RDN primary health workforce needs assessment

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care
- Chronic disease management
- Severe and complex conditions
- Mental health management
- Children and young people
- Aged care and associated conditions
- End of life/palliative care
- Culturally safe practices and practitioners
- Team care/co-ordinated patient care
- Improved patient health literacy and self management

Supporting rural health in New South Wales, Australia
• Scholarship and bursary applications are **open all year round**.
• There will be two national call-outs each year, complemented by NSW specific information and messaging to ensure rural health professionals are aware of the program.
How much money is available?

• Scholarship funding amount:
  • A single payment, dependent upon the qualification being undertaken. Applicants can apply for a second year of funding if the course extends over two years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate qualification</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Certificate</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Diploma</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masters and PhD</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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• Bursary funding amount:
  • Up to $10,000 to contribute to the cost of training or course fees and training related expenses for accommodation and transport, determined on workforce need.
How to apply

• Read the applicant guidelines on the NSW RDN website
• Read the HWSP FAQ the NSW RDN website
• If you don't already have a My RDN account, please register for a My RDN account.
• Once you have created an account or if you already have an account, please apply for the HWSP.
• You can make applications for scholarships and bursaries up to the value of $10,000 per financial year.
Scenarios Aboriginal Health Workers

• Aboriginal Health Worker with a Cert III who wishes to increase their clinical skills and scope of practice by undertaking the Cert IV in Aboriginal Primary Health Care Practice followed by the Diploma in Aboriginal Primary Health care.

• Aboriginal Health Practitioner (Cert IV) who wishes to undertake an Audiometry Screening and Assessment course in order to provide hearing checks in the community and support the visiting ENT surgery clinic.

• Aboriginal Health Worker (Cert IV) who would like to complete a Foot Health Assessment course in order to have the necessary clinical skills to support diabetes patients with foot-care needs, assess patients’ health risks, provide basic foot-care and refer patients to a visiting podiatry clinic as clinically appropriate.
Scenarios Medical Practitioners

• GP working in MMM 3-7 region wants to study Postgraduate qualification, can apply for a scholarship.

• Dr studying for GP vocational exam, not receiving any other funding, can apply for a bursary to do a course for exam preparation, however not for funding to sit the actual exam.

• GP in private practice also providing services as a VMO at the LHD wants to attend an emergency conference, can receive a bursary, if not receiving other funding.
Scenarios staff working in the LHD

• A VMO works part time for the LHD in emergency and part time in private practice in a MMM 3-7 region and is eligible to apply for a bursary or scholarship.

• Physio works 8 hours in private practice and 30 hours for the LHD is eligible to apply for a bursary or scholarship.

• Nurse works in a general practice 2 days per week and 2 days in LHD is eligible to apply for a bursary or scholarship.
Questions and contacts

• HWSP email – hwsp@nswrdn.com.au

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