



Aboriginal Allied Health Assistant Scholarships

The University of Sydney Poche Centre for Indigenous Health is working with rural and remote communities to close the gap in Indigenous health outcomes. Strong evidence exists that improved access to allied health care can increase a person's ability to walk or move better, reduce dependence, improve children's performance at school and have a positive impact on the lives of children, carers and their families. There are difficulties accessing allied health services and workforce shortages in some allied health professions. Barriers in accessing allied health are exacerbated in rural and remote areas and in particular Indigenous communities in all parts of Australia. The health sector needs more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals to meet the increasing demand for these services in communities.

Allied health assistant roles are recognised as a means to increase the reach of scarce allied health resources and to promote locally responsive service delivery. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Allied Health Assistants address the health needs of their communities by delivering allied health services and building links with the community between sessions with the therapist.

This project will engage Aboriginal people in the health, education or disability sectors and create a pathway for Aboriginal allied health professionals of the future by providing scholarships to complete the Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance. The Aboriginal Allied Health Assistants will be supported and supervised by qualified allied health professionals. The scholarships will build a skilled and qualified workforce to support the delivery of allied health services within rural and remote communities. Participation in allied health assistant training may also create a career pathway to the allied health profession for some graduates.

The scholarships will enable Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people from across NSW to undertake a Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance whilst remaining in local communities. Each scholarship is valued at \$15,000 and will provide:

- 1:1 mentor to assist each scholar with their studies and work placement
- Course fees – on-line and face to face
- Laptop Computer
- Weekly telephone/video support
- Career and education planning.

To apply for an Aboriginal Allied Health Assistants Scholarship you can send an email to poche.admin@sydney.edu.au or call (02) 9114 0829 and ask for an application form or visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/pochecentre

Eligibility

1. It is a requirement that the scholarship holder must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.
2. The applicant must be a citizen of New South Wales.
3. Preference will be given to those living in the Central West region of NSW.
4. Preference will be given to individuals with experience in working with children.
5. Preference will be given to those individuals currently employed in the health, education or disability sector.