

Medical Practitioners Scholarship Fund

Information for applicants

Background

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has launched an initiative to improve access to specialist palliative care medical services in rural (i.e. non-metropolitan) Victoria. The initiative aims to achieve its objectives by:

- Purchasing additional specialist palliative care medical practitioner services in rural areas, and
- Financially supporting medical practitioners in rural areas to improve their skills and confidence in palliative medicine through attendance at university based postgraduate education.

The medical practitioners scholarship fund has been established to support medical practitioners' upskilling in palliative care. Palliative Care Victoria (PCV) will administer the scholarship fund.

Aim

The scholarship fund will assist medical practitioners to improve their skills in palliative care in order to improve the quality and competence of palliative medicine for Victorians in rural areas.

Who is eligible?

Medical practitioners who provide care to people in rural Victoria are eligible to apply for the scholarship fund.

The General Practice Division Victoria identifies 15 rural general practice divisions (attachment 1). Applicants must be a member of one of these divisions.

Medical practitioners need to apply to the local rural palliative care consortia for endorsement of their application.

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Applicants will be prioritised according to the following criteria:

- medical practitioners undertaking domiciliary/home visits for palliative care clients (i.e. face-to-face consultations)
- medical practitioners offering dedicated palliative care clinics

- medical practitioners who are members of palliative care specialist interest groups
- Other medical practitioners.

Medical practitioners must provide details of any other financial support being used to fund postgraduate education (e.g. scholarships, study leave). Applicants accessing other palliative care financial scholarships offered by DHS will be ineligible for consortia endorsement.

Due to the size of the scholarship fund it is unlikely that every application will be supported.

Postgraduate palliative care education programs

Postgraduate palliative care education programs suitable for medical practitioners include, but are not limited to:

- Clinical Diploma in Palliative Medicine Program, The Royal Australasian College of Physicians
- Postgraduate Diploma in Palliative Medicine, The University of Melbourne (*not offered in 2007*)
- Flinders University postgraduate courses
- Extended Skills Program for General Practitioners, DHS

Fund expenditure

Applicants must provide details, for each semester of study, of the intended use of requested funds. Applications should contain details of each of the following, plus any additional expenses:

- Postgraduate palliative care education fees
- Travel and accommodation expenses incurred while undertaking postgraduate palliative care education
 - recommended travel rate: 0.61c/km
 - recommended accommodation rate: \$100 per night
- Backfill costs while undertaking postgraduate palliative care education
 - recommended rate: \$80-\$120 per hour.

Supporting information should be provided for each item.

Application requirements

Applications must adhere to the following requirements:

- Applicants must use the attached application proforma and complete it in full
- Applications must be submitted to the rural palliative care consortium
- The rural palliative care consortium will consider applications and endorse those which best match the criteria
- If endorsed, the rural palliative care consortium will forward the application to PCV for processing.

Scholarship Fund release

Funds will be distributed to applicants at the end of each semester after the applicant provides PCV with evidence of successfully meeting the education program requirements for the previous semester. PCV will distribute funds via cheque made payable to the applicant.

If an applicant fails to meet the requirements of the postgraduate education program (e.g. fails a subject or discontinues the education program), no funds will be made available to the applicant for the previous semester.

PCV will contact each successful applicant at the end of each semester to request any required information.

Applicant responsibilities

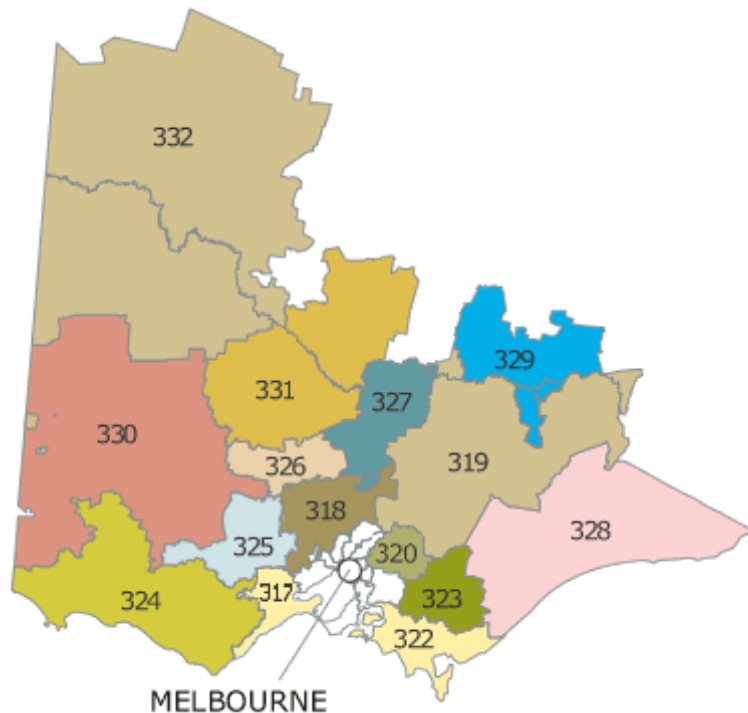
The applicant is responsible for:

- completing the application
- adhering to the scholarship fund guidelines
- providing PCV with evidence of successfully meeting the education program requirements each semester
- updating PCV and the consortium promptly regarding changes in study (e.g. discontinuing the education program etc.)

Attachment 1

Rural Divisions

- [Ballarat & District Division of General Practice - 325](#)
- [Bendigo & District Division of General Practice - 326](#)
- [Border Division of General Practice - 329](#)
- [Central Highlands Division of General Practice - 318](#)
- [Central-West Gippsland Division of General Practice - 323](#)
- [East Gippsland Division of General Practice - 328](#)
- [Eastern Ranges GP Association - 320](#)
- [GP Association of Geelong - 317](#)
- [The Goulburn Valley Division of General Practice Ltd - 327](#)
- [Mallee Division of General Practice - 332](#)
- [Murray Plains Division of General Practice - 331](#)
- [North East Victoria Division of General Practice - 319](#)
- [Otway Division of General Practice - 324](#)
- [South Gippsland Division of General Practice - 322](#)
- [West Victoria Division of General Practice - 330](#)



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