



## Incentives and support for GPs, general practices and other health professionals in MM 5 locations

The Australian Government funds a number of programs to provide incentives to encourage doctors and other health professionals to move to, and remain working in, regional, rural and remote Australia. Eligibility is generally based on the [Modified Monash Model](#) classification system (MM). MM 5 encompasses small rural towns: All other areas in ASGS-RA 2 and 3.

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Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
<b>Undergraduate Health Professional Support</b>		
<a href="#">Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Program</a>	The Program provides financial assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduate students studying health related disciplines in a university, TAFE, or Registered Training Organisation. Support is limited to entry level studies that lead or are a direct pathway to registration or practice as a health professional. Research courses and postgraduate study is not supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full-time scholarship holder will receive up to \$15,000 per year.</li> <li>• Part-time scholarship holders will receive a maximum of \$7,500 per year for the duration of the course.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Aged Care Nursing and Allied Health Scholarships</a>	The Aged Care Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Scheme aims to invest in, retain and grow a skilled aged care workforce to provide high quality care that meets the needs of each consumer and future demands for aged care workforce supply. This is a national program, with preference given to those applicants who identify as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background and those living and/or working in MM 3-7 locations.	<b>Allied Health:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postgraduate scholarships in mental health up to \$15,000 per scholarship.</li> <li>• Undergraduate psychology and postgraduate clinical psychology from \$15,000 - \$30,000 per scholarship.</li> <li>• Bursaries for continuing professional development (CPD) for allied health professionals</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
	Eligible courses include Diploma/Advanced Diploma of Nursing, Undergraduate Degree/Bachelor of Nursing, Certificate III in Individual Support, Certificate IV in Ageing Support, plus Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma/ Masters level courses.	<p>working or interested in working within mental health related areas \$1,500 per scholarship.</p> <p><b>Mental Health:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate certificates valued up to \$7,500 per scholarship.</li> <li>• Graduate Diplomas valued up to \$15,000 per scholarship.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Mental Health Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Program</u></a></p>	<p>The Mental Health Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Program supports mental health nurses, and allied health practitioners including psychologists to complete mental health related tertiary, vocational and continuing professional development (CPD) courses in mental health settings. This investment is to support the attraction, upskilling and retention of key mental health professionals to address mental health workforce shortages.</p> <p>The Mental Health Nursing component allows up to 126 postgraduate nursing scholarships for study in mental health and suicide prevention, with five percent of all scholarships prioritised for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants.</p> <p>The allied health professionals and psychology component will allow up to 152 postgraduate scholarships for study in mental health and suicide prevention for tertiary, vocational and CPD courses and will also support 20 clinical placements. Five percent of these scholarships are prioritised for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants.</p>	<p><b>Mental Health Nursing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate Certificate, up to \$7,500 each (14 scholarships).</li> <li>• Graduate Diploma, up to \$15,000 each (10 scholarships).</li> <li>• CPD Bursaries - allied health professionals working or interested in working in mental health related areas of practice - \$1,500 each (102 available).</li> </ul> <p><b>Allied Health Professionals and Psychologists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For allied health postgraduate students, up to \$15,000 each (22 scholarships).</li> <li>• Psychology and postgraduate clinical psychology scholarships, between \$15,000-\$30,000 each (3 undergraduate 7 postgraduate scholarships).</li> <li>• CPD Bursaries - allied health professionals working or interested in working in mental health related areas of practice, \$1,500 each (100 bursaries).</li> <li>• Support clinical placements in a mental health setting (available for both undergraduate and postgraduate Allied Health scholars), \$11,000 each (20 scholarships).</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Bonded Medical Program</u></a></p>	<p>Provides students a Commonwealth Supported Place at an Australian university in return for a commitment to work in eligible regional, rural and remote areas for</p>	<p>The Bonded Medical Program commenced in 2020 and is a statutory program. For further</p>

