



The Hon Dr David Gillespie MP
Assistant Minister for Rural Health
Member for Lyne

MEDIA RELEASE

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Health workforce scholarship arrangements for 2017

The Assistant Minister for Rural Health, Dr David Gillespie has provided an update today on the interim health workforce scholarship arrangements for the 2017 study year.

“I want to reassure nursing and allied health students that the Coalition Government will continue to support our best and brightest young minds with their studies next year,” Dr Gillespie said.

“Rural and remote health is built on the commitment, the skill, the resilience and the expertise of its workforce, and we want to support the sector to grow. I’ve agreed to interim scholarship arrangements ahead of the launch of the new Health Workforce Scholarship Program (HWSP) early next year.

“A limited round of nursing and allied health scholarships, covering a 12 month period, will be offered for 2017 through the existing scholarship administrators – the Australian College of Nursing, and Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health.

“Consistent with the 2015-16 Budget announcement, the Government has also committed to the continuation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarship programs. We are working with the Australian College of Nursing and Rotary Health Australia toward a new round of scholarships in 2017, under the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship and the Indigenous Health Scholarship Schemes respectively.”

Dr Gillespie said the design of the new HWSP is being finalised, ahead of its launch early next year.

“The new HWSP will increase health workforce participation and promote a better distribution of the health workforce, particularly in rural and remote communities where their expertise and services are needed the most,” Dr Gillespie said.

“It will also deliver a consistent approach to the rules and obligations that will apply to scholarship participants as well as provide greater flexibility to meet changing workforce priorities in response to local needs.”

For more information, contact the Minister's Office on (02) 6277 4960