

GRANTS WEEK 2024

Medical Professional Development Program

Am I eligible for this grant?

Thanks for joining in to find out a little bit more about eligibility for the Medical Professional Development Program grant.

Put simply, if you're a medical practitioner working in general practice in rural Victoria, then you might be eligible. But let's talk about that a little bit more with some examples.

If you're a registrar on the Australian General Practice Training Program, often abbreviated to AGPT, or a registrar on the Victorian Rural Generalist Program, abbreviated to VRGP, then you're eligible to apply for this grant.

If you're a Fellowed GP with either RACGP or ACRRM, then you're also eligible to apply.

If you're an Australian or International medical graduate working in general practice then you can apply too.

It also covers interns and junior doctors who are required to meet minimum of 13 weeks in a rural community placement. So if you're doing a placement and undertaking an activity relevant to your rural general practice placement, then that activity might be eligible.

If you're working in a public or private hospital, or anywhere else that is not a general practice, then unfortunately you're not eligible for this grant.

To find out more detail 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 Medical Professional Development Program grant.

Well, there's quite a few things that you can claim for.

First of all, it needs to be something that's relevant to your day to day work.

As a General Practitioner, the sorts of priority areas that we're looking at covering are a whole host of clinical areas, things like addiction medicine, chronic disease

management, emergency medicine, family violence, geriatrics, indigenous health, maternity services, paediatrics, palliative care, psychiatry and mental health. I hope you get the picture. It's about clinical upskilling.

An extra area of upskilling that sits outside of all of those clinical upskilling courses is medical administration.

So as an example, if you're looking at doing some courses to upskill around your use of MBS and the most effective way to claim MBS without overclaiming, or underclaiming, then you can also apply for funding from this grant.

We'll cover registration and course fees, but we can't cover tertiary education fees, and we also can't cover any costs at all for in person attendance at an overseas activity.

As for the actual activity itself, it could be online or face to face, and could be a workshop, short course, or a conference or something similar.

To find out more detail 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 Medical Professional Development Program grant.

This grant is available for up to \$5000 per person per financial year.

It only applies to activities that you've already completed, and you'll need to provide us with a couple of really important pieces of information to support your application.

The first thing you'll need to provide is receipts for all of your eligible claim items.

This includes your course registration fees, and if you had to travel and book accommodation in order to attend the course, these charges can also be included.

The next piece of information we need is a certificate of completion, to prove that you actually did complete the activity or attended the course. The course provider usually automatically sends you this once you've completed the activity.

You won't necessarily receive the full amount back for each claimed item. The aim of this grant is to subsidise the costs of your professional development, as opposed to providing full cost recovery.

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.

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.

The unique thing about this grant is that we can also cover you for childcare, so if you've got young children that need to go into care to allow you to attend the activity, we can help to cover some of your costs.

This needs to be at a registered organisation, so again you need to be able to provide us with a receipt for that.

If your child goes to private childcare at non-commercial premises, so if a family member or a friend is looking after your children, then we can't provide you with any financial support for childcare.

To find out more detail 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 Medical Professional Development Program grant.

Applying for the grant is simple.

All applications need to be done through the RWAV website. Go to RWAV.com.au and click on the grants section.

We can't accept any applications via email.

You'll need a few documents to support your application.

To start off with, you'll need a receipt for the activity you attended. It'll need to show your name, the name and date of the activity, and of course it also needs to show the full amount you've paid.

You'll also need to provide a Certificate of Completion or Proof of Attendance at your activity.

That's really important. Without that, we can't make any payment to you.

If you want to claim for air travel you'll need to provide a copy of your itinerary which shows your travel dates, as well as the full costs of the airfares.

If you are claiming car travel you won't need receipts, but you'll need to let us know in the application, where you travelled from and to.

If you're claiming accommodation, you'll need to provide a receipt showing the dates you stayed and the total cost.

If you're a registrar on the VRGP or AGPT, then we need a letter from the appropriate college to verify your participation in the program.

If you're an intern or a junior doctor completing a 13-week rural community placement, you'll need to provide a letter of employment from the general practice or from your health service employer, confirming your employment period, and also the hours of employment.

If you're a medical practitioner working in general practice, you'll need to provide a letter from your general practice confirming your employment details - things like where you work and the number of hours per week. It's important to note that you need to be currently practising 15 hours per week or more in a clinical practice in rural and regional Victoria at the time the activity took place.

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 will be reimbursed.

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

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