

Rural Allied Health Support Program

Guidelines 2018-19

Introduction

The Rural Allied Health Support Program (the program) supports allied health practitioners working in public, primary and community health services in rural Victoria to access educational, professional and skill development opportunities that are relevant to the development and provision of rural health and human services and meet the needs of the community.

The program aims to improve access to health and human services for rural and regional Victorians through:

- Improved access to professional development and education for allied health practitioners
- Building allied health workforce capabilities and quality
- Increased recruitment, retention and career progression opportunities for allied health practitioners in rural areas
- Improved provision of allied health services that meet the health and wellbeing needs of the community

The program is administered by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) on behalf of the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (the department). RWAV is responsible for the management of the funding and ensuring that the training addresses the needs of the Victorian rural and regional community.

Program funding

The funding is designed to support and subsidise practitioners undertaking professional development, as opposed to providing full cost recovery. These guidelines are based on this principle. In accordance with 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 \$3,000.

Professional development

Applicants can apply for funding to subsidise the following professional development costs:

Item	Eligible claim amount	Ineligible claim amount
Registration / course fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 100% of the fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tertiary or VET qualification fees
Driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calculated at \$0.66 per kilometre based on a return trip from the applicant's place of residence to the respective training location (and return).• Travel subsidies are calculated via the most direct and practical route.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stopovers or additional journeys are not covered.
Air travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full cost of the cheapest economy airfare via the most direct route	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Costs associated with car hire, parking, tolls, taxis, ride shares are not covered.
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to \$140 per night irrespective of location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private accommodation at non-commercial premises

Item	Eligible claim amount	Ineligible claim amount
expenses	(rural or metropolitan) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At a registered commercial premises 	will not be covered (eg. AirBnB).
Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$60 per day For a maximum of five days per year at a registered organisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private childcare at non-commercial premises will not be covered.

Postgraduate study

Applicants can apply for funding to subsidise costs for discipline specific and non-discipline specific (eg. health management, health promotion, public health studies) courses that are related to the applicant's role, community need and departmental priority areas listed below.

Applicants can apply for funding to subsidise the following postgraduate study costs:

Item	Eligible claim amount
Graduate Certificate	\$2,500
Graduate Diploma	\$5,000
Masters	\$7,500
PhD	\$10,000

Funding will be provided in two equal payments; 50% on successful completion of Semester 1, 50% upon successful completion of Semester 2.

Funding is not available for entry-level or undergraduate qualifications.

2018-19 priority areas

The following topics are the 2018-19 departmental priority areas for professional development and postgraduate study:

- Alcohol and other drugs
- Family violence
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Leadership
- Indigenous health (self-determination)
- Mental health
- Management and administration

Applications and administration

Applications must be submitted via the Rural Allied Health Professional Development Program Application Form on the RWAV website www.rwav.com.au.

By submitting an application, you are committing to the terms and conditions of these funding guidelines.

Successful applicants must repay funding in full if they fail to comply with the conditions of these guidelines.

	Professional development	Postgraduate study
Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications can be submitted throughout the 2018-19 financial year Applications submitted must be for activities within the financial year Where the professional development activity falls in the last week of the financial year the applicant may complete the application form in advance but if funding is approved it will not be paid until after the activity has been completed 	

	Professional development	Postgraduate study
Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants will be notified of their applications outcome within two weeks of receipt of application. 	
Supporting information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax Invoices demonstrating expenditure Proof of attendance Itinerary showing flight path and dates, along with paid Tax Invoice must be submitted with the application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A copy of your Curriculum Vitae A letter of reference Certified copies of your birth certificate and/or passport Evidence of your employment Postgraduate course details Proof of enrolment.
Further information		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of results for each semester of study undertaken within two months of semester completion. As well as providing a full transcript of results within two months of course completion. Copies of all paid expense receipts/invoices must be provided in order to receive payment of approved subsidies.
Change of details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful applicants must provide immediate notification (within one month of occurrence) of a change of contact details or employment details or withdrawal from, or changes to their course of studies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful applicants must provide immediate notification (within one month of occurrence) of a change of contact details or employment details or withdrawal from, or changes to their course of studies.

Assessment

Applications are assessed against the:

- eligibility criteria
- 2018-19 priority areas
- contribution to community need

Only complete applications (including all required supporting documentation) will be assessed.

Evaluation

Applicants must complete the evaluation questions in the application form. RWAV may contact applicants for further evaluation data after the admission of a subsidy. By applying for and receiving a subsidy, practitioners consent to participate in evaluation exercises in relation to the program.

Eligibility

Applicants are eligible to apply for both professional development and postgraduate study subsidies within the same financial year. Applicants for post graduate study funding must be commencing study in the 2018-19 financial year and can only apply for one postgraduate qualification per person.

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Allied health practitioners working in:

- public, primary and community health services
- a rural and remote area of Victoria (MMM 2-7)
- permanent or contract roles who intend to commence an eligible postgraduate course in 2018-19
- Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents
- The following allied health professions:

Therapy Disciplines	Science Disciplines
Allied Health Assistant	Audiology
Art Therapy	Biomedical Science
Dietetics and Nutrition	Medical Physics
Exercise Physiology	Medical Laboratory Science
Music Therapy	Nuclear Medicine
Occupational Therapy	Optometry
Oral Health (not dentistry)	Orthoptics
Osteopathy	Pharmacy
Orthotics and Prosthetics	Radiation Therapy
Physiotherapy	Radiography
Podiatry	Sonography
Psychology	Social Work
Speech Pathology	

Applicants are not eligible for funding if funding has been received from other sources, such as the Commonwealth Government's Health Workforce Scholarship Program (HWSP) to support the same professional development or postgraduate study activity.

Contact

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Please be advised that these guidelines are subject to revision by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Changes to these guidelines may only be made by, or with the approval of DHHS.