

Applications

are invited for

Primary Health Care Postgraduate Research Scholarships

Funds for this program have been made available by the Australian Government under the Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Strategy

NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

PURPOSE AND ELIGIBILITY

The purpose of the Scholarships program is to encourage graduates to obtain formal training in primary health care research. All candidates must enrol for a higher degree requiring full time research. Scholarships will be held within Australia.

Applications will be considered from all eligible individuals proposing primary health care research. For the purposes of the program, primary health care research is considered to be research based on the organisation and delivery of:

- first-contact, and usually ongoing, health and medical care in the General Practice setting and in Aboriginal Medical Services; and
- broader health and medical care in the community to individuals and their families by community nurses, allied health practitioners and community pharmacists.

The program does not extend to research based on care or programs delivered outside of the above settings, such as care and programs delivered:

- In hospitals;
- in schools; and
- in non-clinical fields such as community development.

The Scholarships are primarily intended to contribute to the development and strengthening of the primary health care research workforce.

Those eligible to apply are:

- ◆ Australian citizens who are medical or dental graduates currently registered to practice within Australia; or
- ◆ Australian citizens who have already completed a health related Honours degree (or equivalent) at the time of submission of the application; or
- ◆ Medical or dental graduates from overseas who are currently registered to practice within Australia, who have permanent Australian resident status and are currently residing in Australia. Applicants are to provide certification of continuing medical/dental registration in Australia, where appropriate, and evidence of resident status; or
- ◆ Health related graduates from overseas, who have permanent resident status and are currently residing in Australia. Applicants whose most recent degree was attained overseas should consult the National Office of Overseas Recognition (NOOSR) Country Education Profile to determine the Australian equivalent of their qualifications. A letter from their administering institution confirming the equivalent qualification must be attached to the end of the application.

Those not eligible to apply are:

- ◆ Applicants already in receipt of an Australian Postgraduate Award or equivalent Australian Government funded scholarship.

Only one application from each candidate will be considered.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

In awarding these Scholarships, attention will be paid to:

- ◆ academic record,
- ◆ research experience and publications,
- ◆ whether the proposed research meets the program's definition of 'primary health care research';
- ◆ the quality of the proposed research and institution,
- ◆ development or capacity building opportunities to be gained from the research,
- ◆ suitability of the intended supervisor and institution, and
- ◆ suitability of the applicant for research training.

APPLICATIONS

All applications should be submitted on the special forms that, together with details of the salary stipends and conditions associated with NHMRC scholarship and fellowship awards, are available from the NHMRC's web site or research administrative officers of universities, hospitals and other research institutions.

General information is available on the Internet on NHMRC's home page:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>

Applications must be lodged with NHMRC electronically (see Instruction Booklet). In addition, the original single-sided A4 application must be submitted to NHMRC by the due date. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all referee reports are provided by the due date. Of particular importance is the statement from the proposed supervisor agreeing to host the Scholar, without which the application will be deemed ineligible.

TENURE

The Scholarships are awarded initially for one year, but subject to satisfactory progress as judged by the host institution, may be renewed. Normally the maximum period of the award will be three years if initial postgraduate degree enrolment is concurrent with commencement of the Scholarship.

NHMRC CLOSING DATE: 05 AUGUST 2006

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH YOUR RESEARCH OFFICE
PLEASE CONFIRM THE INSTITUTIONAL CLOSING DATE WITH YOUR RESEARCH OFFICE

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Scholarship holders already enrolled for the post-graduate degree prior to the commencement of the Scholarship will have the maximum period reduced by the equivalent full-time period of study undertaken prior to the commencement of the Scholarship.

STIPEND AND ALLOWANCES

The Australian Postgraduate Award (APA), currently \$19,231 per annum, will apply.

Nursing and Allied Health Professionals, the NHMRC priority rate, currently at \$24,817 per annum, will be paid.

For medical/dental graduates the stipend is currently \$28,600 per annum.

An allowance of \$2000 pa towards the cost of consumables and travel to approved conferences is payable to the department where the Scholar is working.

Applicants are advised to ensure that they know how their course fees will be covered before applying for the scholarship.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Applicants are responsible for arranging that reports are provided by the intended Supervisor - **without which the application will be deemed ineligible**, and an independent nominated referee. This referee is to have had no substantive professional or private contact with the applicant or to have had any previous or current collaboration with the applicant's recent or planned supervisors, but should be knowledgeable in the field of study. This referee should not be at the applicant's current institution.

The proposed supervisor is to attach to their report a 2 page CV incorporating the following:

Personal details: name, title, current position
Education: degrees/qualifications, year, institution
Experience: postgraduate professional and research positions held, awards and honours
Support: details of current and past grants held (last 6 years)

Publications: list in chronological order all recent (last 5 years) authors, titles and complete citation of publications (of the supervisor) pertinent to the application.

Referees should email their report to
NHMRC.Referee.CARSS@health.gov.au

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all referee reports are provided by the due date.

CONDITIONS

The NHMRC Researcher Deed of Agreement and associated schedule shall apply and are to be read by the applicant. These are available from the appropriate institutional office on request or on the Internet on NHMRC's home page:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>

Applicants are expected to have made prior arrangements with the Heads of Departments or Institutions in which they propose to study.

Support will commence on 1 January 2007. However, in exceptional circumstances only, consideration may be given to the deferment of commencement of the Scholarship for a maximum period of six months and to the extension of the Scholarship for a maximum period of up to six months.

REPORT ON SCHOLARSHIPS

On completion of the Scholarship, a Scholar shall furnish a copy of the summary section of his/her thesis together with a publication list as a report of the work performed during the tenure of the award. One year after completion of the Scholarship a Scholar shall provide a final brief summary detailing the publication list and current employment location and status.

Appropriate recognition for the assistance of Council and the Australian Government's Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Strategy should be included in publications resulting from work undertaken during the tenure of a Scholarship by stating that the author (or co-author) holds a National Health and Medical Research Council Primary Health Care Postgraduate Research Scholarship funded by the Australian Government's Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Strategy, and quoting the Scholarship application ID number.

All initial applications should be made on the special forms which are available, together with NHMRC Deed of Agreement and schedule for Scholarships, from the administrative officers of Universities, Hospitals and other research institutions or from the National Health and Medical Research Council web page : <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>

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