



Role of Rural Workforce Agencies

Rural Workforce Agencies (RWAs) are funded by the Department of Health to identify the rural health workforce needs in their state or the Northern Territory. Participants of the Bonded Medical Program (Program) new arrangement can contact an RWA for advice and guidance.

The Bonded Medical Program, established in 2001, provides students with a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) in a medical course at an Australian university, in return for a commitment to work in eligible regional, rural or remote areas for a specified period after completion of their medical course. This commitment is referred to as a Return of Service Obligation (RoSO).

To support the new arrangement, the Department of Health online web portal, the Bonded Return of Service System (BRoSS), will allow bonded students and doctors to self-manage their RoSO and identify eligible locations where they can work. Features of BRoSS will be released throughout 2020.

Rural Workforce Agencies

RWAs, will support participants entering the Bonded Medical Program from 1 January 2020 and existing participants who choose to opt in to the new arrangement.

RWAs are funded by the department to identify the rural health workforce needs in their state or the Northern Territory, to increase access to essential primary health care services, and to support the workforce's capability and sustainability.

Within the broad scope of their services for the rural medical and primary health care workforce, RWAs are able to identify opportunities for participants of the Program through each phase or stage of the Program and including all medical specialities.

This support can include:

- assisting with providing participants options and recruitment support for placement into rural roles that meet their RoSO
- providing information about professional development and support to enable participants to be part of a broader rural medical professional network
- providing participants with information about accessing rural medical experiences during undergraduate and early career years and access to grants

For medical students considering a career in rural health, RWAs also provide a range of events as part of their future workforce activities to provide positive exposure to rural medical careers.

The Network of Rural Workforce Agencies administers the National Rural Health Student's Network (NRHSN), which is funded to foster and support students' interests in rural careers during their

medical undergraduate years. For further information about the NRHSN, go to their website:
<https://www.nrhsn.org.au/>

To enable RWAs to offer and provide support to all participants under the new arrangement they will have access to participant personal information through BRoSS.

Personal information shared may include:

- name and contact email address
- year of commencement and name of scheme
- state or territory of study or work
- phase or stage in the program

RWA locations and contact information

Please contact your local RWA to find out more about how your RWA can support you.

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| New South Wales | NSW Rural Doctors Network Website: https://www.nswrdn.com.au/ | Email: students@nswrdn.com.au |
| Victoria | Rural Workforce Agency Victoria Website: https://www.rwav.com.au/ | Email: rwav@rwav.com.au |
| Queensland | Health Workforce Queensland Website: https://www.healthworkforce.com.au/ | Email: Futureworkforce@healthworkforce.com.au |
| Western Australia | Rural Health West Website: http://www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/ | Email: info@ruralhealthwest.com.au |
| South Australia | Rural Doctors Workforce Agency Website: https://www.ruraldoc.com.au/ | Email: recruitment@ruraldoc.com.au |
| Tasmania | HR Plus Website: https://www.hrplustas.com.au/ | Email: bmp@hrplustas.com.au |
| Northern Territory | Northern Territory PHN Website: https://www.ntphn.org.au/health-professionals | Email: ntphn@ntphn.org.au |

Further information

Department of Health website: health.gov.au/new-arrangements-bonded-medical-program
Contact the Department of Health

- Telephone: 1800 987 104 (Monday – Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm AEST)
- Email: BRoSS@health.gov.au