

# Medical Professional Development (MPD) Program

## 2023 to 2024 Financial Year Guidelines

### Introduction

The Medical Professional Development (MPD) program supports the ongoing professional development and medical education of medical practitioners in rural and regional Victoria. Furthermore, the program aims to encourage trainee doctors to complete rural and regional placements by providing access to professional development subsidies.

The Victorian Department of Health (the department) recognises the importance of appropriately educated and distributed rural workforce to meet the State's primary health care needs, particularly for the delivery of public and community health services in rural and regional hospitals.

Funding assists with the development, recruitment and retention of skilled medical workforce for rural and regional Victoria. The long-term objective of the program is to ensure that practising medical practitioners in rural and regional Victoria are supported in undertaking medical professional development relevant to their area of practice and the community needs.

### Program funding

Funding assists medical practitioners or general practice registrars enrolled in the Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPT) currently practising in general practice in rural and regional Victoria, and Rural Generalists Year 1 and 2 and Advanced Skill Training Year in the Victorian Rural Generalist Program.

Program funding is separate from existing professional development arrangements available under enterprise agreements or other professional development support provided to a medical practitioner by their employing health service under contractual terms. Health services must ensure that funding is not used to replace or diminish other professional development entitlements.

The total funding contribution from the department is capped, and there are also funding limits of each eligible subsidy in an application.

Furthermore, priority for program funding will be given to:

- Applications from Rural Generalists Year 1 and 2 and Advanced Skill Training Year in the Victorian Rural Generalist Program, where the skill to be acquired contributes to meeting the service needs of the community in which they practice; and
- Applications from practising rural medical practitioners seeking to fulfil a service need in their community, including those identified in the Regional Network's training capacity building accreditation project under the Victorian Rural Generalist Program.

The program is administered by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) on behalf of the department. RWAV is responsible for managing all funding and ensuring that any proposed training will address the medical service needs of the community, including those identified in the Regional Network's training capacity building and accreditation project under the Victorian Rural Generalist Program.

Funding is designed to support and subsidise medical practitioners in undertaking professional development, as opposed to providing full cost recovery. The guidelines are based on this fundamental principle. In accordance to public funding guidelines, original receipts will be required for all claims.

The total funding contribution from the department is capped, and there are also funding limits of each eligible subsidy per application. The total funding available per applicant per financial year is \$5,000.

Item	Eligible claim amount	Ineligible claim amount
<b>Registration / course fees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 per cent of the registration fee up to annual limit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tertiary or Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification fees</li> <li>Overseas courses which require in-person attendance are not covered</li> </ul>
<b>Driving</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calculated at \$0.85 per kilometre based on a return trip from the applicant's place of residence to the respective training location</li> <li>Travel subsidies are calculated via the most direct and practical route</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stopovers or additional journeys are not covered</li> </ul>
<b>Air travel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full cost of the cheapest economy airfare via the most direct route for domestic flights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs associated with car hire, parking, tolls, taxis, ride shares, public transport, etc. are not covered</li> <li>International flights are not covered</li> </ul>
<b>Accommodation expenses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to \$173 per night irrespective of location (rural or metropolitan)</li> <li>At a registered commercial premises (e.g. hotels, motels, service apartment, Airbnb, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private accommodation at non-commercial premises will not be covered</li> </ul>
<b>Childcare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to \$60 per day per child</li> <li>For a maximum of 10 days per year per child at a registered organisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private childcare at non-commercial premises will not be covered</li> </ul>

## Medical Professional Development priorities

Addiction medicine

Anaesthetics

Chronic disease management

Emergency Medicine

Family Violence

General Medicine

General Surgery

Geriatrics

Indigenous Health

Maternity Services

Medical Administration

Paediatrics

Palliative Care

Pathology

Psychiatry/Mental Health

Women's Health

## Applications and Administration

Submissions for funding must be submitted to RWAV. All applications for funding must be submitted within the current financial year of the activity. Applications for activities undertaken in the three months prior to the end of the previous financial year may be considered at the discretion of RWAV. Applications for activities undertaken prior to this period will not be eligible for funding in the following financial year.

Applications must be lodged by the medical practitioner who attends the training and must be accompanied by:

- Completed Application - all applications must be made online at <https://www.rwav.com.au/grants-page/>
- Original receipts of all claims made (detailing name of attendee, name of training, training provider, dates and amounts paid).
- Proof of attendance, for example a certificate of course completion.
- Medical practitioners who are Rural Generalists on the Victorian Rural Generalist Program or are registrars on the Australian GP Training Program are required to provide a letter from the appropriate College which verifies their current participation in the relevant program.
- Interns and junior doctors who are completing a 13-week rural community placement, are required to provide a letter from the general practice or health service employer, confirming their employment period and hours of employment.
- Fellored General Practitioners and Medical Practitioners will be required to provide a letter from the general practice confirming their start date and hours of employment.

If an applicant is experiencing financial constraints relating to the timely payment of course fees they should contact RWAV as soon as possible.

## Evaluation

Applicants must complete the evaluation questions outlined in the application form to be eligible for a grant. RWAV may also contact applicants for further evaluation data after the admission of a grant.

## Eligibility

Subsidies under the program are available for medical practitioners currently practising 15 hours per week or more in clinical practice in rural and regional Victoria (MMM 2- 7) at the time the activity took place and are:

- Rural Generalists Year 1 and 2 and Advanced Skill Training Year in the Victorian Rural Generalist Program.
- Fellored General Practitioners.
- International Medical Graduates working in general practice.
- Australian Medical Graduates working in general practice.
- Registrars in the Australian GP Training Program.
- Interns and junior doctors, who are required to complete a minimum of 13 weeks in a rural community placement.

## Contact

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria

E: [grants@rwav.com.au](mailto:grants@rwav.com.au)

T: 03 9349 7800

F: 03 9820 0401