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
	<p>a period of three years once they have completed their course of study in medicine at an Australian university.</p>	<p>information please refer to the <a href="#">Bonded Medical Program Website</a>. Roughly 800-900 are offered at 21 universities per year.</p>
<p><a href="#">Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) Program</a></p>	<p>The RHMT program aims to improve the recruitment and retention of medical, nursing, dental and allied health professionals in rural and remote Australia by improving the geographic distribution of the health workforce.</p> <p>The RHMT program offers health students the opportunity to train in rural and remote communities via a network including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 rural clinical schools (RCSs)</li> <li>• 20 university departments of rural health (UDRHs)</li> <li>• 6 dental faculties offering extended rural placements</li> <li>• the Northern Territory Medical Program.</li> </ul> <p>28 regional training hubs tasked with building medical training pathways within a region and guiding students and trainees through these pathways.</p>	<p>The program supports health students in clinical placement opportunities in a rural and remote environment. This enables students to experience rural clinical training experiences and increases the likelihood of opting to work in rural and remote Australia. Over \$625 million over 3 years (2022 to 2024) is provided to 21 universities through the RHMT. Commonwealth funding goes directly to the participating university. Scholarships and bursaries to individual students are at the discretion of each participating university.</p>
<p><a href="#">Murray-Darling Medical School Network (MDMSN)</a></p>	<p>The establishment of the MDMSN was announced as part of the Stronger Rural Health Strategy in 2018. It consists of five rurally based university medical school programs in the Murray–Darling region of New South Wales and Victoria. The MDMSN allows medical students to study and train in this region. This reduces the need for them to move to metropolitan areas and are more likely to work in rural areas after graduating. Three of the new medical schools welcomed their new students in 2021, and as of 2022, all five medical schools are operational.</p>	<p>The MDMSN creates an end-to-end rural training experience, which reduces the need for students to move to metropolitan areas. Upon graduating, students are more likely to work in rural areas. Over \$13 million in Commonwealth funding is being provided from 2022 to 2024 to participating universities. Scholarships and bursaries to individual students are at the discretion of each participating university.</p>
<p><a href="#">HELP for Rural Doctors and Nurse Practitioners</a></p>	<p>The Program will reduce outstanding Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debt for eligible doctors and nurse practitioners who live and work in rural, remote or very remote areas of Australia.</p>	<p>On commencement of the Program, eligible doctors and nurse practitioners will be encouraged to live and work in rural, remote or very remote areas of Australia, with an offer from the Government to</p>

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
		reduce their outstanding HELP debt, provided they meet the eligibility criteria and their obligations to complete the required amount of work.
<b>GP and Advanced Skills Training Support</b>		
<a href="#">Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program</a>	<p>The AGPT program provides fully subsidized GP training with a yearly intake of 1,500 junior doctors, with at least 50% training to occur in rural and remote areas.</p> <p>Training support payments for eligible registrars, supervisors and training practices are tiered according to the MM region registrars train, with greater support for training occurring in rural and remote areas.</p>	<p>AGPT participants are provided training support payments as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registrar training on the program: \$4,810 per training term</li> <li>• Supervisors providing teaching: \$5,800 - \$14,700; depending on the training term (limited to the first three training terms)</li> <li>• General Practice training practices: \$10,500 - \$18,000; depending on the training term (limited to the first two training terms)</li> <li>• AGPT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Salary Support Program payments to Aboriginal Community Controlled Health facilities: Up to \$85 per hour (MM 3-5) or at the facility's set hourly registrar rate.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program (JFPDP)</a>	<p>Evidence shows if you train in rural and remote regions, you are more likely to stay in the regions. The JFPDP gives junior doctors the opportunity to live and work in rural communities by providing both core and rural generalist primary care training rotations.</p>	<p>The JFPDP program provides \$77.12 million (GST exclusive) (2022-23 to 2024-25) to support the delivery of rural primary care rotations for hospital-based prevocational doctors in MM 2-7.</p>
<a href="#">Private Hospital Stream (PHS)</a>	<p>The objective of the Junior Doctor Training Program's PHS is to expand training places in the private hospital sector, with a strong focus on supporting training for junior doctors in rural, regional, and remote areas in the MM 2-7 locations). This includes fostering partnerships between private hospital providers, rural public hospitals, and other rural training settings (such as</p>	<p>The PHS is a key element of the Stronger Rural Health Strategy announced in the 2018–19 Budget. It committed to supporting up to 100 annual medical internships in 2019. From 2020 onwards, this commitment increased to 115 annual internships and 83 PGY2 and PGY3 places in the participating</p>

