

# 2024 Allied Health Rural Generalist Program (Level 1) Scholarship

## Guidelines

The Allied Health Rural Generalist Program (Level 1) Scholarship has been established to equip and support new graduate or early career allied health professionals to work effectively in rural and remote settings. This Scholarship provides financial assistance of up to \$12,000 to complete the Level 1 Allied Health Rural Generalist Program through James Cook University

The Allied Health Rural Generalist Program (Level 1) Scholarship is available for new graduate and early career (less than 3 years' experience) NSW Health allied health professionals working in an MM3-MM7 location. The scholarship includes:

- Funds of up to \$12,000 to complete the Allied Health Rural Generalist program (Level 1) online currently offered by James Cook University (JCU). Scholarship funds can be used for course fees, technology, or other costs associated with completing this training program within your Local Health District. Currently the course cost is \$800 per module. There are 12 modules in the Level 1 Rural Generalist Program.
- Local structured supervision and support is to be provided by the Local Health District (LHD).
- Consolidation of knowledge and skill development through participation in a service development project conducted, resourced, and supported within the LHD workplace as part of the course.

It is possible to apply for a partial scholarship if you only intend to enrol in a few modules (payment will be per module).

This course is currently available for the following allied health professions: Occupational Therapy, Nutrition/Dietetics, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Podiatry, Radiography, Speech Pathology, Psychology or Social Work.

### SCHOLARSHIP PRIORITIES

These scholarships are limited and competitive. While all eligible applications will be considered, the following applications will be given priority:

1. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People living in a rural area. The person must be:
  - Of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent, and
  - Identify as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and
  - Be recognised and accepted by the Aboriginal community in which they live or work,
2. Greater priority to the higher Modified Monash Model Scale of Rurality locations: MM3 (low) – MM7 (high) (find Modified Monash Model (MMM) classifications on the Health Workforce Locator),
3. Outcome from application assessment,
4. Small but critical workforces,
5. Demonstrated intention to remain in the rural NSW Health workforce,
6. Intention to complete all 12 modules of the Rural Generalist Program offered by James Cook University.

## WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU?

Please discuss this application with your Line Manager and Allied Health lead e.g., designated profession specific clinical supervisor, Discipline Advisor or Director of Allied Health prior to submitting.

You agree to:

- Self-enrol and complete this training within two years of commencing,
- Participate in any future evaluation of the program,
- Participate in a service development/re-design project,
- Liaise with your manager, profession-specific supervisor, and the scholarship experience team to overcome barriers to progress in a timely manner to enable completion,
- Refund full or partial scholarship funds, (dependent on progress) to the Health Education and Training Institute should you withdraw from your course,
- Provide receipts on request for use of scholarship funds,
- Provide a copy of your award qualification i.e., your certificate or transcript on course completion.

## SERVICE DEVELOPMENT / RE-DESIGN PROJECT

Each participant will have the opportunity to complete a service development project. Projects will be formalised with a project plan and governance processes. Projects should aim to produce tangible improvements to service access, effectiveness, appropriateness, and/or efficiency, through implementing a change to the service model that aligns with the allied health rural generalist service delivery strategies as follows:

- Extended scope of practice including skill-sharing,
- Delegation to support workers e.g., allied health assistants,
- Telehealth-supported service delivery, or
- Partnerships supporting inter-agency and rural-urban service integration that aims to bring care “closer to home” for rural clients.

The participant shall provide a major contribution to the project, enabling learnings from the education program to be applied in the local setting in a timely manner that matches the course requirements. The project will be supported and supervised by the service manager and clinical supervisor.

## WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOUR SUPERVISOR AND MANAGER?

### JCU Supervisor Information

1. The applicant will need a profession specific supervisor that is preferably co-located with the participant, for 50% or more of work hours for a new graduate,
2. The supervisor must provide appropriate profession specific supervision for the applicants within the workplace that meets the participants professional needs. Telehealth support can be used to augment supervision.
3. The manager and supervisor will facilitate work planning to enable the participant to dedicate a minimum of 0.1 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) of the work role (i.e., four hours per week) to training and development activities,
4. The supervisor will provide support for specific learning opportunities linked to selected modules, and for general workplace learning and professional development,
5. The manager and supervisor support will be provided to facilitate completion of the service development project.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Allied Health Rural Generalist Program (Level 1) Scholarship Applicants must:

1. Be within the first three years of rural practice working as one of the following allied health professionals: Occupational Therapist, Nutritionist/Dietitian, Physiotherapist, Pharmacist, Podiatrist, Radiographer, Speech Pathologist, Psychologist or Social Worker,
2. Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident and a resident of NSW. Applicants who reside in a border town may also be considered,
3. Currently reside in a rural or remote area,
4. Be employed by a NSW Health local health district with a MM3 – MM7 classification (employees from the Ministry and Pillar agencies are excluded),
5. Demonstrate evidence of enrolment in the Rural Generalist Program Level 1 course (JCU),
6. Declare receipt of another scholarship greater than \$3000. Please note applicants with concurrent scholarships may not be accepted,
7. Demonstrate a desire to contribute to the future of health in rural and regional NSW.

## WHAT IS CONSIDERED RURAL AND REGIONAL?

The term “rural” refers to areas covered by rural Local Health District:

- Far West
- Western NSW
- Northern NSW
- Mid North Coast
- Murrumbidgee
- Southern NSW
- Hunter New England (excluding: Cessnock, Maitland, Port Stephens, Newcastle, and Lake Macquarie LGA)
- Illawarra Shoalhaven (excluding: Kiama, Wollongong and Shellharbour LGA)
- Nepean Blue Mountains (Lithgow LGA only)
- South Western Sydney (Bowral LGA only)

### NSW Rural Map



## HOW TO APPLY

Complete the [online application form](#).

1. Complete the online application form.
2. Upload a letter of support from your current manager or supervisor (using the template provided).
3. As part of this application, please respond to the following questions and upload your responses in one document:
  - Explain why you are interested in this qualification and what you hope to achieve from completion of the course,
  - Describe how the skills and knowledge you will gain from this study will be applied and benefit your rural community,
  - Describe how this scholarship will assist you to complete your studies,
  - As part of this program, you will have the opportunity to complete a service development project. Please describe a service development change that you would like to explore as part of this training.

**Applications must be received by Health Education and Training Institute by midnight, Friday 16 February 2024**

**No applications will be accepted after this time.**

## SCHOLARSHIP TIMEFRAMES

EVENT	DATE
<b>Allied Health Rural Generalist Program (Level 1) Scholarship – Round 2</b>	
Allied Health Rural Generalist Program (Level 1) Scholarship - Round 2 opens	11 December 2023
Scholarship closes	16 February 2024
Applications reviewed	February 2024
Notification to applicants	8 March 2024
Acceptance of scholarship by applicant	Within 7 days
Payment	By 22 March 2024

## INCOME TAX ADVICE AND FRINGE BENEFITS (FBT) ADVICE

No withholding tax will be deducted. Please seek independent tax advice on implications. An FBT issue may arise with employees of the NSW public health system who receive funding from the NSW Ministry of Health. Please seek independent advice regarding your personal circumstances where necessary.

## WHO DECIDES?

A Selection Panel will determine the 2024 Allied Health Rural Generalist Program (Level 1) Scholarship - Round 2 recipients. The Selection Panel's decision is final and there is no appeal mechanism.

## WHEN WILL I KNOW?

All applicants will receive a confirmation email about the outcome of their applications from the Health Education and Training Institute by 8 March 2.

Payment will be made by Electronic Funds Transfer into the recipients selected account by the end of the financial year.

## CONTACT

For inquiries or assistance with applications please contact [MOH-RuralScholarships@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-RuralScholarships@health.nsw.gov.au)