

CLINICAL PLACEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Guidelines for Applicants

1. Introduction of Scholarships

IAHA has key partnerships with stakeholders to support remote and rural clinical placements and extend students' and graduates' learning experiences to explore career pathways and opportunities in remote and rural Australia.

Financial support for students and graduates remains a vital strategy to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, across all life stages, experiences and journeys, to study and succeed in allied health.

IAHA and the Royal Flying Doctors Service Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Scholarship

As a commitment under the Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) National Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2021, and in an effort to grow an appropriate and skilled rural health workforce, the RFDS will provide financial support through scholarships to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health students to undertake a clinical placement in a remote and rural Australia. Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) will organise and implement the scholarship process for Indigenous allied health students who are current IAHA Full Members (students and assistant workforce) and provide support and mentoring for the remote or rural clinical placements scholarship recipients.

In 2020, an IAHA RFDS Scholarship was awarded to an IAHA student member studying their final year of a Bachelor of Exercise Physiology. The rural clinical placement was the first of their degree, providing an opportunity to experience rural clinical practice in Mount Isa ahead of pursuing work in remote and rural communities in their career.

"I love challenges and experiencing new environments; however, working as an exercise physiologist in a rural community forced me to really think outside of the box...Having to work together (in a rural setting) allowed me to develop my client-centred care into a more holistic approach and broaden my lens outside of exercise alone. This delved into their nutrition, home environment, (and) the client's social support. This allowed me to really understand my client, build rapport and increase my clinical skills as a health professional".

2020 Royal Flying Doctors Service Scholarship recipient reflection

Applications Opening Soon

James Cook University (JCU), Murtupuni Centre for Rural and Remote Health and IAHA Student Placement Scholarship

IAHA and JCU's Murtupuni Centre for Rural and Remote Health (CRRH) in Mount Isa are committed and responsive to the allied health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This includes increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in the allied health workforce, fostering a community centred and priority-driven allied health research agenda for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, and strengthening the cultural competence of allied health graduates.

Allied health professionals operate within diverse settings, from clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation centres, laboratories, schools, long-term care facilities, Aboriginal Medical/Health Services, and community health centres to home healthcare agencies. Therefore a workforce mix that includes allied health professionals as key players across health, education and community sectors will be essential to address the social, historical, political and cultural determinants that negatively impact the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The goal of the student placement scholarship is to increase the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workforce in remote and regional Australia to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

All students have a student placement that is culturally responsive to the unique health needs of those that reside in remote and regional Australia.

If you would like to undertake a placement in Mount Isa, please reach out to the IAHA Membership team for support with accommodation.

Northern Territory Primary Health Network Rural Workforce Agency (RWA) and IAHA Student Placement Scholarship

The Northern Territory Primary Health Network (PHN), Rural Workforce Agency (RWA), has a role in identifying areas of need, such as a lack of health care services and difficulty in accessing these services, and commission primary health care services to address the identified needs.

Unlike other PHNs, the Northern Territory PHN is also the Northern Territory's Rural Workforce Agency. This means that they support the recruitment, development and retention of a professional primary health care workforce across the Northern Territory.

In 2020-21, IAHA worked to establish new scholarships for remote and rural clinical placements in the Northern Territory with support from the Rural Workforce Agency. The Northern Territory PHN has partnered with IAHA to assist in implementing the Innovation Grants Program through the delivery of scholarships to Indigenous student members to complete placements in Northern Territory

The Northern Territory PHN is an independent not-for-profit organisation funded by the Australian Government

Mike Gordon Scholarship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders in health

The Mike Gordon Scholarship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership in health is a new scholarship program that supports the ongoing leadership development of IAHA members in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, wellbeing, and related sectors.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce demonstrate substantial leadership in successfully pursuing long-term rewarding careers in health, overcoming systemic and other barriers, while transforming systems, services, and professions through their contributions.

Investment in this workforce will contribute significantly to the continued growth, retention, and development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce. It will improve the experiences and outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in these systems more broadly, through change leadership and the embedding of cultural perspectives and knowledge, helping to achieve equity in life, health, and wellbeing outcomes.

One scholarship is available to each of the three membership categories (Full Member Assistant Workforce, Full Member Student and Full Member Graduate).