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
	Aboriginal Medical Services) working as part of expanded training networks.	private hospitals. The Australian Government annual commitment is \$26m per year.
<a href="#">Rural Generalist (RG) and General Practitioner (GP) Advanced Skills Training Program</a>	Announced in the October 2022-23 Budget, the Australian Government is providing funding over 2023-24 to 2026-27 (3 training years) to support 15 training posts per annum for the new Advanced Skills Training Posts Rural Generalists and General Practitioners Program (the Program).	15 training posts per annum for the new Advanced Skills Training Posts Rural Generalists and General Practitioners Program.
<a href="#">General Practitioner Procedural Training Support Program (GPPTSP)</a>	The GPPTSP is an optional, competitive scholarship program (MM 3-7) that provides \$40,000 (GST exclusive) for up to 10 GP Fellows to gain a statement of satisfactory completion of Advanced Rural Skills Training in Anaesthesia, and up to 10 GP Fellows to achieve the Diploma of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$40,000 per applicant who completes training.</li> <li>• Payments are in instalments with completion required within two years of commencing training.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS)</a>	<p>The RVTS delivers structured distance education and supervision to doctors supporting them in gaining fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and/or the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) while they provide general medical services. Supervision is facilitated remotely, and delivery caters to the unique needs of doctors working in remote communities by supporting them to achieve fellowship through a distance education model. It allows training to be completed in an accredited post, without leaving your community.</p> <p>It has two trainee streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Aboriginal Medical Service Stream, providing training for doctors working in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (MM 2-7); and</li> <li>• The Remote Stream for doctors working in rural &amp; remote Australia (MM 4-7). For MM 2-4 locations, doctors must be working in an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully Government funded.</li> <li>• The provision of distance education and supervision to doctors to support them in gaining fellowship without travelling long distances or relocating.</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
<a href="#">Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS) Extended Targeted Recruitment Pilot</a>	<p>The RVTS Extended Targeted Recruitment pilot commenced in 2021 and aims to improve the attraction of GP trainees in rural and remote areas by including salary incentives to doctors as they train towards GP fellowship. The pilot will recruit up to 10 doctors, focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and rural and remote locations with high medical workforce need (MM 4-7 with preference given to more remote locations).</p>	<p>Salary support per placement by training year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 1 - \$200,000</li> <li>Year 2 - \$200,000</li> <li>Year 3 - \$100,000.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Rural Generalist Training Scheme (RGTS)</a>	<p>RGTS is a four-year, fully funded stream of the College-led Independent Pathway that leads to Fellowship of ACRRM (FACRRM). The RGTS delivers up to 100 places per year for registrars to undertake training to become Rural Generalists. Training is undertaken in MM 2-7 locations.</p>	<p>The RGTS provides a comprehensive Rural Generalist education program, an agile training environment, flexible options to meet the program requirements and individualised training support.</p>
<a href="#">Rural Procedural Grants Program (RPGP)</a>	<p>The Rural Procedural Grants Program (RPGP) supports procedural GPs in rural and remote areas to attend relevant continuing professional development (CPD) activities, focused on both skills maintenance and upskilling for procedural skills and emergency medicine.</p> <p>Support is provided in the form of grant payments which are designed to assist with the cost of attending CPD activities, including course costs, locum relief and travel expenses. Grants are calculated on the number of training days.</p> <p>Under the RPGP the grant rate is \$2,000 per day for face-to-face training and \$1,000 per day for online CPD training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedural skills - up to \$20,000 per year</li> <li>Emergency medicine - up to \$6,000 per year</li> <li>Emergency mental health - up to \$6,000 per year.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Specialist Training Program (STP)</a>	<p>Seeks to extend vocational training for specialist registrars (trainees) into settings outside traditional metropolitan teaching hospitals, including regional, rural, remote, and private facilities. This includes support for 920 fulltime equivalent (FTE) specialist training places, 100 FTE Integrated Rural Training Pipeline places annually, as well as funding for the Tasmanian Project.</p> <p>The program aims to improve the quality of the future specialist workforce by providing</p>	<p>Funds are available under the STP for the following activities:</p> <p><b>Salary support for trainees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$105,000 per annum (indexed annually from 2022) pro rata per FTE.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rural Support Loading (RSL)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$25,000 per annum per eligible post, pro rata per FTE.</li> </ul>

