

Department of Health and Aged Care

Incentives and support for GPs, General Practices and other health professionals in MM 2 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 <u>Modified Monash Model</u> (MM) classification system. MM 2 encompasses regional centres: Areas categorised ASGS-RA 2 and ASGS-RA 3 that are in, or within 20km road distance, of a town with a population greater than 50,000.

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Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
Undergraduate He	ealth Professional Support	
Puggy Hunter <u>Memorial</u> <u>Scholarship</u> <u>Program</u>	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.	 A Full-time scholarship holder will receive up to \$15,000 per year. Part-time scholarship holders will receive a maximum of \$7,500 per year for the duration of the course.
Bonded Medical Program	Provides students a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) at an Australian university in return for a commitment to work in eligible regional, rural and remote areas for a period of three years once they have completed their course of study in medicine at an Australian university.	The Bonded Medical Program commenced in 2020 and is a statutory program. Further information refer to the <u>Bonded</u> <u>Medical Program Website</u> . Roughly 800-900 places are offered at 21 universities per year.
Murray-Darling Medical School	The establishment of the MDMSN was announced as part of the Stronger Rural Health Strategy in 2018 and consists of 5 rurally based university medical school	The MDMSN network creates an end-to-end rural training experience, which reduces the need for students to move to metropolitan areas. Upon



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<u>Network</u> (<u>MDMSN</u>)	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.	graduating, students are more likely to work in rural areas. Approximately \$6.4 million per annum in Commonwealth funding is provided to participating universities. Scholarships and bursaries to individual students are at the discretion of each participating university.
Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) Program	 The RHMT program aims to improve the recruitment and retention of medical nursing, dental and allied health professionals through immersive clinical placements and academic campuses in rural and remote Australia. The RHMT program offers health students the opportunity to train in rural and remote communities via a network including: 20 rural clinical schools 19 university departments of rural health 6 dental faculties offering extended rural placements the Northern Territory Medical Program. 28 regional training hubs tasked with building medical training pathways within a region and guiding students and trainees through these pathways. 	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. Approximately \$252 million per annum is provided to 23 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.
GP and Advanced	Skills Training Support	
<u>Australian</u> <u>General Practice</u> <u>Training (AGPT)</u> <u>Program</u>	The AGPT program provides fully subsidised GP training with a yearly intake of 1,500 junior doctors, with at least 50% training to occur in regional, rural and remote areas. 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.	 AGPT participants are provided training support payments as follows: Registrar training on the program: \$1,800 per training terms (limited to the first three training terms). Supervisors providing teaching: \$2,800 - 11,700 depending on the training term (limited



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		 to the first three training terms). General Practice training practices: \$7,500 - \$15,000 depending on the training term (limited to the first two training terms). The AGPT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Salary Support Program (SSP) payments for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health facilities: Up to \$71 per hour (MM 1-2) or at the facility's set registrar hourly rate.
<u>John Flynn</u> <u>Prevocational</u> <u>Doctor Program</u> (JFPDP)	Evidence shows if you train in rural and remote regions, you are more likely to stay in the regions. The John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program gives junior doctors the opportunity to live and work in rural communities by providing both core and rural generalist primary care training rotations to increase exposure and interest to rural general practice and strengthen rural training networks.	The JFPDP program provides \$146.25 million (GST exclusive) (2022-23 to 2026-27) to support the delivery of rural primary care rotations for hospital-based prevocational doctors in MM 2-7.
<u>Private Hospital</u> <u>Stream (PHS)</u>	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 (MM 2-7). This includes fostering partnerships between private hospital providers, rural public hospitals, and other rural training settings (such as Aboriginal Medical Services) working as part of expanded training networks.	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 private hospitals. The Australian Government annual commitment is \$26 million per year.
Rural Generalist (RG) and General Practitioner (GP) Advanced Skills	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	Funding of \$11.7 million over 5 years from 2023–24 to support the training posts, Administrator



