

Goulburn Valley Medical Workforce Fund

# Guidelines for Applicants

## 1 Introduction

Goulburn Valley Medical Workforce Fund, a sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation whose trustee is Australian Communities Foundation Ltd, was established in 2016.

## 2 Fund Purpose and Initial Priorities

### 2.1 Purpose

The purpose is to improve the health of the **Goulburn Valley** community through primary care workforce capacity and development. The Goulburn Valley Medical Workforce Fund (the “Fund”) will achieve this purpose principally by providing:

1. **Scholarships** for secondary school graduates (regardless of when secondary school was completed), and
2. **Educational grants** for individual general practitioners, other primary care service providers, and general practice staff
3. **Grants** to organisations delivering recognised courses to general practitioners.

### 2.2 Initial priorities

The following matters must be prioritised for funding unless there are extenuating or changed circumstances for funding other matters.

- Degrees that lead to registered clinical primary care professions:
  - o Medical degrees (but not pre-requisite bachelors such as biosciences in the University of Melbourne model)
  - o Allied Health degrees directly applicable to prevention and management of chronic diseases and mental health (dietetics, exercise physiology, physiotherapy, podiatry, occupational therapy, psychology, etc.)
  - o Bachelor of Nursing
- Continuing professional development that enhance access to chronic disease and mental health prevention and treatment in community settings. This includes training for social workers to become mental health social workers.

- Training courses that improve access to mental health care in primary care in the Goulburn Valley

The priorities may be refined and updated by the Fund's trustee from time to time, particularly to account for changed circumstances.

Preference may be given to scholarships which benefit First Nations, female and financially disadvantaged residents. This is at the discretion of the Advisory Committee.

## 3 Grants and scholarships

### 3.1 Scholarships

Are available for secondary school graduates (recent or in the past) in the Goulburn Valley interested in pursuing a career in medicine, allied health, or nursing. Applicants must be enrolled in an eligible degree commencing study within 12 months following their application **OR** have recently commenced study in an eligible degree (within 12 months of applying).

Eligible degrees are undergraduate or postgraduate degrees that require student registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, via the National Board in compliance with National Law as amended from time to time. Go to <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Student-Registrations.aspx#approved> for more details. Exercise physiology, dietetics, and social work tertiary degrees are eligible despite not being AHPRA registered.

**NOTE:** Priority will be given to applicants commencing study. Proof of enrolment will be required to confirm scholarship offer and payment.

- a) **Medicine:** Scholarships of up to \$10,000 over 2 years and limited to \$5,000 per year;
- b) **Allied Health:** Scholarships of up to \$10,000 over 2 years and limited to \$5,000 per year;
- c) **Nursing:** Scholarships of up to \$10,000 over 2 years and limited to \$5,000 per year.

### 3.2 Educational Grants (individuals)

Are available for Goulburn Valley residents who currently work in primary health care, including general practices, and community-based allied health service providers. This includes clinical and non-clinical primary healthcare workers. It excludes hospital-based staff. The purpose of these grants is to develop primary care workers' skills. Examples include (but are not limited to) registered nurses who wish to become a nurse practitioner, GPs who want to become methadone prescribers, receptionists who want to undertake a course preparing them for practice management positions, and social workers wanting to become registered mental health social workers. Grants are up to \$2,000.

### 3.3 Educational Grants (Organisation)

Are available to organisations who specialise in GP education and who wish to deliver an training course to GPs in the Goulburn Valley. The purpose of the courses needs to be GP skills enhancement, related to either procedural practice, mental health, or chronic disease. A maximum of \$25,000 are available per annum. Organisations can apply for up to \$25,000.

## 4 Eligibility

### 4.1 Individuals

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship, individuals **must**:

- be an Australian citizen or have permanent residency at the time of application

**AND**

- live in the Goulburn Valley comprising the local government areas of Greater Shepparton, Moira, Strathbogie, Mitchell and Murrindindi.

To be eligible to apply for an educational grant, individuals **must**:

- be an Australian citizen or have permanent residency at the time of application

**AND**

- live in the Goulburn Valley comprising the local government areas of Greater Shepparton, Moira, Strathbogie, Mitchell and Murrindindi.

**AND**

- work in a primary care service in the Goulburn Valley

It is expected that successful applicants will pursue their career in the Goulburn Valley on completion of training. The Fund's trustee may implement grant conditions which require part of the scholarship to be repaid if applicants do not do so.

### 4.2 Organisations

To be eligible to apply for a grant for the delivery of GP education / training, organisations should be incorporated not-for-profit entities and **must**:

- Specialise or have significant experience in delivering GP education

**AND**

- Deliver the course to GPs in the Goulburn Valley, tailored to our communities' and GPs' needs

**AND**

- Provide evidence that Goulburn Valley-based GPs support the course and its aims

## 5 Assessment Criteria

Assessment will be merit based and consider a combination of the following factors:

- academic achievement (individual applicants only)
- track record (organisational applicants in particular)
- geographical location within in the Goulburn Valley
- quality of application
- evidence provided to support application, and
- evidence that the proposed course matches the needs of the community.

Applicants applying for scholarships will need to provide evidence of acceptance in the relevant course. If this cannot be provided at the time that the application is submitted, in-principle grants can be approved but will not be paid until evidence is provided.

Funding for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of a 2-year grant will not occur until the Trustee has evidence of satisfactory completion of the first year of study and acceptance into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. This means, for example in respect of a 2-year Scholarship, the maximum funding available in each year is 50% of the allocated Scholarship amount.

## 6 Application Process

Applicants are to submit their applications, including all required evidence, electronically using the application forms located on the website. Successful applicants must respond to the letter of offer within 21 days or the offer will lapse

## 7 Application Dates

Open all year round until \$100,000 have been dispersed. Assessments will be undertaken at least once per quarter. Applications can be made using our online form on our website: [www.gizabreak.org.au/scholarships](http://www.gizabreak.org.au/scholarships)

## 8 Contact

If you need to make contact about the grants:

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