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	<p>non-GP specialty trainees with exposure to a broader range of healthcare settings.</p> <p>Funding for training posts is provided to Health Services as a contribution to specialist medical training (with the health service funding the remaining costs) via the relevant Specialist Medical College.</p>	<p><b>Private Infrastructure and Clinical Supervision (PICS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$30,000 per annum per eligible private post, pro rata per FTE.</li> </ul> <p><b>Support Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$100,000 base funding plus \$1,210 per post per annum.</li> </ul> <p><b>Integrated Rural Training Pipeline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding of up to \$150,000 per annum (indexed annually from 2022) pro rata per FTE. Funds can be used for IRTP salary support, RSL and PICS (if eligible). Up to 5% of funds may be retained by participating colleges to assist in IRTP post administration, subject to the agreement of the Department.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tasmanian Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indexed annually, pro rata per FTE.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Support for Rural Specialists in Australia</a></p>	<p>Program helps specialists in rural and remote Australia access educational opportunities. It provides support and training via online learning programs, and grants to rural specialists to access training not available in their hometown.</p>	<p>\$3.2million from 2022 to2025 to the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges to manage the SRSA program which provides grants of up to \$10,000 for rural specialists to complete their necessary continuing professional development activities.</p>
<p><a href="#">Psychiatry Workforce Program</a></p>	<p>The Psychiatry Workforce Program provides funding to attract medical graduates to the psychiatry profession and support additional training posts including support for supervisors. These training posts are located in regional, rural and remote Australia. Further, the funding supports a rural psychiatry training pathway and network and advanced training in psychiatry for medical practitioners such as GPs and emergency medicine specialists to address mental health workforce shortages and maldistribution.</p> <p>Funding for psychiatry training and supervisor posts is provided to Health Services as a contribution to specialist</p>	<p><b>Funding per training post is based on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a salary contribution of up to \$262,000 consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a base salary contribution of \$106,851 (for 1 FTE trainee)</li> <li>○ a Private Infrastructure Clinical Supervision (PICS) allowance of \$30,452 for private settings (where applicable)</li> <li>○ an RSL of \$25,000 for rural settings (MM 2-7) (where applicable)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
	<p>medical training (with the health service funding the remaining costs) via the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ supervisor contribution of up to \$91,355 (for 0.33 FTE), and</li> <li>● administration costs.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Pre-Fellowship Program (PFP)</u></a></p>	<p>The PFP supports Overseas Trained Doctors and Foreign Graduates of an Accredited Medical School (also known collectively as International Medical Graduates (IMGs) and other non-vocationally recognised (non-VR) doctors to gain general practice experience prior to joining a GP college-led fellowship pathway.</p> <p>To be eligible for a PFP placement the practices must also be located within a Distribution Priority Area (DPA). The PFP is not available at non-DPA locations unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● classified as an Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) or that are the subject of a Ministerial direction under s19(2) or s19(5) of the Act; or</li> <li>● classified as an Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Service or be the subject of Ministerial direction under s19(2) or a s19(5) of the Act.</li> </ul>	<p>The PFP allows doctors to offer services under Medicare and provides eligible IMGs with provisional or limited registration financial support for supervision, learning and development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Learning and Development funding is scaled by level of supervision.</li> <li>● Supervision support payments are made quarterly in arrears and depend on MM location and supervision required.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Non-Vocationally Registered Fellowship Support Program (Non-VR FSP)</u></a></p>	<p>The Non-VR FSP provides support to non-VR registered medical practitioners to assist them to attain Fellowship qualifications with one of the two GP Colleges (ACRRM or RACGP).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The program allows non-VR registrars to obtain a subsidy to support training in MM 2-7 locations.</li> <li>● Participating doctors are expected to contribute a co-payment to cover the remaining costs of their training.</li> <li>● Participants should contact GP Colleges for further information at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RACGP on <a href="tel:1800472247">1800 472 247</a> or email <a href="mailto:fspadmin@racgp.org.au">fspadmin@racgp.org.au</a></li> <li>○ ACRRM on 1800 223 226 or email <a href="mailto:training@acrrm.org.au">training@acrrm.org.au</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
<b>General Practice Incentives and Support</b>		
<a href="#"><u>Workforce Incentive Program (WIP) - Doctor Stream</u></a>	<p>The WIP-Doctor Stream aims to encourage medical practitioners to practise in regional, rural and remote communities (MM 3-7). It promotes careers in rural medicine through the provision of financial incentives. Incentive amounts are dependent on the MM classification and the amount of time spent working in the location.</p> <p>To be eligible for the WIP-Doctor Stream, medical practitioners must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a minimum amount of eligible primary care services in eligible locations and/or undertake eligible General Practitioner training under an approved training pathway;</li> <li>• Meet the required number of active quarters for payment;</li> <li>• Have an eligible current Medicare provider number; and</li> <li>• Have provided current bank details to Services Australia specifically for the WIP-Doctor Stream in the required timeframe.</li> </ul> <p>As of 1 January 2024, non-vocationally registered (non-VR) doctors who are not on an approved training pathway will receive reduced (80%) WIP-Doctor Stream payments.</p>	<p>Maximum payments values by year level for VR doctors and those on approved training pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 1 – \$0</li> <li>• Year 2 – \$12,000</li> <li>• Year 3 – \$17,000</li> <li>• Year 4 – \$17,000</li> <li>• Year 5 plus – \$23,000.</li> </ul> <p>Maximum payments values by year level for Non-VR doctors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 1 – \$0</li> <li>• Year 2 – \$9,600</li> <li>• Year 3 – \$13,600</li> <li>• Year 4 – \$13,600</li> <li>• Year 5 plus – \$18,400.</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Workforce Incentive Program (WIP) – Rural Advanced Skills Stream</u></a>	<p>The WIP-Rural Advanced Skills payment aims to support access to health care in rural and remote communities MM 3-7 locations by providing two additional annual incentive payments of up to \$10,500 to eligible GPs and Rural Generalists working in primary care and using advanced skills in a range of other settings. The payments are based on the number of emergency or advanced skill rosters delivered and the location in which those rosters are provided.</p> <p>The new incentive rewards investment in GP specialist qualifications, accredited training and credentials, and encourages more doctors with these advanced skills to</p>	<p><b>Payments recognising services delivered between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025.</b></p> <p>Annual payment values for MM 5 locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stream One – Emergency Medicine services – up to \$9,500.</li> <li>• Stream Two – Rural Advanced Skills services – up to \$9,500.</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
	work in rural and remote areas. It encourages GPs to consider the <a href="#">National Rural Generalist Pathway</a> and Rural Generalists to broaden the range of services available to patients in rural communities.	
<a href="#">Workforce Incentive Program (WIP) – Practice Stream</a>	<p>The WIP-Practice Stream provides financial incentives to support general practices with the cost of engaging nurses, midwives, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and health workers, and eligible allied health professionals in MM 1-7 locations.</p> <p>Practices in MM 3-7 locations are eligible to receive an additional rural loading on top of their incentive payment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$130,000 per annum for a single practice before applying rural loading.</li> <li>• Eligible for an additional 40% rural loading.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Practice Incentives Program (PIP)</a>	<p>The PIP incentives are available to support general practice activities that encourage continuing improvement and quality of care, enhance capacity and improve access and health outcomes for patients. It is administered by Services Australia on behalf of the Department of Health and Aged Care.</p> <p>There are currently eight incentives under the PIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eHealth (e-PIP)</li> <li>• Teaching</li> <li>• Indigenous Health (IHI)</li> <li>• GP Aged Care Access (ACAI)</li> <li>• GP Procedural</li> <li>• After Hours</li> <li>• Quality Improvement (PIPQI) and</li> <li>• Rural Loading: To be eligible for rural loading, the main practice must be located in RRMA 3-7 (rural and remote zones). The rural loading is automatically applied to PIP payments.</li> </ul>	<p>Rural Loading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRMA 1 - 0%</li> <li>• RRMA 2 - 0%</li> <li>• RRMA 3 - 15%</li> <li>• RRMA 4 - 20%</li> <li>• RRMA 5 - 40%</li> <li>• RRMA 6 - 25%</li> <li>• RRMA 7 - 50%</li> </ul> <p>For further information on incentives and payments, please refer to individual Guidelines available at: <a href="#">Practice Incentives Program.</a></p>
<a href="#">Rural Bulk Billing Incentive (RBI)</a>	Bulk billing incentives (BBI) are payable to medical practitioners who provide bulk billed services to vulnerable patient groups, such as people with concession cards and children under 16 years of age.	<p>The value of MBS RBI are scaled and increase based on the remoteness of the general practice, using the MM.</p> <p>Further information on the RBI changes, including reference tables</p>

