

Guidelines 2025 - 2028

Health Workforce Scholarship Program.

o**pp**ortunity.
su**pp**orted.
ha**pp**y.

thepeopleproject.com.au



General Information

The Health Workforce Scholarship Program (HWSP) is an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Health.

The objective of the HWSP is to improve access to the services needed in rural and remote areas (i.e. locations categorised as Modified Monash Model (MMM) 3-7) in response to identified needs by supporting an increase in skills, capacity and/or scope of the rural health workforce.



HWSP funding will improve access to services in rural and remote communities in response to identified local needs. The People Project conducts an annual Health Workforce Needs Assessment (HWNA) and uses the information from the HWNA to inform the priorities and allocation of scholarships and bursaries within rural communities in Tasmania.

Under the HWSP, health professionals in the fields of medicine, nursing and allied health who provide services in rural and remote locations (MMM 3-7) in Tasmania are eligible to apply for funding to pursue further education or attend training courses.

The People Project administers the HWSP in Tasmania.

For further information on the program at a national level please visit the national website: www.hwsp.com.au.

“

A fantastic exam preparation course. Couldn't have sat the exam without the support!

”

Funding Available

The HWSP offers two types of funding:

Scholarship: a payment toward the cost of completing a postgraduate course leading to a postgraduate qualification.

Bursary: a payment for completing a short course, workshop or to attend a conference. This funding may include reimbursement for the cost of both the course and travel related expenses.

Health professionals can make more than one application, up to \$10,000 in a 12-month period; however, subsequent applications might not be granted even if the \$10,000.00 has not been reached, depending on the availability of funds.

Priority will be given to new applicants and those in more remote areas.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available for health professionals who are planning to undertake further study in the fields of medicine, nursing or allied health, and must be related to their primary degree.

Scholarships of up to \$10,000 per year can be provided for up to two years to undertake full or part time study (maximum of \$20,000 in total over two years) to attain the qualification of either a postgraduate Certificate, Diploma, Master or PhD.

Scholarships must be directly related to training and upskilling health professionals who are, or will be (with evidence), providing services to MMM 3-7 areas in Tasmania. Scholarship values will be determined against the perceived workforce benefit of the training.

Courses must be offered by a tertiary institution based in Australia.

Bursaries

Bursaries are payments that cover the cost of short training courses or conferences and might cover (partially or totally) training-related expenses such as accommodation and transport where appropriate. Reimbursement will be provided for major accommodation and travel expenses, and it is expected that incidental expenses (local transport and meals) will be covered by the participant.

Training funded by a bursary must be clinical in nature and aimed at increasing the scope of practice of the applicant.

Funding is available to undertake courses offered by training organisations based in Australia (online only courses based in other Countries can be considered); courses and activities do not need to be accredited but will be assessed by The People Project for relevance, value for money and the likelihood to meet the identified learning need.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a scholarship or bursary under the HWSP the applicant must be:

- a) A health professional who has obtained professional qualification and is registered with the relevant professional body to practise in one of the following fields:
- Aboriginal Health Work
 - Audiology
 - Chiropractic
 - Dentistry
 - Diabetes Education
 - Dietetics / Nutrition
 - Exercise Physiology
 - Medicine
 - Nursing
 - Optometry
 - Osteopathy
 - Pharmacy
 - Physiotherapy
 - Podiatry
 - Psychology
 - Medical imaging
 - Social Work
 - Speech Pathology
 - Occupational Therapy

Other allied health professions may be considered if there is a single and unique professional body that regulates the profession nationwide.

- b) Providing services (full time or part time) in the private or non-profit sector within Tasmania.
- c) Currently providing, (or able to demonstrate that you are about to provide) health services in rural Tasmania (MMM 3-7 locations). To determine your MMM location please use the following link:
www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/health-workforce-locator.
- d) Intending to continue working in a MMM 3-7 location in Tasmania after completing your course (as you may be required to complete a return of service obligation of 12 months after your course is completed).

If your employment location is based in a MMM 2 location but some of your work is delivered in an outreach capacity to MMM 3-7 locations, you may be eligible.

Please **contact us** to discuss.

If you work for an Aboriginal Health Service, you are eligible regardless of the MMM where you are located.

GP registrars working for the THS in the Single Employer Model are welcome to apply if they are training in a MMM 3-7 area.

