

Scholarship glossary and FAQ

Victorian Government Mental Health and Wellbeing Workforce Scholarships

OFFICIAL

Glossary

Term	Definition
Alcohol and other drug (AOD) practitioner	AOD practitioners are employed in a range of settings, including residential rehabilitation, withdrawal and community programs. In addition to their AOD-specific education and training, they come from numerous disciplines such as nursing, social work and psychology. They may also hold specialisations that allow them to work in addiction medicine or with specialist clients.
Australian College of Nursing (ACN; also referred to as the College)	The organisation that is administering the scholarship program on behalf of the Department of Health.
Course fees or costs	The cost of a person's course, including any administration fees or student services and amenities fees.
Degrees in clinical disciplines	Degrees in nursing, medicine, psychology, social work, occupational therapy and other allied health disciplines.
Designated lived/living experience worker role	<i>Consumer</i> – a unique role which is informed by lived/living expertise gained by personal experience of mental illness or psychological distress and/or substance use and addiction <i>Family/Carer/Supporter</i> – a unique role which is informed by lived/living expertise gained by personal experience of caring for, or supporting, a person with mental illness or psychological distress and/or substance use and addiction.
Fully qualified occupational therapist or social worker	A person who has completed a Bachelor or Master of Occupational Therapy or a person who has completed a Bachelor or Master of Social Work.
Fully qualified psychologist	A person who has completed four years of undergraduate psychology studies (to receive provisional registration) and is either undertaking or has undertaken the required steps to receive general registration.
Other allied health disciplines	A person who has completed a Bachelor or Masters in a therapeutic allied health field or clinical pharmacy. This includes but is not limited to speech pathology, exercise physiology, dietetics and physiotherapy. All allied health disciplines categorised as 'Therapy disciplines', on the department's 'Allied health categories position paper' , in addition to pharmacy, are eligible.
Postgraduate qualification or course	Graduate certificate, graduate diploma, master's degree or doctorate.

Term	Definition
Psychiatric state enrolled nursing (PSEN) grants	A commitment of the Victorian Government to provide financial support to public mental health services for backfill arrangements for PSENs who require study leave to undertake clinical placements.
State-funded AOD services	Specialist AOD treatment services that receive funding from the Victorian Government.
State-funded mental health services	Mental health services that receive funding from the Victorian Government. They include clinical services ('Area Mental Health Services') and non-clinical services ('Mental Health Community Support Services'). These include specialist areas within these two sectors, such as Forensicare or youth mental health services.
University level qualification (or course)	Undergraduate and postgraduate courses, i.e., bachelor's degree, graduate certificate, graduate diploma, master's degree, doctorate.

Frequently asked questions for all scholarships

The following questions provide guidance on the overarching scholarship program (and will be updated as required):

When you are applying

1. How do I navigate through the application?

Use the menu on the left to move through the questions.

2. Do I have to complete the application in one sitting?

No, you can save the information entered in the application and return to it prior to submitting. Please remember to keep a record of your username and password.

3. How do I save the information I have already entered?

By clicking on the menu or the save and continue button at the end of the page, will save your information.

4. What does the asterisk (*) mean?

Questions with an asterisk must be completed.

5. Are late applications accepted?

No. All applications must be submitted by the relevant due date and time, after which the application portal will no longer be available.

6. Am I able to make any changes once I have submitted my application?

No. You cannot make any changes once an application is submitted.

If your contact details change prior to notification, please email the new details to the scholarships team at scholarships@acn.edu.au.

7. When will I be notified if I am successful?

You will be advised of the outcome of your application via email six to eight weeks after the applications close (or on a rolling basis, where applicable).

8. What courses are eligible?

All courses must be undertaken with an accredited Australian tertiary institution. Please refer to each individual scholarship for additional scholarship-specific course requirements.

9. Can I apply if my university runs on trimesters?

Yes. The fact that an applicant's university runs on trimesters will not affect eligibility for a scholarship.

10. How will I know if I've received a scholarship?

The College will contact applicants via email to inform them they are a scholarship recipient.

11. What happens after I receive a scholarship?

Once the required evidence has been provided to the College, scholarship recipients will receive funds for their semester 1, 2023 units via a direct electronic transfer to their account following the census date.

Generally, funding will be disbursed to the recipient incrementally based on evidence of enrolment for each semester. Evidence of the completion of prior funded units will be required before the College can pay a recipient for additional units.

