

# RURAL RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Rural Research Capacity Building Program (RRCBP) is funded and operated by the NSW Health Education and Training Institute - Rural and Remote Portfolio. It is an excellent opportunity for rural clinical staff to gain skills in research.

### 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 (except Newcastle area), Murrumbidgee, Southern NSW Local Health Districts plus Nowra and areas south of Nowra in Illawarra Shoalhaven 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.

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

### Q. Is it only for one type of health professional?

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 24 months starting in May 2019. Candidates will finish in May 2021.

### Q. What training is involved?

All candidates undertake a three day course in research methods in May 2019. A second workshop will be conducted over two days in June 2019, with two-day research courses scheduled for candidates in August 2019 and August 2020. Two one-day videoconferences will be scheduled between the August workshops and additional training opportunities will be available to candidates.

### Q. What skills do candidates gain?

Through their study and practice candidates learn how to read and review research, prepare 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 via the LHD for the equivalent of 60 days (30

days per full financial year) of support to assist them in undertaking training and research work. Candidates receive supervision, mentoring and biostatistical support if required. HETI has weekly teleconferences on a range of research topics to help support candidates. 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 research report of around 25 pages. Candidates also prepare a refereed journal article and present their research at a state, national or international conference.

### Q. Do I receive any award from this program?

There is no specific academic award associated with this program, however a number of Universities offer advanced standing for postgraduate qualifications for completed RRCBP work. A significant number of RRCBP candidates (24 as of November 2018) have gone onto 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: <http://www.heti.nsw.gov.au/rural-and-remote/research-capacity-building/>.

### Q. When are applications due?

Applications are due by the close of business, **1 April 2019**. Applicants are advised of the final outcome of the application process by **19 April 2019**. See application form for LHD and Service contact.

### Q. Where do I get more information?

There will be a teleconference for potential candidates in late March 2019. See application form for more details.

You are welcome to contact the RRCBP Program Officers:

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## APPLICATION FLOWCHART

