

# GRANTS WEEK 2024

## Health Workforce Scholarship Program

### Am I eligible for this grant?

Thanks for joining in to find out a little bit more about eligibility for the Health Workforce Scholarship Program Grant.

Let's talk about eligibility for this grant.

There are a quite a few things to consider when we think about eligibility for HWSP and it can get confusing, so let's break this down into smaller pieces and we'll talk about them one at a time.

Let's begin with your profession.

If we look at this really broadly, if you're a medical practitioner, nurse or an allied health professional, then you may well be eligible for this grant.

There's a full list of eligible professions in the guidelines which you should refer to, so you can check that your profession is on that list. If your profession is on that list, then you can go ahead and think about further eligibility criteria. If you're not on that list, then you won't be eligible for this grant.

The next thing we need to consider is the geographical location of where you work. This grant is all about supporting healthcare professionals in rural and regional Victoria. You'll need to know the Modified Monash Model Location, also known as the MMM location, of your workplace. The MMM location is a measure of rurality, from 1 to 7, based on population and remoteness. You can use the Health Workforce Locator tool to find the MMM status based on your work address.

If you work in an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation in Victoria, then these location rules don't apply to you. All ACCO's are eligible regardless of their geographical location within the state.

Next we should look at your employer.

You need to be employed in a private practice or non-government funded organisation.

We'll look at the ABN, or Australian Business Number for your employer to help to determine your eligibility. If you only work in a government funded organisation at any level - local, state or federal government, then you're not eligible. However, if you also work elsewhere in private practice, then you may be still eligible.

Now let's move on to thinking about your actual employment and the type of services you provide. To be eligible for this grant, you need to be providing at least eight hours per week, of face to face clinical care in one of the eligible locations we just talked about.

The other important thing is that you need to be providing private primary care. So if you're a medical practitioner or a nurse, this might be as straightforward as working in a general practice. If you're an allied health professional, you might work in a practice specific to your discipline, or it might be a multidisciplinary practice, and it may or may not co-exist with a general medical practice. It doesn't matter if you're an employee, or self employed or a sole trader. You may still be eligible. There are a few other organisation types or service types which would make you not eligible for this grant. This includes working in a hospice or an aged care facility, as these aren't deemed to be primary care. If you work in a position where you only provide government funded services such as NDIS, HACC, TAC, VOCAT, or similar government funded services then you would not be eligible. If your role is clinical but is solely providing care via telehealth then that is also not eligible because the care needs to be face to face.

The important thing to remember with all of these which are not eligible, is that if you have another role or employer that is eligible, then you can still apply.

It can all be pretty confusing!! So if you're really stuck, send us an email and we can help you out.

To find out more details on eligibility, head to the RWAV grants webpage and download a copy of the guidelines.

### **What sorts of activities could I claim for?**

Thanks for joining in to find out a little bit more about what activities you can claim under the Health Workforce Scholarship Program Grant.

The HWSP can provide funding to support you to attend a variety of different clinical upskilling activities. The activity needs to be related to your relevant undergraduate degree, and also be relevant to your area of work.

The course doesn't need to be accredited, but it must provide clinical upskilling. We can't support business related activities through this particular grant.

We'll assess the activity based on the relevance to your situation, value for money, and the expected benefit to your local community. As part of your application, we'll be asking you to explain how the community will benefit from your newly acquired skills, so make sure you give us the right information to help us understand this. If we can't see the relevance of the activity for your community, your application may be declined.

The activity also needs to relate to the role which makes you eligible for this grant. So if you work in primary care and also in a hospital for example, the activity needs to relate to your primary care role, and not your hospital role. If it only relates to the work you do in the hospital environment, then the activity wouldn't be eligible.

We can fund things like conferences, workshops and webinars. They can be face to face or online.

If you're a medical practitioner we can fund exam preparation courses to help you to prepare for your Fellowship exams. But we can't cover any of the actual exam costs.

You can have a look at the guidelines for some more types of activities which would be eligible.