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	<p>Medical practitioners practising in rural and remote communities are able to access increased BBI when working in rural and remote communities. RBBI increases with remoteness based on the MM classification of the location.</p> <p>The RBBI available in MM 5 locations is approximately 170% of the standard bulk billing rate available in metropolitan areas.</p> <p>As of 1 November 2023, the BBI rate tripled for a range of general practice consultation items. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All face-to-face general attendance consultations that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ longer than 6 minutes (that is Levels B, C, D and E),</li> <li>○ in any location (in and out of consulting rooms, residential aged care facilities), and</li> <li>○ at any time (business and after-hours items).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MBS Level B video and telephone general attendance consultations.</li> <li>• Video and telephone consultations that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ longer than 20 minutes (Levels C, D and E (video only)), and</li> <li>○ the patient is registered with the practice through MyMedicare.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The standard BBI payments will continue to be available for doctors to co-claim when bulk billing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MBS Level A (and equivalent) general attendance consultations,</li> <li>• Level C, D and E video and telephone general attendance consultations where the patient is not enrolled in MyMedicare, and</li> <li>• all other relevant MBS unreferral services, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ chronic disease management items</li> <li>○ Better Access mental health items</li> <li>○ eating disorder items</li> <li>○ health assessments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>by MM, can be found at the MBSOnline <a href="#">website</a>.</p>

