Community Pharmacy Agreement

Program Specific Guidelines

Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Mentor Scheme

Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

This project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Mentor Scheme

Introduction

This document outlines the Program Specific Guidelines governing the provision of the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Mentor Scheme (a component of the Rural Pharmacy Workforce Program). They are to be read in conjunction with the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (Fifth Agreement) General Terms and Conditions.

Funding is provided under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) for the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Mentor Scheme (Mentor Scheme).

Background

The Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Mentor Scheme is an initiative of the Rural Pharmacy Workforce Program established in recognition of the key role pharmacists play in maintaining the health of all Australians, particularly in rural and remote Australia. The Scheme supports participation in the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme.

The Mentor Scheme is designed to provide pharmacy students with guidance and support from a practicing rural pharmacist. Involvement in the Mentor Scheme is compulsory for all holders of the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship and holders of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship.

The Scheme provides funding of $375 (GST exclusive) to Mentors per mentored student per year.

Participation Requirements

Mentor eligibility

In order to participate in the Scheme, Mentors must meet the following eligibility criteria. They must:

1. Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
2. Be a practicing rural pharmacist
3. Have the capacity to be in contact at least quarterly with their scholar
4. Be practicing in a rural area
5. Agree to provide reports in accordance with these Guidelines
6. Agree to participate in longitudinal studies or annual surveys.

Eligible Rural Locations

For the purpose of the Mentor Scheme, 'Rural" will be determined by the Pharmacy Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia (PhARIA).

Mentors practicing in the following PhARIAs will be deemed eligible: PhARIA 2 – 6 PhARIAs for a particular location can be found by visiting the following website:

http://gisca.adelaide.edu.au/projects/pharia.html

The Guild reserves the right to determine whether a location is deemed eligible based on the categories above.

Mentor Activities

The aim of the Scheme is to reinforce the scholar's ties to rural and regional Australia and provide support to scholars during each year of their pharmacy studies, outside of the university and formal study environment. To assist in achieving this, Mentors are required to develop a Learning Plan with their scholar and have ongoing contact on at least a quarterly basis.

Learning Plan: using the electronic form provided the Mentor and scholar should together develop a realistic and meaningful Learning Plan at the beginning of each year. The activities in the Learning Plan should be achievable and relevant to the current level of study and should include activity to be undertaken with the mentor, participation in the rural health club and any other rural activities.

Mentor Report: using the electronic form provided the Mentor must provide a brief report at the end of each academic year outlining contact with their scholar and detailing the scholar's rural health activities.

Mentor Details: Using the electronic form provided the mentor must submit details to enable payment. Once submitted the Mentor will receive payment via EFT to the bank account nominated on the Mentor Details form.

Forms can be completed and submitted via **www.ruralpharmacy.com.au**

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Important Information

These Guidelines are intended to provide consistency and certainty in respect of the administration of the Scheme but it should also be noted that they are not legally binding on the Guild or on the Australian Government. The Guild may depart from these Guidelines in individual situations where circumstances warrant. These Guidelines may be revised from time to time. The Guidelines are administrative and reflect the intention of the Guild and the Australian Government as to how the Scheme is to be administered. These Guidelines do not confer any entitlement to a person to receive payment as a Mentor. Neither the Guild nor the Australian Government will accept liability for any loss or damage incurred by a person in expectation of payment for Mentor duties.

Please note that the Program Specific Guidelines that govern all of the Rural Pharmacy Programs undergo a continuous quality improvement process, which may result in revisions to the guidelines from time to time. All revisions will be undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Health and Ageing and may involve a consultation process.

Without limiting its rights at law or otherwise, the Guild reserves the right in its absolute discretion at any time to suspend, amend or vary the Guidelines.

Resources and Information

This Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Contact

For general information about the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme please access:

- **www.ruralpharmacy.com.au**
- Or contact the Rural and Indigenous Pharmacy Workforce team on
  - **02 6270 1888**
  - **ruralpharmacy@guild.org.au**