

## 2024 NT Regional Training Hub

### Rural and Remote Incentive Bursary Programme Guidelines

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

The Northern Territory Regional Training Hub works to improve the quality and stability of the medical workforce in the NT. It recognises our unique challenges and opportunities and works to promote the acquisition of appropriate skills, knowledge and attitudes for students and trainees seeking to pursue careers in rural and remote practice in both primary and secondary healthcare.

#### 2. Purpose and Scope

##### **Purpose**

Engagement in professional development activities and major conferences is an essential part of developing and maintaining the high-level of skills and knowledge required for NT practice. The Bursary Programme additionally aims to reduce the financial burden of long-distance travel for specialty training applications and interviews.

The Rural and Remote Incentive Bursary is available for medical students and pre-vocational doctors that have shown commitment to living and training within the NT. The bursary will assist access to specific training and skills acquisition. Bursary selection will be determined against the perceived workforce benefit of the training.

##### **Benefits**

Bursaries will be granted up to a maximum of \$5,000. For Flinders NTMP students the maximum is \$1,500.

- \$1,500 for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Year Northern Territory Medical Program (NTMP) students
- \$3,000 for Interns
- \$5,000 PGY2 and onwards

At least two bursaries for NTMP students and Interns and up to four for PGY2+, will be allocated, providing applications are suitable, during each calendar year. There is a limit of one bursary per person per calendar year and / or annual bursary round.

##### **Eligible Bursary Activities**

Bursaries are to support training not funded by other means. Applications are to be for one activity (and its associated costs) only. 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
- Costs associated with Specialist College applications and interviews
- Accommodation and travel costs in relation to the above activities
- Meals 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 international activities and travel will not be funded.

### **3. Eligibility Criteria**

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

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

Applicants must:

- have been living and working in the NT for at least 12 months
- not already be on a recognised specialist training pathway where other professional development funds are available

And

- 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
- 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

### **4. Application Process**

#### **Expression of Interest Submission Dates & Process**

- Expression of Interest (EOI) for the 2024 bursary program will open for applications in November 2023 for activities in the following calendar year
- Advertising will be via the Flinders Rural and Remote Health NT Facebook page, NT RTH website and via electronic direct mail
- The EOI application process will remain active for a period of approximately three weeks
- The EOI application form and closing dates will be accessible from the Flinders NT Regional Training Hub webpage
- The 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 NT Regional Training Hub and its Bursary Selection Committee
- The Bursary Selection Committee will consist of NT Regional Training Hub's Medical Director and Program Manager and the Assoc/Prof in Medical Education and Training Flinders NTMP
- Student applicants must be of good academic standing with the Flinders NTMP which will be confirmed before approval.
- Student applicants must be granted leave from Flinders University for the required period of the activity and associated travel. Evidence for this must be included in the application.
- Employees of Health Services must have leave provisionally approved by their employer.
- The following will be taken into account by the Selection Committee in their decision-making:
  - Evidence of commitment to working in the NT
  - Evidence of commitment to working rural or remote
  - Benefit to remote and rural patients
  - Past success in receiving funds. (Those who have a received bursary previously are not discouraged from re-application but fairness in distribution of funds will be considered.)

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

- Payments may be made directly, on receipt of an invoice, to a provider (conference organisation, airline) or as a reimbursement on receipt of evidence of payment by the successful applicant.
- The NT Regional Training Hub will not be responsible for expenses incurred before a successful application.
- In general, funds will be fully allocated from mid-January to mid-November each bursary calendar year and funded activity must be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024. In exceptional circumstances, funding may be extended for activity which occurs outside this limit but will require written justification and cannot be assumed.

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

All successful applicants will be required to participate in a small amount of promotional activity (which will include publicity photographs) and to be part of *the NT Regional Training Hub Reference Group* which will be surveyed for thoughts about future projects and proposals.

Additionally, each will deliver a short presentation at the *Regional Training Hub Educational Event*. Participation via video is an option.

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

All enquiries regarding the 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.