

Thursday, 29 January 2009



For immediate release

Rural Health Scholarships still open

It is not too late for rural allied health students to apply for a Victorian Healthcare Association scholarship in 2009.

Applications for postgraduate scholarships of up to \$10 000 close on February 13, while undergraduate scholarships of \$5000 for bachelor degrees remain open until March 13.

The Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) runs the scholarship program on behalf of Victoria's Department of Human Services to assist rural students to meet some of the extra costs they face in accessing education.

Eligible postgraduate allied health students must be employed by a rural health service (categorised as a RRMA 3-7). Preference is given to applicants whose financial situation is hindering them from studying.

Scholarships are for rural students only. This includes students in the border towns of Albury/Wodonga but excludes metropolitan Melbourne, Geelong, the Bellarine and Mornington Peninsulas.

The VHA's chief executive, Mr Trevor Carr, said the scholarship program is intended to bolster workforce recruitment and retention in rural areas.

"Workforce shortages remain a major issue for rural health services and everything that can be done must be done to boost the profile of rural health," Mr Carr said.

In 2008, the VHA administered \$50 000 in postgraduate scholarships and 10 undergraduate scholarships.

All applicants must show their 2009 enrolment and submit a 500 word essay explaining their understanding of the health needs of rural areas and their reasons for wanting to work there. For further information contact the VHA's scholarship administrator, Vivien Forest, on (03) 9094 7720.

The VHA is the major peak body representing the public healthcare sector in Victoria. Our members include public hospitals, rural and regional health services, community health services and aged care facilities. Established since 1938, the VHA promotes improvement of health outcomes for all Victorians from the perspective of its members.

For further information and
Interviews, contact
Trevor Carr
CEO
Victorian Healthcare Association
(03) 9094 7777 or (0409) 362 382



Media Release 01/2009

Available for interview Trevor Carr, CEO, Victorian Healthcare Association (03) 9094 7777 or (0409) 362 382