

## 2022 Flinders NT Regional Training Hub

### Rural and Remote Incentive Bursary Program Guidelines

#### 1. About the Flinders NT Regional Training Hub

The [Flinders NT Regional Training Hub](#) was established in late 2017 as a component of the Integrated Rural Training Pipeline for Medicine and is implemented through the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) program at Flinders University. It employs staff across two sites in Darwin and Alice Springs to deliver its initiatives across the Northern Territory (NT).

There are 26 Regional Training Hubs operating across Australia. They are tasked to:

- Improve the coordination of the stages of medical training to enable students and Junior Doctors intending to practise rurally to complete as much of their medical training as possible within regional, rural and remote areas
- Identify and mentor students and Junior Doctors with an interest in practising rurally and facilitate access to networked remote and rural vocational training opportunities at an early stage in their careers
- Develop regional training capacity by supporting current supervisors of clinical training, assisting health services in obtaining accreditation for new training positions, and supporting local medical practitioners to become clinical supervisors
- Strengthen existing, and develop new, connections with key stakeholders to improve the continuity of training for medical students/junior doctors/ trainees within their region
- Identify regional medical workforce needs and use this information to prioritise activity

The Flinders NT Regional Training Hub is currently working with relevant colleges, health services and training providers to identify and prioritise the areas of need and in turn, aim to build well-coordinated, and well supported, vocational training pathways in our region.

#### 2. Purpose and Scope

##### **Purpose**

Living and working in rural and remote Northern Territory (NT) is a unique, rewarding, and exciting experience. It does however come with its own set of challenges including access to specific professional development activities, major conferences, and great distances and costs to travel for specialty training applications and interviews.

Flinders NT Regional Training Hub is committed to supporting medical students and pre-vocational training doctors to live, work and stay in rural and remote NT as long as they are able to, and to maintain connection to the NT throughout their junior training years and into specialty training.

In response to this, the Flinders NT Regional Training Hub is offering the Rural and Remote Incentive Bursary which will be available for medical students and pre-vocational doctors that have shown commitment to furthering their training within the NT. The bursary will assist access to future training, skills acquisition, assessment fees, specialty college applications, specialty college interview travel as well as relevant conference attendance.

### **Benefits**

The total amount allocated to each applicant will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The following allocation limits are to be used as a guide:

- \$1000 for 3rd Year Northern Territory Medical Program (NTMP) students
- \$1500 for 4th Year NTMP students
- \$3000 for Interns
- \$5000 PGY2 and onwards

The Flinders NT Regional Training Hub will distribute at least two (2) bursaries for NTMP students and Interns and up to four (4) for PGY2+, during the calendar year. There is a limit of one bursary per person per calendar year and or annual bursary round.

### **Eligible Bursary Activities**

This bursary is intended to support additional training and support that is not able to be funded by other means. The bursary is to support one activity only and its associated costs. The following activities will be considered:

- Attendance at a conference or a scientific symposium related to medical specialist training interests, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, rural and remote health
- Professional development activities that will assist applicants to pursue training in their chosen speciality area, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health or rural and remote health. Activities can include undertaking certificates, diplomas, ALS courses and clinical skills training etc
- Costs associated with Specialist College applications and interviews
- Accommodation and travel costs in relation to the above activities
- Breakfasts and airport transfers in relation to the activities above (medical students only)

Applications for activities that fall outside of these parameters will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Please note that overseas activities and travel will not be supported under this scheme.

### **3. Eligibility Criteria**

The following are eligible to apply for a bursary under this scheme:

- Medical students from the NT Medical Program (NTMP) years 3 and 4
- NT health service Interns, PGY1 pre-vocational training medical doctors
- NT health service PGY2-4 pre-vocational training medical doctors

AND

- who have been living and working in the NT for at least 12 months
- preferably have committed to working in rural or remote NT ([MMM6-7](#)) area for a minimum of three (3) to six (6) months in current or previous years in the NT

AND

- are committed to/ have secured employment working in rural or remote NT (MMM6-7) area for a minimum of six (6) months of the following calendar year
- are not already on a recognised specialist training pathway where other professional development funds are available

### **4. Application Process**

#### **Advertising of the Expression of Interest Process**

- Advertising for the EOI process will commence in October via the Flinders NT blog, Flinders NT Facebook page and by email

#### **Expression of Interest Submission Dates**

- Expression of Interest (EOI) for the 2022 bursary program will open for applications in October 2021 for activities in the following calendar year
- The EOI application process will remain active for a period of three (3) weeks
- The EOI application form will be accessible from the [Flinders NT Regional Training Hub webpage](#)
- The Flinders NT Regional Training Hub reserves the right to open additional bursary EOI cycles in the calendar year for specific activities that support its strategic goals

#### **Selection Criteria**

- The determination of successful applications will be at the discretion of the Flinders NT Regional Training Hub and its Bursary Selection Committee

- The Bursary Selection Committee will consist of Flinders NT Regional Training Hub's Medical Directors and Program Manager and the Assoc/Prof in Medical Education and Training Flinders NTMP
- Student applicants must be of good academic standing with their Flinders NTMP studies – submissions will be reviewed by NTMP academic staff prior to approval
- Applicants must be able to take leave from Flinders NTMP studies (medical students only) and health service rotations to attend the desired activity
- Preference will be given to applicants that have demonstrated commitment to work or train in MMR6 or MMR7 regions remote for extended periods
- Applicants who have previously received a bursary from Flinders University are eligible to apply, though preference will be given to candidates that meet the criteria and have yet to receive support

#### **Payments of Funds to Approved Applicants**

- Payments can be made directly to the activity supplier (i.e., pay the conference organiser or airline directly) or it can be reimbursed to the applicant upon the presentation of a tax receipt
- Funds will not be distributed unless leave is approved by the Flinders NTMP (medical students) or the relevant health service, this is the applicant's responsibility.
- Funds must be fully committed by 15 November of each bursary calendar year and be commenced and completed within 12 months during the bursary calendar year. (prior approval will be required to hold funds post 15 November and case by case reviews of activities exceeding a 12-month duration)

#### **5. Post Bursary Commitments**

##### **Students:**

- Deliver a 15-minute presentation regarding how the student utilised the bursary funding and subsequent learning outcomes from the chosen activity, at a quarterly lunch and learn session at a Flinders University campus. This can be presented in person or via video link
- Supply or agree to be in photos for Flinders NT Regional Training Hub promotional purposes
- Recipients agree to be placed on a Flinders NT Regional Training Hub email distribution list (can opt out at any time) to:
  - be sought to provide comment and feedback on hub business and proposals
  - be surveyed about professional development needs around mentoring and rural and remote training

##### **Interns and Junior Medical Officers:**

- Contribute to a group presentation regarding how the bursary was utilised and the lessons learnt from undertaking that activity
- Write a 300-word reflection on the activity

- Supply or agree to be in photos for Flinders NT Regional Training Hub promotional purposes
- Recipients agree to be placed on a Flinders NT Regional Training Hub email distribution list (can opt out at any time) to:
  - be sought to provide comment and feedback on hub business and proposals
  - be surveyed about professional development needs around mentoring and rural and remote training

#### **6. Point of Contact**

All enquiries regarding the Flinders NT Regional Training Hub Rural and Remote Incentive Bursary Program should be directed to Eliza Gill, Program Manager, via [fnt.rth@flinders.edu.au](mailto:fnt.rth@flinders.edu.au) or (08) 89 200 253.