2021 Educational Grants for Trainees in Regional, Rural and Remote STP Funded Posts

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) has received Australian Government funding under the Specialist Training Program (STP) to provide Educational Grants (Grant) of up to $3,000 (GST inclusive) for trainees in STP funded posts located in regional, rural and remote areas.

The objective of this initiative is to increase educational support and opportunities for the RANZCP STP trainees located in regional, rural and remote areas on their pathway to Fellowship.

Application process:
- Complete the Educational Grants application form and acknowledge acceptance of these Guidelines.
- The RANZCP will review the application and notify the applicant of the outcome by email.
- If successful, the RANZCP will send a Letter of Agreement confirming the Grant amount.
- The successful applicant will be required to return a signed Letter of Agreement in order for payment to be provided.
- A Letter of Support from your supervisor is essential if the activities you are applying for require you to take leave.

Key dates:
- Educational activities (Activities) must be scheduled and completed prior to 31 January 2022.

Please note: The RANZCP reserves the right to close applications early should the allocations of Grant funding be exhausted.

Eligibility:
- Grants are available to the RANZCP trainees in STP funded posts.
- Trainees are required to be based at locations between RA 2–5 as per the Australian Statistical Geography Standard Remoteness Area (ASGS-RA) 2016.
- Trainees are required to be working for at least 0.5 full-time equivalent in an RA 2–5 area within the rotation for which the application applies.
- One educational activity may be applied for per application form.
- One Grant per year will be allocated to successful trainees (applicants); the total Grant funding must not exceed $3,000 (inclusive of any travel, accommodation, and meal expenses).
- Educational activities must be completed prior to trainees gaining their RANZCP Fellowship.
- Activities must be applied for in advance of the activity commencement date. Retrospective application for activities will not be considered.

Activities eligible for funding include:
- Completion of preparation courses including tutorage for assessments administered by the RANZCP.
• Educational lectures, workshops and seminars relating to mental health or rural health.
• Professional development courses including cultural safety training.
• Attendance at the RANZCP state-based conferences or other branch activities.

Please note: Reasonable costs associated with travel, accommodation and meal expenses (in accordance with the RANZCP travel policy) for the applicant to access educational activities within Australia are eligible for funding as part of the Grant application. Please also note that Airbnb bookings as well as other short stay platform arrangements are not supported by this Grant.

Activities not eligible for funding include:
• An activity that has been funded or partially funded through another source or grant.
• An activity that is conducted outside Australia.
• Enrolment costs for Formal Education Courses (FECs) as part of the mandatory requirement of the RANZCP Fellowship Program.

Note: Please be aware that funding for the program is limited and Grant applications should be for reasonable costs associated with accessing the educational activity. Some examples of what would not be considered reasonable include:
• Meals and accommodation that are beyond the purposes of the educational activity. For example, if the activity takes place on a Saturday morning or at a conference/workshop where food is provided, it is not reasonable to be reimbursed for meals for the remainder of the weekend.
• Many hotels include breakfast in their tariff, in which case, the RANZCP would not reimburse breakfast outside of the hotel.

In addition, whilst the RANZCP is providing financial support for your Activities, please note that you are attending the Activities as a personal attendee/delegate. Please consider any potential risks associated with physical attendance at your Activities which may include the possibility of border closures or other travel restrictions being imposed at short notice by governments, or a requirement to quarantine or self-isolate, and ensure you have received authorisation from your place of employment to attend the Activities in person. The RANZCP will undertake its best endeavors to assist you in such an instance, however, will not be liable for any loss or damages caused by events beyond the RANZCP’s control, or for additional costs that you may incur.

Standardised rates for Travel (if applicable):
Please note the estimated cost breakdown within your application cannot exceed the RANZCP standardised rates.

It is expected that applicants should only apply for accommodation and meals where it is reasonable or impractical to travel on the same day. If travel is listed as an expense in the application, justification should be provided as to why it is required.

Assessment of applications:
The applications will be assessed by members of the Australian Government Funded Training Programs (AGFTP) Committee. Assessments will be based on the applicants’ responses and suitability of the activity or resource for which funding has been requested.

How to claim funds:
Successful applicants (Awardees) will receive Grant funds into their nominated bank account following the return of a signed Letter of Agreement.

Use of Grant:
• The Awardee is responsible for arranging all enrolments, travel and accommodation bookings.
• The Awardee must maintain and keep financial accounts and records (invoices/receipts) relating to the Activities for a minimum of five years as required by the Australian Taxation Office.
• The Awardee must submit evidence of attendance to the chosen Activities to the RANZCP within 30 days of the final activity, for example receipts of travel expenses or proof of involvement in the approved activity, such as course enrolment.
• The Awardee must complete and submit an online evaluation survey (to be provided by the RANZCP) once the Activities listed in the application are completed.
• The RANZCP may by notice request repayment of any amount of the Grant where it reasonably believes that an Awardee has not complied with the Letter of Agreement.

Further information
For further information about other support projects funded through the STP, please visit our website.

Please contact the STP team on 03 9236 9110 or stp@ranzcp.org should you have any questions.

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