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ minor procedures.</li> </ul> <p>The tripling of the BBI will address declining bulk billing rates and doctor availability, support viability of general practices and start to rebuild primary care as the core of an effective modern care system for all Australians.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Rural Health Workforce Support Activity</u></a>	<p>Rural Workforce Agencies in each State and the Northern Territory are funded to deliver a range of activities aimed at addressing the misdistribution of the health workforce through the following program elements: Access; Quality; and Sustainability.</p> <p>Grants to health professionals can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment costs or as incentives</li> <li>• Orientation expenses</li> <li>• Relocation expenses to move to a rural area)</li> <li>• Locum support</li> <li>• Assist with access to continuing professional development opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p>Specific grants to health professionals not exceeding \$25,000 per annum, and capped at \$50,000, in totality.</p>
<a href="#"><u>Rural Locum Assistance Program (RLAP)</u></a>	<p>The RLAP provides targeted locum support in MM 2-7 locations. It enhances the ability of nurses, allied health professionals, General Practitioners (GP) (GP obstetricians and GP anaesthetists), and specialists (obstetricians and anaesthetists) to take leave for recreation or to undertake continuing professional development (CPD). Support includes the costs of travel, accommodation, travel allowance and incentives for locums.</p>	<p>Support includes the costs of travel, accommodation, travel allowance and incentives for locums. GPs can take planned leave and undertake CPD.</p>
<a href="#"><u>Rural Locum Assistance Program (Rural LAP) Aged Care</u></a>	<p>Rural LAP Aged Care is available to support delivery of Commonwealth funded aged care services in MM 4-7 locations (restricted to MM 6-7 locations for Commonwealth Home Support Programme services).</p> <p>It provides locums where providers experience high turn-over or workforce shortages, and to cover staff taking leave and continuing professional development. Access to permanent relocation payments</p>	<p>Support includes the cost of travel, accommodation, travel allowance, incentives for locums, and the cost of recruitment.</p> <p>The locum workforce consists of Registered Nurses, enrolled nurses, personal care workers, many aged care worker occupations, and many allied health occupations.</p>

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
	and annual retention bonuses to attract permanent staff is also available.	
<a href="#"><u>Premium Support Scheme (PSS)</u></a>	<p>The PSS is an Australian Government scheme that helps eligible medical practitioners with the costs of their medical indemnity insurance. Eligible medical practitioners continue to see the benefit of the PSS through reductions in the level of premiums charged to them by their medical indemnity insurers. The Australian Government makes payments to medical indemnity insurers for the PSS.</p> <p>Eligibility for the PSS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A medical practitioner whose gross medical indemnity costs exceed 7.5% of estimated gross income from private billings; or</li> <li>• A procedural General Practitioner in a rural area (MM 3-7); or</li> <li>• A medical practitioner who has applied for and has been deemed to be eligible for a subsidy under the Medical Indemnity Support Scheme (MISS) for a premium period ending 1 July 2021, i.e., former MISS participants.</li> </ul>	<p>The PSS is designed to ensure that if a medical practitioner's gross medical indemnity costs exceed 7.5% of his or her gross private medical income, he or she will receive a government subsidy of 60% towards the cost of the premium beyond that threshold limit.</p> <p>Procedural GPs working in rural areas are eligible for the PSS regardless of whether they meet other PSS eligibility criteria. The PSS will cover 75% of the difference between premiums for these doctors and those for non-procedural GPs in similar circumstances (i.e., same location, same income, and same insurer).</p>
<b>Support for Overseas Trained Doctors</b>		
<a href="#"><u>5 Year Overseas Trained Doctor Scheme</u></a>	<p>The Five Year Scheme encourages overseas trained doctors (OTDs) and Foreign Graduates of Accredited Medical Schools (FGAMS) to work in regional, rural and remote locations by allowing a reduction of moratorium time (i.e., the time they must work in a Distribution Priority Area (DPA) or District of Workforce Shortage (DWS) location). The time reduction increases the more rural or regional the doctor practices in.</p> <p>Doctors on the Scheme are required to complete a "return of service" of between 3-5 years in an eligible rural or remote community, in agreed locations.</p> <p>To qualify for a non-location specific exemption (i.e., time "off" their</p>	<p>Non-location specific exemption for the agreed period of their remaining moratorium time.</p>

