



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Aged Care Nurses Scholarship Programme – Continue funding

Why is this important?

- There is a shortage of nurses in residential aged care. The aged care scholarships system is successfully increasing the number of people who see aged care nursing as an attractive career option.
- This initiative will provide funding for no less than 1,000 aged care nursing scholarships over four years to encourage more people to take up aged care nursing, and to improve career pathways for nurses already working in aged care.

Who will benefit?

- Applicants from rural and regional areas will be given preference for scholarships so that frail older people living in rural and regional Australia in particular will benefit from more well-qualified nurses being attracted to, and continuing to work in, aged care.

What funding is the Government committing to this initiative?

- The Government has committed continued funding of \$36 million over four years to continue funding this initiative.

What have we done in the past?

- This initiative is a continuation of the 2002-03 Budget initiative, More Aged Care Nurses, which provided \$26.3 million over four years to deliver up to 1,000 aged care nursing scholarships.

When will this initiative conclude?

- This initiative will be reviewed in the 2010-11 Budget.