2020 Aboriginal Health Practitioner Scholarship Scheme – Applicant Guidelines

**February 2020**

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# Department of Health Aboriginal Health Practitioner Scholarship Scheme

Department of Health (DoH) is committed to building the Aboriginal Health Practitioner (AHP) profession across the Northern Territory. The Aboriginal Health Practitioner Scholarship Scheme contributes to this objective and provides financial support to Aboriginal students studying Certificate IV Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice) (HLT40213).

Throughout this document, the term Aboriginal should be taken to include Torres Strait Islander people.

## Who can apply?

Full time students currently studying or about to commence Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice) which leads to the student, upon graduation, being\*eligible to register with the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia as an Aboriginal And/or Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner

Students must be:

* a resident of the Northern Territory and for the duration of their scholarship; and
* be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

\*To be eligible to apply for registration with the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia; individual’s will need to provide their qualification transcript; Birth Certificate, Certificate of Aboriginality, Criminal History Check anda Working with Children Clearance. To find out more information regarding registration please visit the following website <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/>

## How to apply

1. Fill in the 2020 Aboriginal Health Practitioner Scholarship Application Form and attach a Resume.
2. Email your completed Application Form and Resume to [AWD.DoH@nt.gov.au](mailto:AWD.DoH@nt.gov.au) by 4pm Monday 9 March 2020.

## How is an application assessed?

All applications will be assessed by a panel. Priority will be given to applicants who are studying fulltime and are on Abstudy.

## How will the Scholarship be paid?

The Scholarship provides successful student with $10,000 over two years whilst studying the Certificate IV Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice).

Payment of scholarship monies will be subject to the student remaining enrolled and maintaining satisfactory study progress.

The scholarship will be paid in instalments:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| First payment | Start of semester 1, 2020 | $500 |
| Second payment | End of semester 1, 2020 | $2000 |
| Third payment | Start of semester 2, 2020 | $500 |
| Fourth payment | End of semester 2, 2020 | $2000 |
| Fifth payment | Start of semester 1, 2021 | $500 |
| Sixth payment | End of semester 1, 2021 | $2000 |
| Seventh payment | Start of semester 2, 2021 | $500 |
| Eighth payment | On completion of the qualification and  receipt of evidence of AHPRA registration | $2000 |

# Scholarship Terms and Conditions

## If successful you will need to:

**Sign** a deed of agreement confirming you will continue to meet the scholarship criteria and terms. This is a legally binding agreement. Students who do not fulfil these obligations may be required to repay the Scholarship funding.

**Supply** proof of Certificate IV Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice) acceptance and enrolment.

**Maintain** a pass grade throughout your studies. Aboriginal Workforce Development will request that you give permission to contact the training provider on your behalf to request attendance and progress reports each semester.

**Provide** a copy of your official academic results at the end of each semester as well as proof of enrolment for the next semester (where applicable) to the Aboriginal Workforce Development, Department of Health.

**Ensure** the scholarship funds are used for expenses directly related to supporting study. Recipients may be asked to provide evidence of study expenses and are advised to retain copies of all receipts.

**It is recommended scholarship applicants seek independent financial advice before accepting a scholarship offer from the Department of Health.**

# Frequently Asked Questions

Q. *Can I apply for the scholarship if I have applied before?*

A. Yes.

Q*. If I’m already working in an Aboriginal health organisation or non-government health, do I have to work for the Department of Health when I complete my qualification?*

A. No, you are not obliged to work for the NT Government.

Q. *How many scholarships are available?*

A. There will be four scholarships available.

Q. *Will the scholarship affect payments to my benefits (e.g. Centrelink payments of concession cards)?*

A. It is recommended applicants speak to a Centrelink consultant to check if the scholarship will affect current benefits.

Q. *When are scholarship payments made?*

A. Refer to payment schedule.

Q. *If I accept a scholarship will I have to pay tax on the money I receive?*

A. It is recommended scholarship applicants seek independent financial advice before accepting the scholarship offer.

Q*. Will the money I receive affect my salary sacrifice benefits?*

A. It is recommended applicants seek independent financial advice before accepting the scholarship offer. Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) liability may be incurred in some circumstances; it is the employees’ responsibility to adjust any salary sacrifice arrangements so that they do not exceed their FBT cap.

Q. *How will the scholarship money/funding be paid to successful scholarship applicants?*

A. Successful applicants will need to complete a Vendor Payment Authorisation Form to enable payment directly into the scholarship recipient’s bank account.

Q. *Are people already receiving a grant or scholarship eligible to apply?*

A. Yes – as long as it is not from another NT Health, Commonwealth, or State government source, and the funding source must be declared on your application form.

Q. *Are people living interstate eligible to apply for the scholarship?*

A. No – Scholarship holders must reside in the Northern Territory for the duration of the scholarship.

Q. *Can I defer my studies after accepting a scholarship?*

A. Scholarships are for students currently studying. If you defer your studies, your scholarship will cease.

Q. *Can I extend the scholarship if I do not finish the qualification within the two years?*

A. No – scholarship funding is only for two years.

Q. *Will my scholarship be paid if I need to continue a unit into the next semester?*

A. Yes – providing that the training provider indicates that you are on schedule to complete the course in agreed time.

Q. *If I don’t attend my residential block, will my scholarship be revoked?*

A. Your scholarship may be revoked – it is recommended you contact the Aboriginal Workforce Development explain reason for non-attendance.

Q. C*an I apply for a scholarship in my second year study?*

A. Yes.

*Q. Do I have to pay back scholarship funds, if I don’t complete or fail units?*

A. No - the scholarship is setup to minimise the risk of overpayment.

**Applications must be received by 4pm, Monday 9 March 2020**

If you have any questions that are not listed above, please contact the Aboriginal Workforce Development, People & Organisational Capability, NT Department of Health on 8922 7278 or email: [AWD.DoH@nt.gov.au](mailto:AWD.DoH@nt.gov.au)