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
	<p>moratorium), each Five Year Scheme participant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>complete a return of service of between three and five years in an eligible regional or remote DWS community;</li> <li>obtain Fellowship of either the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) or Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) during the return of service; and</li> <li>become an Australian permanent resident (make a permanent commitment to Australia).</li> </ul>	
<b>Multidisciplinary Support (including Nursing and Allied Health Programs)</b>		
<a href="#"><u>Health Workforce Scholarship Program</u></a>	<p>Provides postgraduate/ continuous professional development scholarships targeted to GPs, Nursing and Allied Health Professionals.</p> <p>Eligible locations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualified health professionals providing primary health care in MM 1-2 locations only if employed by an Aboriginal Medical Service or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation; or</li> <li>Qualified health professionals providing primary health care in rural and remote locations in MM 3-7 locations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship - Students receive \$10,000 per year for 2 years.</li> <li>Bursary - Covers the cost of training, accommodation, travel or course fees and/or cover or partially cover training related expenses.</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) Program</u></a>	<p>The RHMT program aims to improve the recruitment and retention of medical, nursing, dental and allied health professionals in rural and remote Australia by improving the geographic distribution of the health workforce.</p> <p>The RHMT program offers health students the opportunity to train in rural and remote communities via a network including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 rural clinical schools (RCSs)</li> <li>20 university departments of rural health (UDRHs)</li> </ul>	<p>The program supports health students in clinical placement opportunities in a rural and remote environment. This enables students to experience rural clinical training experiences and increases the likelihood of opting to work in rural and remote Australia. Over \$625 million over 3 years (from 2022 to 2024) is provided to 21 universities through the RHMT. Commonwealth funding goes directly to the participating university. Scholarships and bursaries to individual students are</p>

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 dental faculties offering extended rural placements</li> <li>the Northern Territory Medical Program.</li> </ul> <p>28 regional training hubs tasked with building medical training pathways within a region and guiding students and trainees through these pathways.</p>	<p>at the discretion of each participating university.</p>
<p><a href="#">Aged Care Nursing and Allied Health Scholarships</a></p>	<p>The Aged Care Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Scheme aims to invest in, retain and grow a skilled aged care workforce to provide high quality care that meets the needs of each consumer and future demands for aged care workforce supply. This is a national program, with preference given to those applicants who identify as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background and those living and/or working in MM 3-7 locations.</p> <p>Eligible courses include Diploma/Advanced Diploma of Nursing, Undergraduate Degree/Bachelor of Nursing, Certificate III in Individual Support, Certificate IV in Ageing Support, plus Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma/Masters level courses.</p>	<p><b>Allied Health:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postgraduate scholarships in mental health up to \$15,000 per scholarship.</li> <li>Undergraduate psychology and postgraduate clinical psychology from \$15,000 - \$30,000 per scholarship.</li> <li>Bursaries for Continuing Professional Development for allied health professionals working or interested in working within mental health related areas \$1,500 per scholarship.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mental Health:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graduate certificates valued up to \$7,500 per scholarship.</li> <li>Graduate Diplomas valued up to \$15,000 per scholarship.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway and Allied Health Assistant Workforce Program</a></p>	<p>A nationally implemented program that is a professional and career development strategy to attract and retain qualified allied health professionals in rural and remote communities. Preference to applicants of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander background.</p> <p>The Program provides:</p> <p><b>90 Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway workplace training packages, including 30 for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 Rural Allied Health Assistant scholarship packages.</li> </ul>	<p><b>For students:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1: Graduate Certificate up to \$11,000 each.</li> <li>Level 2: Graduate Diploma of Rural Generalist Practice or equivalent up to \$31,000 each.</li> </ul> <p><b>For allied health businesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Package to backfill positions while student studies;</li> <li>Level 1: \$21,500 package over 1 year; and</li> <li>Level 2: \$43,000 package over 2 years.</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
<a href="#">HELP for Rural Doctors and Nurse Practitioners</a>	<p>The Program will reduce outstanding Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debt for eligible doctors and nurse practitioners who live and work in rural, remote or very remote areas of Australia.</p>	<p>HELP for Rural Doctors and Nurse Practitioners</p> <p>On commencement of the Program, eligible doctors and nurse practitioners will be encouraged to live and work in rural, remote or very remote areas of Australia, with an offer from the Government to reduce their outstanding HELP debt, provided they meet the eligibility criteria and their obligations to complete the required amount of work.</p> <p>More information can be found in the <a href="#">program fact sheet and frequently asked questions</a>.</p>
<a href="#">Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeship (IHWT) Program</a>	<p>The Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeships (IHWT) program provides \$20.5 million over five years (2020-21 to 2024-25) to approved National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) affiliates, or equivalent organisations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase the number of skilled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care sector,</li> <li>• create viable career pathways in health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and</li> <li>• build the capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) to provide culturally appropriate health care to its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients.</li> </ul> <p>Organisations funded under the IHWT program administer the program on the department's behalf, and work with ACCHSs to identify, recruit and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trainees.</p>	<p>The Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeships (IHWT) program is a five year program that started in 2020–21.</p>



Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
<a href="#">First Nations Health Worker Traineeship Program</a>	<p>The First Nations Health Worker Traineeship Program provides \$54.3 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) to the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) to deliver the program.</p> <p>This program aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase the supply of health workers and practitioners,</li> <li>• address health workforce shortages in rural, regional and remote Australia, and</li> <li>• ensure a capable and qualified workforce.</li> </ul>	<p>The First Nations Health Worker Traineeship Program is a five year program delivered Nationally across all MMs, that started in 2022–23.</p>
<a href="#">Mental Health Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Program</a>	<p>The Mental Health Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Program supports mental health nurses, and allied health practitioners including psychologists to complete mental health related tertiary, vocational and continuing professional development (CPD) courses in mental health settings. This investment is to support the attraction, upskilling and retention of key mental health professionals to address mental health workforce shortages.</p> <p>The Mental Health Nursing component allows up to 126 postgraduate nursing scholarships for study in mental health and suicide prevention, with five percent of all scholarships prioritised for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants.</p> <p>The allied health professionals and psychology component will allow up to 152 postgraduate scholarships for study in mental health and suicide prevention for tertiary, vocational and CPD courses and will also support 20 clinical placements. Five percent of these scholarships are prioritised for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants.</p>	<p><b>Mental Health Nursing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate Certificate, up to \$7,500 each (14 scholarships).</li> <li>• Graduate Diploma, up to \$15,000 each (10 scholarships).</li> <li>• CPD Bursaries - allied health professionals working or interested in working in mental health related areas of practice - \$1,500 each (102 available).</li> </ul> <p><b>Allied Health Professionals and Psychologists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For allied health postgraduate students, up to \$15,000 each (22 scholarships).</li> <li>• Psychology and postgraduate clinical psychology scholarships, between \$15,000-\$30,000 each (3 undergraduate and 7 postgraduate scholarships).</li> <li>• CPD Bursaries - allied health professionals working or interested in working in mental health related areas of practice, \$1,500 each (100 bursaries).</li> <li>• Support clinical placements in a mental health setting (available for both undergraduate and postgraduate Allied Health</li> </ul>

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
		scholars), \$11,000 each (20 scholarships).
<a href="#">Nursing in Primary Health Care (NiPHC) program</a>	The NiPHC program aims to build capability and capacity among the primary health care nursing workforce by promoting employment of and providing training and mentoring to, nurses working in primary care settings. The program includes three projects: the Transition to Practice Program (TPP), Building Nurse Capacity (BNC) clinics and Chronic Disease Management and Healthy Ageing workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payments are made to nurses and mentors in the TPP.</li> <li>• Primary health care organisations are paid to participate in BNC clinics. Primary Health Networks (PHNs) also subsidise some participation of nurses in projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Outreach Service Delivery Support</b>		
<a href="#">Rural Health Outreach Fund (RHOF)</a>	<p>The RHOF aims to improve access to medical specialists, GPs, allied and other health providers in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia by supporting outreach health activities. There are four health priorities under the RHOF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maternity and paediatric health;</li> <li>• eye health;</li> <li>• mental health; and</li> <li>• support for chronic disease management.</li> </ul>	The RHOF works by removing barriers such as the cost of travel, facility hire and equipment leasing, to enable a range of health professionals to provide outreach services.
<a href="#">Medical Outreach Indigenous Chronic Disease Program (MOICDP)</a>	Incentives are payable to health professionals providing chronic disease outreach services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in MM 1-7 locations where relevant State/Territory fund holder has identified a gap in services.	Costs associated with delivering outreach services are payable to eligible health professionals to remove a range of financial disincentives (e.g., travel, meals and accommodation).
<a href="#">Visiting Optometrists Scheme (VOS)</a>	Provides outreach optometry services to Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in regional, rural and remote locations by addressing financial disincentives incurred by optometrists providing outreach services in MM 2-7 (travel, accommodation and facility hire).	Costs associated with delivering outreach services are payable to optometrists to remove a range of financial disincentives (e.g., travel, meals and accommodation).
<a href="#">Eye and Ear Surgical Support</a>	Some costs are payable to health professionals providing expedited access to eye and/or ear surgical support services to	Some costs associated with delivering outreach services are payable to eligible health professionals to remove a range of financial disincentives. Costs such as

Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who reside in MM 3-7 locations.	travel, meals and accommodation are available to the health professionals, and these are also available for the patients and their carers.
<a href="#"><u>Healthy Ears - Better Hearing, Better Listening Program</u></a>	<p>The Healthy Ears – Better Hearing, better Listening program helps to improve access to ear health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged up to 21 years in MM 2-7 locations. Under the program, multidisciplinary outreach clinical services are provided by a range of health professionals such as medical specialists, GPs, nurses and allied health professionals for best practice ear disease prevention, treatment, management, and follow-up.</p>	<p>Costs associated with delivering outreach services are payable to eligible health professionals to remove a range of financial disincentives (e.g., travel, meals and accommodation).</p>