

# 2010 RURAL ALLIED HEALTH POST GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

In 2010 scholarships are available to support Allied Health Professionals commencing postgraduate studies.

## Background

The Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarship Program supports rural allied health practitioners who have demonstrated their involvement in, and commitment to, rural allied health practice to improve their skills and expertise through postgraduate studies. The financial support provided to practitioners through the scholarship program aims to assist them in meeting the additional expenses often borne by rural practitioners accessing education.

## Scholarship Details

Postgraduate scholarships are available for permanent or contract employees of a rural public sector health service (RRMA 3-7) who intend to commence an eligible postgraduate course in 2010. Scholarships will be granted for post graduate studies in either an allied health specific discipline or non-discipline specific courses that relate to their employment; this may include health management, health promotion and public health studies.

The following allied health professions are eligible to apply for a scholarship:

- Art Therapy
- Audiology
- Biomedical Science
- Dietetics
- Health Promotion
- Hospital Pharmacy
- Medical Laboratory Science
- Medical Physics
- Medical Radiation (Diagnostic Imaging, Radiation Therapy, Nuclear Medicine)
- Music Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Orthoptics
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Prosthetics/Orthotics
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Speech Pathology

The level of funding for Postgraduate Scholarships varies according to the level of qualification being attained:

PhD	\$10,000
Masters	\$ 7,500
Graduate Diploma	\$ 5,000

Scholarships are to be paid at the commencement of postgraduate study. For the purposes of taxation, money from the scholarship scheme is considered income.

### Selection Criteria

Applications for scholarships will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Demonstrated relevance of postgraduate study to service demand
- The applicant's demonstrated understanding of rural communities and practice
- The applicant's demonstrated interest in, and commitment to rural practice in Victoria
- Enrolment in eligible postgraduate studies or an intention to undertake postgraduate studies in 2010 at an accredited Victorian tertiary institution (including Charles Sturt University in Albury/Wodonga)

### Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- A permanent or contract employee of a public sector health service (RRMA 3-7)
- A resident of Victoria and an Australian permanent resident
- Scholarships will only be granted once per applicant per postgraduate qualification
- If other funds are received from the Services for Australian Rural and Remote Health (SARRAH) Professional Scholarship Scheme to support postgraduate study, practitioners will be ineligible to receive a scholarship

Please note that scholarship funding is capped therefore not all applicants that meet the criteria will necessarily be granted a scholarship.

### Undertaking

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a written agreement stating that they will:

- Give preference to continuing to working in public practice in rural Victoria after completing their studies. Although these scholarships are not bonded, it is hoped that the issues affecting rural Victoria, for example the recruitment and retention of appropriately qualified allied health professionals, will reinforce to recipients that they can contribute significantly as a result of their choice to practice in rural Victoria
- Provide immediate notification (within one month of occurrence) of a change of contact details and employment
- Where applicable, notification (within one month of occurrence) of failure or withdrawal from postgraduate study
- Participate in tracking and evaluation exercises in relation to their receipt of the scholarship
- Repay scholarship funding received if they fail to comply with the conditions of the agreement

### Applications must be accompanied by:

- A 500 word summary demonstrating:
  - The relevance of your postgraduate study to service demands within your health service and in rural Victoria generally
  - Your understanding and experience of rural communities and practice
  - Your interest in, and commitment to future rural practice in Victoria
  - How this scholarship will assist you in beginning your postgraduate studies
- Curriculum Vitae
- Full information on the course being undertaken
- Evidence of your current employment and a letter of support from your Supervisor, Manager or CEO

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### How to apply

Application forms and guidelines for 2010 scholarships are available from the VHA website [www.vha.org.au](http://www.vha.org.au) under *Scholarships*.

**Applications close Friday 12 February 2010**

Short-listed applicants may be required to attend an interview in Melbourne on a date advised by the Victorian Healthcare Association.

### Privacy

All information is strictly confidential, however your contact details may be used for future program evaluation and quality assurance.

### Information

For further information contact Vivien Forrest at VHA on 9094 7777 or email queries to [scholarships@vha.org.au](mailto:scholarships@vha.org.au).