These scholarship experiences, in addition to IAHA-led initiatives, provide meaningful exposure to remote and rural health practice and support consideration of remote or rural practice as a viable and meaningful opportunity. While IAHA continues to work on local workforce development, this remains an essential strategy in addressing remote and rural workforce shortages and workforce maldistribution.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Scholarships, applicants must:

- a. address all application requirements as set out in the Application Process below
- b. be a current IAHA full member (students, graduates and assistant workforce)
- c. be in their final two years of their tertiary allied health course
- d. Intend to undertake a remote or rural clinical placement in an ASGC RA classified area 3- 5 or Modified Monash Model classified area 3-7 of at least four weeks or more in duration
- e. be 18 years of age or over when applying for the scholarship

Recipients of any previous IAHA Professional Development Scholarship that have failed to acquit their scholarship are ineligible for an RFDS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Scholarships.

If there are more applicants than available scholarships, not all applicants who meet the eligibility and selection criteria will be offered a scholarship from this round.

3. Application Process

Applicants must:

- a. apply in writing to IAHA by completing the [online application form](#).
- b. Identify as an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander student currently undertaking a relevant tertiary degree in an allied health discipline and current IAHA Full Member (students, graduates and assistant workforce)
- c. Provide evidence of current enrolment
- d. Provide a written statement that addresses the following:
 - i. how the scholarship would benefit you professionally, personally, and culturally
 - ii. why you are seeking to undertake a remote or rural clinical placement
 - iii. outline your remote/rural clinical/personal experience to date
 - iv. the outcome(s) you want to achieve at the end of this placement

- v. a projected budget of costs for the placement and any other additional financial support that is being provided
- e. Identify appropriate clinical placement:
 - i. in an ASGC RA classified area 3- 5 or Modified Monash Model classified area 3-7;
 - ii. for a period of no less than four weeks;

4. Selection

Applications will be assessed according to the applicant's eligibility as stated above. Further, the ranking may occur using the following criteria:

- a. Quality of the rationale in the written statement in comprehensively addressing the criteria as outlined above
- b. Classification of remoteness
- c. Evidence of research and/or confirmation of a placement location, demonstrating initiative and commitment to the placement
- d. Completion of ALL required information in the application form
- e. Have, where relevant, met all the terms and conditions of previous IAHA scholarships
- f. Have agreed to the terms and conditions.

5. Terms and Conditions

The Scholarship recipient agrees:

- a. To read and abide by the IAHA Code of Conduct at all times and relevant policies and procedures in relation to travel and finance
- b. To confirm the location, duration, estimated travel and accommodation costs and required supports for a clinical placement in an ASGC-RA classified area 3-5 or Modified Monash Model classified area 3-7 for placement of no less than four weeks
- c. To return their travel documents by the required date. Failure to return the travel documents by this date will result in the forfeiture of the scholarship
- d. To be responsible for their own transfers to and from their place of residence and their nominated airport
- e. To pay any changes to travel and accommodation bookings once they have been made as stipulated on the travel forms and approved by the CEO
- f. To refund the scholarship in full if they fail to undertake a clinical placement in remote and rural Australia during the 2021/2022 financial year. Exceptional circumstances with prior notice can be considered at the discretion of the CEO
- g. To submit a written reflection report on their attendance and learnings no later than four weeks following completion of the placement
- h. To be available to IAHA to undertake reasonable activities to promote the scholarship program further
- i. To attend and actively engage in the placement. Failure to attend will result in ineligibility for future scholarships and/or recovery of funds

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.

An IAHA Scholarship Committee will be appointed to administer this scholarship process. The members of this group will be drawn from the Secretariat and key stakeholders.

The IAHA Scholarship Committee will be responsible for assessing scholarship applications against the eligibility and selection criteria and making recommendations to the IAHA delegate on applicants that may be granted. The IAHA Scholarship Committee recommendations will be final.

IAHA delegate will be responsible for the final decision of scholarship recipients (and deciding on the number of scholarships to be given and the amount of the scholarship pending remoteness and location of the applicant). Therefore, IAHA's decision will be final.

IAHA will notify successful applicants in writing. However, recipients must advise their acceptance of the scholarship and agree to all the terms and conditions in writing within the timeframe provided.

IAHA will notify unsuccessful applicants in writing.

If an applicant forfeits or declines a scholarship offer, that place will be offered to another applicant.

Applications received after the closing date for each round will not be eligible or considered.

Contact Details

IAHA Engagement Officer on 0460 622 300 or Email: membership@iaha.com.au