The overall aim of the Oncology Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarship Program is to improve the capability of allied health practitioners working in oncology services in Victorian locations. To meet this goal, the program supports allied health practitioners who have demonstrated their involvement in, and a commitment to, oncology allied health practice to improve their skills and practice expertise through postgraduate studies.

By encouraging and supporting oncology allied health practitioners to undertake postgraduate study, it is anticipated that the quality of qualified practitioners working in oncology services in Victoria will be improved. The financial support provided to practitioners through the scholarship program will assist them in meeting the additional expenses often borne by practitioners accessing education.

It is anticipated that the following impacts will result from the provision of postgraduate scholarships to oncology allied health practitioners:

- Improved acquisition of skills and practice expertise by allied health practitioners working in Victoria
- Increased participation of rural allied health practitioners undertaking postgraduate study
- Increased awareness of postgraduate study opportunities amongst allied health practitioners employed in public rural health services
- Increased retention of appropriately skilled allied health practitioners in regional and rural health services caring for oncology patients

Scholarships

The level of funding for Postgraduate Scholarships varies according to the level of qualification being attained:

- Masters: $7,500
- Graduate Diploma: $5,000
- Graduate Certificate: $2,500

Funding will be provided in two equal payments:

- 50% upon commencement of Semester 1
- 50% upon successful completion of Semester 2
Eligibility

The following allied health professions are eligible to apply for a scholarship:

- Art Therapy
- Audiology
- Biomedical Science
- Dietetics
- Exercise Physiology
- Health Promotion
- Hospital Pharmacy
- Medical Laboratory Science
- Medical Physics
- Medical Radiation (Diagnostic Imaging, Nuclear Medicine)
- Music Therapy
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Orthoptics
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Prosthetics/Orthotics
- Psychology (Clinical Psychology, Clinical Neuropsychology)
- Social Work
- Speech Pathology

- Postgraduate scholarships are available for permanent or contract employees of a public sector health service in Victoria who intend to commence an eligible postgraduate course in 2015
- Postgraduate studies for which scholarships will be granted are those including allied health discipline specific and non-discipline specific courses that are related to oncology and their employment. However this does not include entry-level or undergraduate qualifications
- Scholarships will only be granted once per applicant per postgraduate qualification
- Scholarships are available for those applicants intending to commence study in 2015 only
- If other funds are received from the Services for Australian Rural and Remote Health (SARRAH) Professional Scholarship Scheme to support postgraduate study, practitioners will be ineligible to receive a scholarship

Selection Criteria

Applications for scholarships will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Demonstrated relevance of postgraduate study to service demand
- The applicant’s demonstrated understanding of oncology practice
- The applicant’s demonstrated interest in, and commitment to oncology care
- Enrolment in eligible postgraduate studies at an accredited Australian tertiary institution in 2015
- Masters, postgraduate diploma and postgraduate certificate courses will all be considered
- Resident of Victoria and an Australian permanent resident

Please note that the total budget for the scholarship program is capped and therefore not all applicants that meet the criteria will necessarily be granted a scholarship. Priority will be given to up to three applications that meet the criteria from regional cancer centres.
Terms and Conditions

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a written agreement stating that they will:

- Give preference to continuing to work in public practice in Victoria after completing their studies. Although these scholarships are not bonded, it is hoped that recipients will continue to practice in the public health sector so that they can contribute significantly to the care of oncology patients
- Provide immediate notification (within one month of occurrence) of a change of contact details or employment
- Provide notification of withdrawal from, or changes to their course of studies (within one month of occurrence). Those changing courses to a non-allied health course or withdrawing from postgraduate studies will be required to repay scholarship monies
- Participate in tracking and evaluation exercises in relation to their receipt of the scholarship
- Repay scholarship funding received if they fail to comply with the conditions of the agreement

Further Information

If you require further information or have any queries in regards to requirements, please contact the VHA via email at vha@vha.org.au or refer to the Frequently Asked Questions section on the Scholarships page of the VHA website.

Send completed electronic application form and scanned information to: vha@vha.org.au

These guidelines take effect on 17 November 2014 and are subject to revision by the Department of Health (DH). Changes to these guidelines may only be made by, or with the approval of DH.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5PM FRIDAY 6 MARCH 2015