



ABN: 26 924 779 836

# **Diagnostic Imaging Enhancing the Rural and Remote Workforce Scheme**

**A program funded by the  
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing**

## **GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION**

### **Rural & Remote PDY Scholarship**

# **Rural & Remote PDY Diagnostic Imaging Scholarship**

## **Guidelines for Application**

### **1. Introduction of Scholarship**

- a. The rural and remote PDY diagnostic imaging scholarship in Diagnostic Imaging is designed to encourage third year students completing their undergraduate degree to consider working in the rural and remote environment to enhance their experiences. It is also intended to encourage those individuals currently residing in rural and remote areas to consider completing their PDY in their hometown.
- b. This scholarship aims to:
  - Increase the diagnostic imaging health workforce in rural, regional and remote Australia by facilitating the entry of people interested in pursuing a career in allied health and diagnostic imaging professions.
  - Encourage the pursuit of a health career in both geographic areas and professions where there are shortages.
  - Support the existing diagnostic imaging workforce.
- c. The Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR) will award a minimum of 10 diagnostic imaging PDY scholarships in rural and remote areas annually. Scholarship recipients will receive up to a maximum of \$10,000. This will be based on eligibility and assessment criteria.
- d. The Australian Institute of Radiography will determine if additional scholarships can be awarded each year.
- e. PDY scholarships will be made available to students completing an approved pre-accreditation programme in a rural and remote location. Scholarships are to be used to offset relocation (for those relocating) and other expenses associated with completing the PDY.

### **2. Eligibility**

- a. The PDY scholarship is available to members and non members of the AIR.
- b. Applicants must be an Australian Citizen or permanent resident of Australia.
- c. They must be currently completing a degree in a pre-registration accredited/approved undergraduate or entry level diagnostic imaging course. This includes courses whereby students are required to complete a six month field placement in order to satisfy the professional requirements and obtain a statement of Accreditation from the Australian Institute of Radiography upon graduation.
- d. Work as a PDY radiographer for 12 months full time in a rural, regional or remote location.
- e. If there are more applicants for PDY scholarships than there are places available, not all applicants who meet the eligibility and selection criteria will be offered a Scholarship.

- f. Applicants who are already in receipt of another scholarship or bursary funded by the Department of Health and Ageing will be ineligible for this scholarship.

### 3. Selection Criteria

- a. Applications will be assessed and ranked using the following criteria:
- Eligibility of the applicant(s) will be assessed as above.
  - Rurality will be used as a ranking tool where scholarship places are oversubscribed.
  - Funding under the Scheme will concentrate on any area of Australia classified as RA2 (Inner Regional Australia), RA3 (Outer Regional Australia), RA4 (Remote Australia) and RA5 (Very Remote Australia). Further information about the Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remote Structure (RA) is available at:  
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DirClassManualsbyTopic/9A784FB979765947CA25738C0012C5BA?OpenDocument>  
A look-up tool for RA categories is available at:  
[http://www.healthworkforce.com.au/main\\_rrma.asp](http://www.healthworkforce.com.au/main_rrma.asp)
  - Applicants must also address the selection criteria listed in the application form.
- b. Scholarship recipients must be employed in an accredited training centre in Australia. The clinical centre may be a public or private hospital or a private or group practice.

### 4. Application Process

- a. Those interested must apply in writing to the AIR.
- b. All applications are required to include: a current resume, a brief rationale on the perceived benefits of their application and a written statement (see below).
- c. Applicants will be required to provide a written statement addressing all of the following selection criteria. These criteria may change from time to time as a result of priorities and areas of need:
- Commitment to the chosen professional field (which must be the same as that for which scholarship support is sought);
  - Personal commitment to, and understanding of, the need to undertake continuing professional development in their chosen profession;
  - Commitment to clinical practice in the chosen professional field;
  - Level of interest in pursuing a career in rural or regional communities;
  - How the scholarship will benefit the applicant in pursuing a career in the chosen professional field;
  - How their life experiences and/or professional career to date demonstrates their commitment to pursuing a career as a health professional.
  - Important criteria, such as rurality or being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, may be emphasised to meet workforce need
- d. The closing date is 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011
- e. Applications must be addressed to:
- Professional Standards Manager  
Australian Institute of Radiography  
PO Box 16234  
Collins Street West, Victoria, 8007

