

Orticare Pharmacotherapy Network: NP Scholarship Guidelines

OVERVIEW

Orticare Pharmacotherapy Network is offering scholarships to Alcohol and other Drug (AOD) Nurse Practitioner Candidates (NPCs) working in the Grampians or Loddon Mallee Regions.

One of Orticare's current workforce development priorities, as noted in our Strategic Action Plan, is to increase the number and capacity of AOD Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in the catchment. AOD NPs are a small but rapidly growing specialist workforce in Victoria, based in both hospital and community settings.

AOD NPs constitute a significant value-add to the pharmacotherapy service system and to the AOD service system more broadly, as they can offer diagnostic and prescribing expertise while operating from a holistic nursing framework. Some of the service system enhancements that AOD NPs provide in the rural and regional context are:

- Advanced assessment, consultation, and education
- Enhanced withdrawal capacity
- Pharmacotherapy
- Shared care AOD treatment with General Practitioners
- Capacity building of general practice and AOD treatment services.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Orticare is utilising the scholarship grant to offer financial support towards the completion of a master's degree for those AOD NPCs working within the Grampians or Loddon Mallee regions.

SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Scholarships will be applied for by eligible applicants with the endorsement of their employing organisation, see scholarship application form. Grants will be paid to the employing organisation; organisations will then be able to directly pay their employee's study costs in line with the inclusions below.

In determining suitability for a scholarship, the Orticare Network will seek confirmation from each organisation that the NPC is supported to undertake their clinical internship/practice and will require a brief description of how each organisation's model of service will enhance and sustain rural and regional capacity in pharmacotherapy. Priority will be given to NPCs working in geographic areas of high need for increased pharmacotherapy services.

A panel of Orticare network members will oversee the awarding of grants to ensure transparency of decision-making and funds allocation.

SCHOLARSHIP TIMING

Two rounds of scholarships will be offered per year. Closing dates for the rounds will be 1st of May and 1st of November of each year.

CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

Any AOD Nurse Practitioner Candidate working in the Grampians or Loddon Mallee Region may apply for a grant of **up to \$10,000**. Funds may be utilised for the following expenses:

- University fees
- Study related travel expenses (up to \$1000 with receipts)
- Course books and related materials (this does not include IT equipment)

Depending on the number and nature of applications received, partial scholarships may be granted. The employing organisation will be required to provide a final acquittal of funds to the Orticare Manager by the end of the financial year.

In the event that a scholarship recipient changes employer, the candidate is required to let Orticare know. Any unused grant moneys may be transferred to their new employer provided that:

- They remain in alcohol and drugs service delivery
- They are continuing to work within the Orticare network catchment (Grampians and Loddon Mallee).

In the event that a scholarship recipient discontinues their studies, Orticare reserves the right to review and possibly rescind the grant moneys depending on the circumstances. Extenuating circumstances (e.g.: serious ill-health) will be taken into account.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Orticare Network is responsible for:

- Provision of scholarship funds to eligible recipients via a transparent process
- Monitoring the use of scholarship grants to ensure the promotion of pharmacotherapy service capacity.

Individual grant recipients are responsible for:

- Completion of their NP studies in keeping with the aims of the Orticare Network to promote pharmacotherapy prescribing
- Timely provision of accurate expense records to their employing organisation
- Presentation of two cases on the Victorian Opioid Management ECHO per twelve months

Employing organisations are responsible for:

- Supporting their employed grant recipients' professional development
- Holding scholarship grant funds and payment of these to the recipient upon receipt of appropriate invoices
- Reporting to the Orticare Manager an acquittal of scholarship funds and expense items as at the end of the financial year, most likely this will be the line manager.

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete the application form and email to orticare@bchc.org.au

For any queries, please contact Ms Pauline Molloy, Orticare Manager on (03) 5338 9142
paulinemo@bchc.org.au