If you're looking at doing some post graduate studies, for example a Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Masters or a PhD, we can also fund those, although they do still need to be relevant to your current profession. We can't support you to undertake a career change. And remember that this study still needs to be clinical, so we couldn't support something like a Masters in Public Health.

It's really important that the activity you undertake will be able to provide you with a certificate of completion or proof of attendance. If you won't be able to get that when you've completed the activity, it's very unlikely that we will be able to fund you.

To find out more details on eligible activities, head to the RWAV grants webpage and download a copy of the guidelines.

### **How much funding can I get?**

Thanks for joining in to find out a little bit more about funding amounts for the Health Workforce Scholarship Program Grant.

The HWSP can provide funding of up to \$10,000 per person per financial year. This can be spread across short activities, as well as post graduate studies. The guidelines explain a bit more about the different types of funding.

In the case of post graduate studies, we can support you for up to \$10,000 for a maximum of two years from the date you commence the study. That upper limit of \$10,000 is dependant on the type of course you're studying. Again, there's more detail around this in the guidelines.

We can support the registration costs for your activity, and we've talked about the relevant types of activities in the eligible activities podcast, so refer back to that for more information.

Not only can we support your course registration costs, but we can help to cover travel costs as well.

We'll cover your private car travel if you need to travel to attend the course. We cover you at a flat rate per kilometre, to travel from your usual place of residence to the activity venue which is capped at \$500 per application.

We can cover airfares for you to attend the activity within reason, so this is generally the cost of the cheapest economy air fare, via the most direct route.

We can't cover incidental costs, so this means things like car hire, car parking, road tolls, taxis, rideshares or public transport. We also can't cover meals.

What about your accommodation?

Well we can cover that too, up to a limited amount per night. You'd need to provide us with your receipt and let us know how many nights you stayed.

We can cover accommodation at registered commercial premises like a hotel, motel, Airbnb, or serviced apartment. We can't cover private accommodation at non-commercial business premises. So if you're staying with a friend, we can't provide you with any financial support.

There are quite a few exclusions of things we can't fund through this grant, and I encourage you to thoroughly read this section of the guidelines before applying for

a grant, and certainly before paying for any activity that you are relying on funding to complete. The last thing you want to do is pay for something on the assumption that the grant will fund you, only to find out it's not eligible.

To find out more details on funding, head to the RWAV grants webpage and download a copy of the guidelines.

### **How do I apply for the grant?**

Thanks for joining in to find out a little bit more about applying for the Health Workforce Scholarship Program Grant.

Applying for the grant is simple.

All applications need to be done through the RWAV website. Go to [RWAV.com.au](http://RWAV.com.au) and click on the grants section.

We can't accept any applications via email.

The first thing to know is that you'll need to apply for this grant before you actually start the activity. You need to apply at least the day before your activity starts. That's really important. If you've already finished the activity or even started it, we can't fund you through this grant.

You also need to bear in mind that it can take us up to six weeks to process and assess your grant application, so make sure you leave time for that. This is important if you're relying on funding to do the activity.

If you are relying on funding from us to attend the course, then please do not pay for your course before you apply. You can still apply - just don't pay yet.

When we ask for proof of cost of the activity as part of your application, you don't have to provide us with a receipt. So you don't have to have paid, but what you can give us is a screenshot or an invoice which is not paid. This needs to show the details of the course and how much that course is going to cost. You'll need to do the same for travel and accommodation if you're claiming that.

Again, really importantly, if you're relying on funding for the activity, do not pay for it until we've had a chance to assess your application and provide you with an outcome. Just in case we can't approve your application, we don't want you to be out of pocket for a course that you can't really afford. So please be very careful about that.



Once you've applied for the grant, you should give us up to six weeks to assess your application. You'll be notified by email of the outcome.

If your application was successful, the email will include details on how and when you'll be reimbursed, as well as a Letter of Agreement which you'll need to sign and return to RWAV.

If your application was unsuccessful, the email will explain the reasons why.

To find out more details on applying for the grant, head to the RWAV grants webpage and download a copy of the guidelines.