

Program Specific Guidelines

Rural Pharmacy Student Placement Allowance



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Introduction

This document outlines the Program Specific Guidelines governing the provision of the Rural Pharmacy Student Placement Allowance (a component of the Rural Pharmacy Workforce Program). They are to be read in conjunction with the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement General Terms and Conditions.

Funding is provided under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) for both the Rural Pharmacy Student Placement Allowance (Placement Allowance) and the Administrative Support to Pharmacy Schools Scheme (Administrative Support Scheme).

Background

The Rural Pharmacy Student Placement Allowance is an initiative of the Rural Pharmacy Workforce Program (RPWP), established in recognition of the key role pharmacists play in maintaining the health of all Australians, particularly in rural and remote Australia.

The Placement Allowance provides financial support to encourage and enable Australian Universities offering pharmacy courses that lead directly to registration as a pharmacist to deliver student placements in rural communities.

Each Placement Allowance has a maximum value of \$3000 plus GST per student per eligible placement and will be paid via the University. Funds may only be used to assist with travel and accommodation costs for students traveling to eligible rural areas to undertake a placement.

Participation Requirements

Eligibility of applicants

Students must:

- be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident;
- be enrolled as a full time student in an undergraduate pharmacy degree or as part of a graduate entry course (a course that leads directly to registration as a pharmacist) at any Australian University;

- apply for the Placement Allowance through their University;
- provide a brief report detailing the activities undertaken while on placement once the placement is complete; and
- agree to participate in longitudinal studies on the recruitment of rural pharmacists to rural practice

Recipients are encouraged to seek employment in rural areas following graduation.

Universities must:

- provide application forms and these Guidelines to students;
- allocate Placement Allowances in accordance with these Guidelines;
- publicise and promote the Placement Allowance where appropriate;
- acknowledge assistance provided by the Placement Allowance in any public statements in relation to the performance of an Placement Allowance holder;
- provide biannual reports to the Guild in relation to the distribution of the Placement Allowance and activities undertaken by Placement Allowance holders; and,
- provide de-identified copies of student reports to the Guild.

Eligible rural locations

For the purpose of the Placement Allowance, 'rural and remote' will be determined by the Pharmacy Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia (PhARIA).

Placements funded under this program must take place in PhARIA 2 – 6 locations.

Applicants may apply for funding to undertake one placement to their 'home' town (that is their address used on admission to the course) during their degree, provided that their 'home' town is located in a PhARIA 2-6 area.

Placements in the student's own University town are not eligible for funding.



PhARIAs for a particular location can be found by visiting the following website:

<http://gisca.adelaide.edu.au/projects/pharia.html>

In the event of a dispute, the Guild reserves the right to determine whether a location is deemed eligible based on the categories above.

Funding Allocation

Funding will be allocated to each participating University at the beginning of each calendar year. The funding will be calculated based on the total number of student placement hours (placement hours undertaken in rural areas only) from each University from the previous calendar year.

Each University will be required to submit to the Guild a report providing the total number of student placement hours during the previous calendar year and this will be used to determine the allocations for the next calendar year.

Application Process

Placement Allowances are awarded by the student's University on the basis of individual student application. Application forms are available from the applicant's University and are assessed by the University. Payment of a Placement Allowance is conditional upon the applicant satisfying the administrative requirements of the University.

Students may apply for more than one Placement Allowance in a given academic year. Forfeited Placement Allowances are not transferrable to another student.

Holders of Rural Pharmacy Scholarships under the RPWP and holders of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarships are eligible to apply for a Placement Allowance.

Any disputes arising from the Placement Allowance scheme will be dealt with through the Guild in conjunction with the appeals procedures of the University concerned.

Reporting Requirements

University reporting requirements

To assist with the monitoring of the Placement Allowance, each University is required to submit the following reports to the Guild on a biannual basis. Copies will be provided to the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). These include:

1. a completed Report outlining the placement location, type of placement, duration of placement, the actual cost of placement, the allocation made to the student, and other statistical data;
2. a Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Placement Allowance;
3. de-identified copies of each students' placement activity report.

Important Information

These Guidelines are administrative and reflect the intention of the Guild and the Australian Government as to how the Placement Allowance is to be administered.

The decision to grant an allowance is entirely discretionary, and these Guidelines do not confer any entitlement to a person to receive an allowance. Neither the Guild nor the Australian Government will accept liability for any loss or damage incurred by a person in expectation of the grant of an allowance.

Payments to applicants approved to receive an allowance will be made according to the provisions set out in these Guidelines.

Allowances are limited on the basis of available funds. Lodging an application form does not guarantee receipt of an allowance. Consequently, applicants satisfying the eligibility criteria will not necessarily receive payment of an allowance.

The Guild may provide the Department of Health and Ageing with information about the assessment and allocation of Placement allowances, the allocation of funds for this Allowance and on any legal issues that may arise in relation to a particular application.

Please note that the Program Specific Guidelines that govern all of the Rural Pharmacy Programs undergo a continuous quality improvement process, which may result in revisions to the guidelines from time to time. All revisions will be undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Health and Ageing and may involve a consultation process.



Resources and Information

This Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Contact

For general Placement Allowance information please access:

- www.ruralpharmacy.com.au
- Or contact the Rural and Indigenous Pharmacy Workforce team on
 - **02 6270 1888**
 - ruralpharmacy@guild.org.au



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



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