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| Making it free to study Nursing and Midwifery Information brief – Support for additional midwifery positions September 2022  **OFFICIAL** |

## Background

Victoria’s healthcare workforce faces long-standing pressures that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Amid increased demand for care, ongoing action is needed to address issues regarding the supply and distribution of the healthcare workforce. The Victorian Government is implementing a range of initiatives to support Victoria’s healthcare workforce, including free university and specialist training for thousands of nurses and midwives.

This initiative aims to boost the health system, with more than 17,000 nurses and midwives recruited and trained as part of a massive hiring and upskilling initiative – building an army of home-grown health workers to care for Victorians.

**Funding for this component of the *Making it free to study Nursing and Midwifery* initiative will be available in 2023-24 onwards. The Postgraduate Midwifery Incentive Program supported through the Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Development Fund will be conducted in 2022-23.**

## Funding purpose

The program aims to maintain and grow the midwifery workforce through increasing the number of registered nurses undertaking postgraduate studies in midwifery through a postgraduate midwifery employment model.

A postgraduate midwifery employment model provides registered nurses with an opportunity to undertake postgraduate studies in midwifery and meet clinical experience/supervision requirements while being employed by a health service. This provides income support and access to supervised practice while receiving an income.

## Funding principles

The *Making it free to study Nursing and Midwifery* Postgraduate Midwifery Incentive Program is an extension of the program currently funded through the Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Development Fund.

The initiative will support 50 postgraduate midwifery incentive program places per annum for three years (from 2023-24) at $60,000 per place (total of 150 places).

Public health services that grow the number of nurses enrolled in a Postgraduate Midwifery Employment Model beyond their baseline activity, are eligible to receive funding through the program. This is in addition to funding from the Postgraduate Nursing and Midwifery Education Training and Development program.

Health services may use this funding to support employment of the registered nurse and to fund clinical supervision and other training costs associated with the program.

## Application process and eligibility criteria

This funding will be provided to public health services. The department will provide more detailed information about the application process and eligibility criteria directly to health services in 2023.