



RFDS 2017 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Scholarship Guidelines

As a commitment under their national Reconciliation Action Plan 2016-18, and in an effort to grow an appropriate and skilled rural health workforce, the RFDS will provide financial support through scholarships to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander health students to undertake a clinical placement in a remote and rural Australia.

Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) will administer the allied health-specific scholarship funding pool to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **allied health** students to undertake a rural or remote clinical placement. IAHA full student members can apply to undertake:

- a remote or rural clinical placement of at least four weeks' duration; or
- a clinical training placement of at least four weeks' duration to develop skills in a particular area of medicine, in order to assist a rural or remote community.

There are up to three scholarships is valued at up to \$3,500 and that will contribute to the cost of travel and accommodation in undertaking the clinical placement.

What will the successful applicant be required to do?

The recipient will be required to:

- organise their placement – this could include a current or already planned placement, provided a specific rural or remote focus/benefit can be demonstrated;
- obtain appropriate approvals from their workplace and/or training institution prior to travel arrangements being made;
- provide a written confirmation of placement from the relevant practice or institution; and
- write a 500 word article for use in RFDS and IAHA publications upon completion of their placement.

Who can apply?

The scholarship is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health students who are currently full members of IAHA.

Scholarships are available only for the purposes of providing financial assistance to undertake an appropriate clinical placement:

- in an ASGC-RA classified area 3-5, or Modified Monash Model classified area 3-7;
- for a placement of no less than 4 weeks; and
- to assist with costs of travel and accommodation.

Clinical placements may be based in a regional location as long as there is a specific rural or remote focus to the proposal.

Application process

Applications for the scholarship must address the selection criteria in the online application form below by 5 pm (AEDT) **Friday, 31 March 2017**. This also includes a projected budget of costs for the placement and any other additional financial or in kind support that is being provided.

There will be two rounds offered in 2017:

- Round 1 – 31 March 2017.
- Round 2 – 28 July 2017.

All applications will be acknowledged by return email.

Selection process

IAHA will establish a selection committee who will work with RFDS in assessing each application and selecting the successful applicant. The selection committee may request more information and/or a telephone interview in support of the application if necessary.

The selection committee's decision is final. There will be no appeals process.

The successful recipient will be notified by close of business on **Friday, 29 April 2017** and travel forms will be sent at this time.

Information for Successful Applicants:

- Scholarship recipients will be required to attend and actively engage in the placement. Failure to attend will result in ineligibility for future scholarships and/or recovery of funds.
- Successful applicants will be required to return their travel documents by the required date. Failure to return the travel documents by this date will result in forfeiture of the scholarship.
- All travel and accommodation will be booked and paid for by IAHA using awarded scholarship funds, upon receipt of completed travel documents submitted by successful applicants. Any funds remaining after travel, accommodation costs may be provided to the recipient to cover incidental costs.
- Scholarship applicants are encouraged to seek advice from the Australian Taxation Office, Accountant and /or Centrelink about any impact the granting of a scholarship may have on their financial situation.

Further information is available by contacting Ms Judy Bell at IAHA on (02) 6285 1010.