Scholarship recipients will be required to provide the College with evidence via supporting documents to begin receiving funds (including the letter of recommendation from your service, evidence of previous university qualifications if relevant, proof of enrolment in a postgraduate course at an accredited university, and proof of Australian citizenship, permanent residency, or New Zealand citizenship).

12. Can I defer enrolling in a course?

Yes. Scholarship recipients may defer their enrolment once.

13. How do I contact the College?

The College can be contacted directly for any queries about eligibility or to offer support with the application process. Phone 1800 117 262 or email scholarships@acn.edu.au

Scholarship recipients

1. How are scholarships assessed?

Eligible applications will be assessed by an independent selection panel.

As part of the assessment process a weighting system will be applied, with priority given to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander applicants and rural/regional applicants.

2. How is payment administered?

Most of the scholarships are paid directly to individual recipients, not their employers, educational institution or the Australian Taxation Office. PSEs are the exception – see information below.

Important Information

Only the information you provide in your application will be considered.

You must answer all questions in the application, as incomplete applications will not be considered for selection.

The application is to apply for a scholarship only. Your application is not an application for admission to an educational institution.

Frequently asked questions for specific scholarships

The following questions provide guidance on specific scholarship offerings (and will be updated as required):

Allied health and AOD postgraduate scholarships

1. Who can apply?

Social workers, occupational therapists, psychologists and other allied health professionals (such as speech pathologists, dieticians, physiotherapists and other allied health disciplines) working in state-funded mental health services (including those delivered by non-government organisations) are eligible to apply. For AOD scholarships, AOD practitioners working in state funded AOD services are welcome to apply.

All applicants must have at least two years' experience working in their discipline.

2. What other allied health professions are eligible?

All allied health disciplines classified as 'Therapy disciplines', on the department's ['Allied health categories position paper'](#), in addition to pharmacy, are eligible.

3. Are practice-based research degrees eligible?

Qualifications must be focused on direct clinical practical skills. Qualifications to support skills in practice-based research will therefore be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If an applicant's research is solely theoretical and not clinical skills-based, they will not be considered.

4. Can this scholarship contribute to practice endorsement qualifications?

Yes, these scholarships can contribute to postgraduate training in areas that enable psychologists to gain practice endorsement (for example, a Master of Clinical Psychology).

5. Can applicants who hold generic roles (i.e., not discipline specific) apply?

Yes, individuals who are qualified in social work, occupational therapy and psychology and are working in generic, psychosocial or case management roles can apply.

6. Can applicants from youth services apply?

Yes. Allied health clinicians as outlined above (social workers, occupational therapists, psychologists and other allied health professionals) are eligible for funding provided their service is a state funded mental health service per the definition outlined in the glossary.

Lived and living experience workforces (LLEW) university scholarships

1. What is a designated lived or living experience role?

Designated lived experience roles include all positions, regardless of the position type or setting, that require lived experience of mental illness or psychological distress, substance use or addiction, or of being a family member or carer.

2. Are courses in family therapy eligible?

Yes, courses relating to family therapy (for example, a Graduate Certificate of Counselling Child Youth and Family Therapy or a Master of Clinical Family Therapy) are eligible for this scholarship. Applicants will need to

demonstrate a clear connection to family/carer leadership and skill development in their application to meet the requirements of this initiative.

3. Are Lived or Living Experience specific courses eligible?

Yes, lived or living experience specific university courses (for example mad studies) are eligible. Unfortunately, there are currently no lived or living experience specific university courses offered by Australian-based universities. As such, candidates will need to apply with international universities or complete higher degrees by research focused on lived or living experience research topics. Applicants will need to demonstrate a clear connection to how these courses will support leadership and skill development to meet the requirements of this initiative.

4. Are TAFE level courses eligible?

No. University level courses are eligible (including bachelor's degrees) – this excludes Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas and Certificate IVs. If you are interested in pursuing TAFE-level qualifications, please review the department's other initiatives here: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/workforce-and-training/lived-experience-workforce-initiatives>

5. Is the course I'm applying for eligible?

If you are unsure if the course you are applying for is eligible for this scholarship don't hesitate to ask the College. The College can provide guidance or confirm with the department and provide you advice.

6. What areas of study are eligible?

Areas of study that applicants could consider include (but are not limited to):

- leadership
- education and training
- research and evaluation
- training and assessment
- change management
- finance and administration
- policy and governance
- health services management
- project management
- family therapy
- mad studies.

