

Rural Research Capacity Building Program (RRCBP)

Frequently Asked Questions - Applicants

The Rural Research Capacity Building Program (RRCBP) is funded and operated by the NSW Health Education and Training Institute (HETI). The RRCBP offers the opportunity for 'research-ready' rural health service staff to gain applied research skills.

Q. Who can apply for the RRCBP?

Individuals who live in rural New South Wales and are permanent employees of the Northern NSW, Mid North Coast, Far West, Western, Hunter New England (Maitland and north/west), Murrumbidgee, Southern NSW Illawarra Shoalhaven (Nowra and south/west) Local Health Districts (LHD) are invited to submit research questions/topics for consideration. Rurally based staff working for NSW Ambulance, Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network and NSW Health Pillars are also eligible. Please contact us if you are unsure of your eligibility.

Existing researchers or individuals undertaking or who have previously undertaken doctoral level studies or masters of research are not eligible to apply. If you are unsure of your eligibility, please contact HETI to discuss this prior to submitting your application.

Pairs or small teams are welcome to apply, providing eligibility criteria are met.

Q. What type of health professionals can apply?

The RRCBP is a NSW Health-wide initiative and is open to community health care workers, allied health staff, nurses, doctors, educators, managers, public health officers and staff involved in support services. A strength of the program is the interdisciplinary nature of the candidates who participate.

Q. How long is the program?

The program runs for two years starting in January 2025. Candidates will finish in late 2026.

Q. What training is involved?

All candidates undertake web conferenced research education and training and four two-day face-to-face or virtual workshops, three in 2025 and one in 2026. Weekly web conferences (one hour, recorded) and quarterly half-day web conferences are scheduled between workshops and additional training opportunities will be available to candidates.

Q. What skills do candidates gain?

Through their education, training and practice candidates learn how to read and review research, develop research projects, collect and analyse research data and prepare research reports and presentations.

Q. What support is given to candidates?

Candidates are funded to complete their project. This funding is disseminated via the LHD and can contribute to the 60 days (30 days per full financial year) that candidates are expected to dedicate to their research project.

Candidates receive supervision, mentoring and biostatistical support if required. The weekly web conferences are based around a range of research topics, but also provide opportunity to support candidates in their research studies and as researchers. Additional leave from regular duties may be negotiated as learning and development leave by candidates in consultation within their LHD.

Q. What are the outcomes of the program?

Every candidate prepares a portfolio of evidence against the program's units of competency, including a research report of around 25 pages or a manuscript for submission to a journal. Candidates also present their

research at a state, national or international conference. Our graduates report a range of enhanced skills that benefit both their workplaces and their careers.

Q. Do I receive a qualification from this program?

There is no specific academic qualification associated with this program, however some universities offer advanced standing for postgraduate qualifications for completed RRCBP work. More than 60 RRCBP candidates have subsequently enrolled in further study, including research Masters or PhD.

Q. How do I apply?

Complete the application form found on the RRCBP home page on the HETI website:

<https://www.heti.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/courses-and-programs/rural-research-capacity-building-program>

Q. When are applications due?

Applications are due by 5pm, 1 November 2024. Applicants are advised of the final outcome of the application process by 19 November 2024. See application form for your LHD contacts.

Q. Where do I get more information?

There will be a teleconference for potential candidates in September and October 2024. See application form for more details.

You are welcome to contact the RRCBP Program Managers:

Kerith Duncanson - 0428 848 264 or email: kerith.duncanson@health.nsw.gov.au

David Schmidt - 0447 915 863 or email: david.schmidt@health.nsw.gov.au

RURAL RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM APPLICATION FLOWCHART