Not eligible participants:

- Health professionals solely employed by the State or Federal Government are not eligible for the HWSP

HWSP funds cannot be used for:

- Training unrelated to the applicant's primary degree
- Management, personal self-improvement and marketing courses
- Retrospective costs (courses that have finished before the application was lodged)
- AHPRA or other professional registration fees
- Clinical supervision of fully registered professionals (supervision expenses for professionals with provisional registration is allowed if it is part of their training program)
- Fellowship examination fees
- Undergraduate degree programs
- IT equipment or software
- Clinical diagnostic or therapeutic equipment
- Travel, accommodation or courses outside Australia
- Study funded by other sources, including those which other Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local Government bodies have primary responsibility

Application and Selection

Applications are open from 1st of July 2025 and will be open for as long as funding is available; as the amount of funding is limited, priority will be given to:

- First time applicants
- Participants working full time in remote areas

The status of the program can be consulted at any time in the scholarships section of The People Project's website:

www.thepeopleproject.com.au/scholarships

To register for the program please complete a registration form at:

www.thepeopleproject.com.au/hwsp-registration-application-form

You only need to register once.

You will receive a confirmation email and an invite to the online portal; all the management of the scholarship program is completed through the portal including applications, expense claims and evaluation forms.

The portal can be accessed here:

portal.thepeopleproject.com.au/portal/scholarship/crm/login.sas

“

Very grateful for the financial support which took some of the pressure off the huge investment in becoming a psychologist.

”

Application assessment and approval

All scholarship agreements must be entered into prior to 30 June 2029. funding may be provided for courses that extend beyond 30 June 2029, but the study period must conclude by 30 June 2031.

Applications is a competitive process based on the priorities identified within Tasmania by The People Project's Health Workforce Needs Assessment and the relevance of the proposed studies as a benefit of the rural communities.

All applicants will be informed via email of the outcome of their application; successful applicants will receive via email an approval letter and a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the conditions of the grant. The Memorandum of Understanding must be signed by the successful applicant and their employer (if applicable) and returned to the HWSP Program Manager within 30 days for the scholarship/bursary to be confirmed. If the Memorandum of Understanding is not returned within the required timeframe the application will be considered withdrawn, and the funding will be reallocated to other participants.

The Memorandum of Understanding will indicate the maximum amount authorised for payment and the required return of service obligation.

All claims are processed on a refund basis upon presentation of paid receipts/invoices; if you will be unable to pay upfront for your studies please contact us for alternative arrangements.

All claims must be lodged within a month after the end date of the course as stated in the application form, any unclaimed funds will be reallocated to new participants.

All participants are required to complete an evaluation form in the online portal and upload a certificate once they finish their nominated course.

Return of service obligation

A Return of Service Obligation (RoSO) applies for scholarships or bursaries granted for a value greater than \$5,000.00. The standard Return of Service Obligation is to continue providing services to agreed MMM 3-7 communities in Tasmania for a period of 12 months from completion of their nominated activity. The participant can change employment or location freely during the return of service, but the location must always be in a MMM 3-7 area.

Recipients who are unable to meet their RoSO due to exceptional circumstances can request to negotiate alternatives with The People Project's HWSP Program Manager. (Exceptional circumstances are any events beyond the control of the successful applicant, which were not reasonably foreseeable by them at the time they entered the contract, and which prevent them from meeting their RoSO).

Ongoing management and communication

By completing the registration form, the applicants agree for their details to be kept electronically and to be contacted on a regular basis by The People Project for the purposes of administration of the program. Activity, expenditure, and RoSO will be recorded against individual files, and can be accessed by the recipients through the online portal at any time.

Debt recovery

If a participant is in breach of their Memorandum of Understanding, by means of not participating in or completing the educational activity or not meeting the agreed return of service obligation, The People Project will explore alternatives to allow the recipient to meet their MoU but reserves the final right to pursue recovery of the funds if a mutual agreement cannot be reached.

Complaints and appeals

Unsuccessful applicants who wish to appeal the outcome of their application should initially discuss their situation with The People Project's HWSP Program Manager to determine if they may be eligible for a future round of grants or if there are other avenues to access funding and/or support to meet their upskilling or professional development needs.

If the matter is not resolved the applicant can appeal to The People Project's CEO to consider their case. The People Project's CEO decision will be final, and no further recourse will be considered.

Contact Details

For further information on the HWSP within Tasmania, please contact us:

- p. 03 6332 8600**
- e. scholarships@thepeopleproject.com.au**
- w. thepeopleproject.com.au/scholarships**