7. What types of courses are eligible?

The following courses are examples of eligible university level qualifications.

- *Leadership* - Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Leadership, Master of Leadership
- *Management/Business* - Graduate Certificate in Business Administration, Graduate Certificate in Health Management, Graduate Diploma of Health Management
- *Education* - Master of Health Professions Education, Master of Education (Research)

- *Family Therapy* – Graduate Certificate of Counselling Child Youth and Family Therapy, Master of Clinical Family Therapy.
- *Mad Studies* – Postgraduate Diploma Mad Studies, Postgraduate Certificate of Mad Studies, Masters of Mad Studies. Please note these courses are currently not offered by Australian-based universities. Applicants wishing to apply for courses in Mad Studies will need to apply through international universities.

This is not an exhaustive list. Applicants are encouraged to apply for any course that will contribute to their leadership development in the lived and living experience workforce excluding those that are for non-lived experience clinical disciplines.

Nursing postgraduate scholarships and PSEN grants

There are three nursing scholarships available:

Postgraduate mental health nursing scholarships (full course fee)

1. Can I apply if I have previously received this scholarship?

No, you cannot apply for this scholarship if you have already received the full course fee scholarship.

2. Can I apply if I have already received the postgraduate mental health nursing scholarship (worth \$3000)?

Yes, you can apply for this scholarship if you have received the \$3000 scholarship previously.

3. When do scholarship applications close?

Scholarships will be awarded on a rolling basis up until the end of January 2023 or until the full allocation is reached. We recommend applying for a scholarship as soon as you can to avoid disappointment.

Postgraduate mental health nursing scholarships (worth \$3000)

1. Who can apply?

Registered nurses who are Australian citizens, permanent residents or New Zealand citizens working in a Victorian Area Mental Health Service can apply.

2. Can I apply if I have already received the full course fee scholarship?

No, you cannot apply for this scholarship if you have already received the full course fee scholarship. If you are eligible to apply for both scholarships, you are welcome to, but the full course fee scholarship will be prioritised.

3. Can I apply if I have already received this scholarship?

Yes, you can apply for this scholarship if you have already received it previously.

4. What documents do I need to supply with my application?

You will need to upload a letter of support from the Director of Nursing or Senior Nurse at your place of work. This letter needs to confirm that you are employed by the service and that they support your scholarship application.

5. What courses are eligible?

Eligible courses are those that build the capabilities required to deliver high quality, evidence-based consumer-centred care in the specialist mental health sector and/or build the capacity of the Victorian mental health sector by improving the skills and knowledge of other mental health nurses within the sector. These include (but are not limited to): Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma/Master of Mental Health Nursing, Master of Forensic Mental Health, Graduate Certificate in Youth Mental Health, etc.

6. Are nurse practitioner courses eligible?

If you are considering a master's level qualification that leads to endorsement as a nurse practitioner, you may only apply for this scholarship in certain circumstances. The department recommends that you speak to your Head of Nursing and Midwifery Education to determine your organisation's need for such a role and commitment to providing the associated supervision and mentorship requirements. You cannot receive both this scholarship as well as the Nursing and Midwifery Postgraduate Scholarship. You are therefore strongly encouraged to consider which option is most suitable for you and best aligns with your organisation's priorities before applying.

7. What can these scholarships be used for?

The scholarships are worth up to \$3,000 and considered a contribution towards the cost of undertaking postgraduate studies, including tuition fees, student contributions, study loans (HECS-HELP and FEE-HELP), books and equipment, travel required to attend lectures and clinical placements, childcare and other related study costs.

8. Do scholarship recipients need to provide a budget?

No, recipients do not need to prove how they will spend the money or provide the department or ACN with a proposed budget for the \$3,000.

9. How will the money be paid to scholarship recipients?

Successful applicants will receive \$3,000 in full as a one-off payment into their personal bank account.

Psychiatric state enrolled nursing grants

1. Who can apply?

Victorian public mental health services must apply on behalf of the psychiatric state enrolled nurse (PSEN). Before applying, the service must confirm that the PSEN is:

- a) registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia,
- b) an Australian Citizen, New Zealand Citizen, or permanent resident,
- c) employed or commencing employment at the service, and
- d) enrolled in a Bachelor of Nursing for the relevant semester.

2. How will the money be paid to grant recipients?

Victorian public mental health services attaining a grant will receive \$2,717 in full as a one-off payment, paid directly to the employer (rather than the PSEN).