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<u>Training</u> <u>Program.</u>	annum for the new Advanced Skills Training Posts Rural Generalists and General Practitioners Program. It will provide 15 Advanced Skills Training (AST) posts per year for RGs and rural GPs to attain specialist and advanced skills. The AST posts could include procedural skills like obstetrics, anaesthetics, surgery and emergency medicine and non-procedural skills like mental health, palliative care, and paediatrics.	expenses and a comprehensive independent evaluation. The Department will provide \$150,000 for each 12-month AST post (pro-rata where not completed).
Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS)	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. It has two trainee streams: • The Aboriginal Medical Service Stream,	 Fully Government funded. The provision of distance education and supervision to doctors to support them in gaining fellowship without travelling long distances or relocating.
	 Providing training for doctors working in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (MM 2-7); and The Remote Stream for doctors working in rural and remote Australia (MM 4-7). 	
<u>Rural Generalist</u> <u>Training Scheme</u> (RGTS)	RGTS is a four-year, fully funded stream of the College-led Independent Pathway that leads to Fellowship of ACCRM (FACRRM). The RGTS delivers rural training places for registrars to undertake fellowship training through ACCRM to become Rural Generalists. Training is undertaken in MM 2-7 locations.	The RGTS provides a comprehensive Rural Generalist education program, an agile training environment, flexible options to meet the program requirements, and individualised training support.



Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
<u>Single Employer</u> <u>Model (SEM)</u> <u>Trials</u>	The <u>Single Employer Model (SEM) Trials</u> explore new approaches to employment arrangements for GP registrars to address key barriers to attracting and retaining the next generation of GPs. The Australian Government has committed to expanding SEM trials across MM 2-7 regions and areas of workforce need in Australia. There are trials currently operating in New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria.	The model allows GP trainees to be employed by one employer throughout their training rotations. This allows trainees to accrue and access employment entitlements (such as personal leave, recreation leave and parental leave) and increases certainty of training arrangements. It aims to attract more GP trainees by bridging the gap between hospital-based and community-based training placements.
Specialist Training Program (STP)	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. The program aims to improve the quality of the future specialist workforce by providing non-GP specialty trainees with exposure to a broader range of healthcare settings. 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.	 Funds are available under the STP for the following activities: Salary support for trainees \$105,000 per annum (indexed annually from 2022) pro rata per FTE. Rural Support Loading (RSL) \$25,000 per annum per eligible post, pro rata per FTE. Private Infrastructure and Clinical Supervision (PICS) \$30,000 per annum per eligible private post, pro rata per FTE. Support Projects \$100,000 base funding plus \$1,210 per post per annum. Integrated Rural Training Pipeline 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



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Support for Rural Specialists in Australia	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.	 Tasmanian Project Indexed annually, pro rata per FTE. \$3.2 million from 2022 to 2025 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 CPD activities.
Psychiatry Workforce Program	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. Funding for psychiatry training and supervisor posts is provided to Health Services as a contribution to specialist medical training (with the health service funding the remaining costs) via the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.	 Funding per training post is based on: a salary contribution of up to \$262,000 consisting of: a base salary contribution of \$106,851 (for 1 FTE trainee) a Private Infrastructure Clinical Supervision (PICS) allowance of \$30,452 for private settings (where applicable) an RSL of \$25,000 for rural settings (MM 2-7) (where applicable) supervisor contribution of up to \$91,355 (for 0.33 FTE), and administration costs.
<u>Pre-Fellowship</u> <u>Program (PFP)</u>	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. 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:	 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. Learning and Development funding is scaled by level of supervision.



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	 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 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. 	 Supervision support payments are made quarterly in arrears and depend on MM location and supervision required.
General Practice I	ncentives and Support	
<u>Workforce</u> <u>Incentive</u> <u>Program (WIP) –</u> <u>Practice Stream</u>	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.	 Up to \$130,000 plus indexation per annum for a single practice.
Practice Incentives Program (PIP)	 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. There are currently eight incentives under the PIP: eHealth (e-PIP) Teaching Indigenous Health (IHI) GP Aged Care Access (ACAI) GP Procedural After Hours Quality Improvement (PIPQI) 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. 	Rural Loading: • RRMA 1 - 0% • RRMA 2 - 0% • RRMA 3 - 15% • RRMA 4 - 20% • RRMA 5 - 40% • RRMA 6 - 25% • RRMA 7 - 50% For further information on incentives and payments, please refer to individual Guidelines available at: <u>Practice Incentives Program</u> .
Rural Bulk Billing Incentive	Rural Bulk billing incentives (RBBI) are payable to medical practitioners who provide bulk billed services to eligible patient groups, such as people with a	The values of MBS RBBIs are scaled and increase based on the remoteness of the general practice, using the MM.



Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
	Commonwealth concession card and children under 16 years of age.	Further information on the RBBI changes, including reference tables
	Medical practitioners practising in rural and remote communities can access increased RBBIs when working in rural and remote communities. RBBIs increases with remoteness based on the MM classification of the location.	by MM, can be found at the MBSOnline at MBS Online – Bulk Billing in General Practice from 1 November 2023.
	The RBBI available in MM 2 locations is approximately 150% of the standard bulk billing rate available in metropolitan areas.	
	As of 1 November 2023, RBBI rate tripled for a range of general practice consultation items. These include:	
	 All face-to-face general attendance consultations that are: longer than 6 minutes (that is Levels B, C, D and E), in any location (in and out of consulting rooms, residential aged care facilities), and at any time (business and afterhours items). MBS Level B video and telephone general attendance consultations; Video and telephone consultations that are: longer than 20 minutes (Levels C, D and E (video only)), and the patient is registered with the practice through MyMedicare. 	
	The standard RBBI payments will continue to be available for doctors to co-claim when bulk billing:	
	 MBS Level A (and equivalent) general attendance consultations, Level C, D and E video general attendance consultations where the patient is not enrolled in MyMedicare, all other relevant MBS unreferred services, for example: chronic disease management items Better Access mental health items 	



Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
	 eating disorder items health assessments minor procedures. 	
	The tripling of the RBBI is addressing declining bulk billing rates and doctor availability, supporting viability of general practices and starting to rebuild primary care as the core of an effective modern care system for all Australians.	
<u>General Practice</u> <u>in Aged Care</u> <u>Incentive</u>	The General Practice in Aged Care Incentive aims to improve access to quality, proactive general practice care for older people who	Practices and providers eligible for the General Practice in Aged Care Incentive payment are paid:
	live in aged care homes by incentivising proactive visits, regular, planned reviews and coordinated care planning.	 \$300 per patient, per year (75 per patient, per quarter), paid to the Responsible Provider.
	Primary care providers and practices registered in MyMedicare receive incentive payments for providing their MyMedicare registered patients who permanently live in	• \$130 per patient, per year (\$32.50 per patient, per quarter), paid to the practice.
	residential aged care homes with care planning services and regular visits.	Rural Loading: MM 3 - 20%
	Rural loadings apply to provider and practice incentive payments for practices located in MM 3-7.	MM 4 - 30% MM 5 - 30% MM 6 - 50% MM 7 - 50%
<u>Rural Health</u> <u>Workforce</u> <u>Support Activity</u>	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.	Specific grants to health professionals not exceeding \$25,000 per annum, and capped at \$50,000, in totality.
	Grants to health professionals can include:	
	 Recruitment costs or as incentives Orientation expenses Relocation expenses to move to a rural area) 	
	 Locum support Assist with access to continuing professional development opportunities. 	



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<u>Rural Locum</u> <u>Assistance</u> <u>Program (RLAP)</u>	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.	Support includes the costs of travel, accommodation, travel allowance and incentives for locums. GPs can take planned leave and undertake CPD.
Support for Overs	eas Trained Doctors	
<u>5 Year Overseas</u> <u>Trained Doctor</u> <u>Scheme</u>	 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. 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. To qualify for a non-location specific exemption (i.e., time "off" their moratorium), each Five Year Scheme participant must: complete a return of service of between three and five years in an eligible regional or remote DWS community, obtain Fellowship of either the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners or Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine during the return of service, and become an Australian permanent resident (make a permanent commitment to Australia). 	Non-location specific exemption for the agreed period of their remaining moratorium time.



Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
Multidisciplinary Support (including Nursing and Allied Health Programs)		
<u>Health</u> <u>Workforce</u> <u>Scholarship</u> <u>Program</u>	 Provides postgraduate/continuous professional development scholarships targeted to GPs, Nursing and Allied Health Professionals. Eligible locations include: 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 Qualified health professionals providing primary health care in rural and remote locations in MM 3-7 locations. 	 Scholarship - Students receive \$10,000 per year for 2 years. Bursary - Covers the cost of training, accommodation, travel or course fees and/or cover or partially cover training related expenses.
Rural Health <u>Multidisciplinary</u> <u>Training (RHMT)</u> <u>Program</u>	 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. The RHMT program offers health students the opportunity to train in rural and remote communities via a network including: 20 rural clinical schools 20 university departments of rural health 6 dental faculties offering extended rural placements The Northern Territory Medical Program. 28 regional training hubs are tasked with building medical training pathways within a region and guiding students and trainees through these pathways. 	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.
Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway and Allied Health Assistant	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	 For students: Level 1: Graduate Certificate up to \$11,000 each.



Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
Workforce Program	 Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander background. The Program provides: 90 Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway workplace training packages, including 30 for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations 30 Rural Allied Health Assistant scholarship packages. 	 Level 2: Graduate Diploma of Rural Generalist Practice, or equivalent up to \$31,000 each. For allied health businesses: Package to backfill positions while student studies: Level 1: \$21,500 package over 1 year Level 2: \$43,000 package over 2 years
Indigenous <u>Health</u> <u>Workforce</u> <u>Traineeship</u> (IHWT) Program	 The Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeships (IHWT) program provides funding to approved National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) affiliates, or equivalent organisations to: increase the number of skilled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care sector, create viable career pathways in health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and build the capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) to provide culturally appropriate health care to its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. 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.	The Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeships (IHWT) program supports completion of approved nationally-recognised Certificate II to Diploma-level qualifications including those listed under the Health Training Package (HLT) and some approved courses under the Community Services Training Package (CHC). IHWT program comprises administration activities to support employment of a IHWT Program Coordinator, provide trainee supports such as mentors, promotes the program, and provides ongoing engagement and support to ACCHSs and RTOs. The Traineeship component provides trainee wages, travel and accommodation support for trainees.
<u>First Nations</u> <u>Health Worker</u> <u>Traineeship</u> <u>Program</u>	The First Nations Health Worker Traineeship Program provides funding to the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) to deliver the program. This program aims to:	The First Nations Health Worker Traineeship Program funds the relevant Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to support the trainee's clinical placement requirements are met, and the RTO, to support successful completion of the qualification. During the program, trainees will be able to access tutoring and
	 increase the supply of health workers and practitioners 	



Name	Description	Incentives (financial and other)
	 address health workforce shortages in rural, regional and remote Australia ensure a capable and qualified workforce. 	mentoring, help with English literacy, travel and accommodation, as well as other supports. 2022–23.
<u>Lowitja</u> <u>O'Donoghue</u> <u>Foundation –</u> <u>Nursing</u> <u>Scholarships</u>	The Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation Nursing Scholarships support aspiring and current nurses in advancing their qualifications. Funding is provided to the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) to support the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation Nursing Scholarships. The scholarships will increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses who are able to provide culturally safe care, which positively impacts on all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	The first round of scholarship applications opened in November 2024 and closed in January 2025. The scholarships are open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in either a Diploma of Nursing, Bachelor of Nursing or higher-degree course, across all MM locations. The scholarships can be used to cover course fees and/or some study costs (such as course- related accommodation and transport).
<u>Nursing in</u> <u>Primary Health</u> <u>Care (NiPHC)</u> <u>program</u>	The NiPHC program aims to build capability and capacity among the primary health care (PHC) 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.	Payments are made to nurses and mentors in the TPP. Primary health care organisations are paid to participate in BNC clinics. Primary Health Networks (PHNs) also subsidise some participation of nurses in projects.
Primary Care Nursing and Midwifery Scholarships Program	Aims to support registered nurses and midwives in post-graduate study to become nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives in primary and aged care settings. Priority is given to rural and remote & First Nations applicants. Demand is already significantly higher than anticipated for the scholarships and this may increase. The Program has a set number of scholarships available and ACNP will need to prioritise support and work within the number of availability of scholarships.	Scholarship funding will be paid to the education institution by the scholar following successful completion of units. Costs of courses will vary, and students may have remaining funds available from their scholarship. Scholars can use these surplus funds for clinical placement or course related expenses.



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Outreach Service Delivery Support				
<u>Medical</u> <u>Outreach</u> <u>Indigenous</u> <u>Chronic Disease</u> <u>Program</u> (MOICDP)	Some costs are payable to health professionals providing chronic disease outreach services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in MM 1-7 locations where the relevant State/Territory fund holder has identified a gap in service.	Some costs associated with delivering outreach services are payable to eligible health professionals to remove a range of financial disincentives (e.g., costs for travel, meals and accommodation).		
<u>Visiting</u> <u>Optometrists</u> <u>Scheme (VOS)</u>	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).		
	However, in recognition of the need for culturally sensitive services, VOS-funded outreach services may be provided to First Nations people in major cities (MM- 1), provided the service is delivered in an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service, Aboriginal Medical Service or other culturally safe host organisation.			
<u>Healthy Ears –</u> <u>Better Hearing,</u> <u>Better Listening</u> <u>Program</u>	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 areas of greatest need 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.	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).		