## 5. Schedule

- a. There will be one round of scholarships offered in each calendar year. This will generally be timed to ensure applicants are aware of the outcome of the selection process prior to the commencement of the PDY year.
- b. Scholarship recipients will receive up to \$10,000 GST exempt per year during their PDY. Scholarship recipients undertaking the PDY in a part-time capacity will receive up to \$5,000 per year. These funds are a contribution toward the cost of placement (if relocation is required) and other expenses in a rural area incurred by the student. The scholarships are not bonded.
- c. A Selection Advisory Group will be appointed to administer this process. The members of this group will be drawn from relevant professional groups.
- d. The Selection Advisory Group will be responsible for assessing scholarship and grant applications against eligibility and selection criteria and making recommendations to AIR on which applicants might be granted scholarships or grants.
- e. AIR will be responsible for selecting scholarship and grant recipients (and deciding on the number of scholarships to be given each year, and the number and amount of scholarships).
- f. The Selection Advisory Group will compile and provide the AIR with the Orders of Merit, accompanied by recommendations of which applicants might be granted scholarships. AIR will select scholarship recipients and all students will be advised of the outcome of their application in writing. Successful applicants will be offered a scholarship and must advise acceptance in writing.
- g. If a student forfeits or declines an offer of a scholarship place, that place will be offered to the next student on the Order of Merit.
- h. The Order of Merit is valid for that year's application round only and unsuccessful applicants can reapply in future years. The Order of Merit will **not** be made publicly available and students will not be informed of their rank.
- i. Applications received outside of the advertised application periods will not be eligible for a scholarship place. A scholarship recipient may commence their PDY at any time during the year.

## 6. Scholarship Information / Requirements

### a. Ongoing Awarding of Scholarship Places

Subject to the conditions below, a scholarship place will generally be continued for the normal duration of the PDY year ie 12 months and not extended beyond that time.

In order to remain eligible for the scholarship, the recipient must:

- continue to be an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident;
- provide the AIR with satisfactory quarterly PDY assessments as required through the PDY program
- Availability of funding under the DI-ERRWS.

**b. Deferral of Scholarship Place**

A scholarship recipient may request a deferral of their scholarship. The AIR may grant this request subject to:

- the scholarship recipient having commenced their PDY year and receiving scholarship payments;
- a maximum of 12 months deferral being permitted during the PDY year;
- the deferral being supported by documentation from the Professional Accreditation and Education Board confirming that the PDY year has been deferred.
- Deferrals may be granted to assist students in balancing their study, family and work needs.
- Students are required to advise in writing to the Selection Advisory Group their request to defer.

**c. Payment Reconciliation**

Students will not be required to provide documentary evidence of how they utilised scholarship funds. They will, however, be required to provide evidence of their continued progression in the PDY program to ensure ongoing payment of the scholarship (see above – ‘Ongoing Awarding of Scholarship Places’).

**d. Scholarship Payments**

Scholarship recipients will receive their scholarship payments in regular instalments as determined by AIR.

- Scholarship recipients will usually receive their scholarship payments at the commencement of the PDY year, and then every two months thereafter.

**e. Scholarship Payments and Tax/Centrelink Benefits**

Scholarship applicants and recipients are encouraged to seek advice from the Australian Taxation Office and/or Centrelink about any impact the granting of a scholarship may have on their financial situation.

- Information is available from the Australian Taxation Office at [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au) and from Centrelink at [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au).

**f. Appeals**

There will not be an appeals process for the selection of scholarship recipients or the amount of funding granted.