

RANZCP Back to Country Grants

2023-2025 Guidelines



Back to Country Grants for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Trainees

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) has received Australian Government funding under the Specialist Training Program (STP) to provide Back to Country Grants (Grant) of up to \$3,000 (GST inclusive) for trainees who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

The Grant is designed to provide a financial contribution to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander trainees to return to country for cultural responsibilities, to visit family or community and for wellbeing.

The Back to Country Grants are available for trainees in all stages of training who are experiencing challenges and want to go back to country to reconnect to self, reset and feel empowered in who they are and where they come from. The Grants will provide a financial contribution of \$3,000 (GST inclusive) for trainees to travel back to Country.

The Grant aims to provide support for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander trainees to avoid burnout and improve their wellbeing, and progression through the training program as well as acknowledge and celebrate Aboriginal knowledge and ways of being.

Grant:

- One Grant is available per applicant per calendar year, the total Grant funding must not exceed \$3,000 (GST inclusive).
- The RANZCP will provide a financial contribution to trainees who require to travel back to Country.

Eligibility:

- The Grants are available to current RANZCP trainees who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Trainees in all stages of the training program are eligible.

Criteria:

- Trainees may apply for the funding to travel back to their own Country to reset and reconnect with ones own Country. In addition, Trainees may apply for the grant to travel to visit their family/mob or community who are located elsewhere.
- Trainees are encouraged to advise via the application form the need for financial support to travel back to country (i.e.: cultural responsibilities, wellbeing or visit community/family). If comfortable, Trainees may provide further information on the application form, although this is not a requirement.
- Trainees can apply for funding for the following to assist in going back to country:
 - Travel
 - Accommodation
 - Meal Expenses
- Trainees must provide details of planned travel costs.
- A Grant may be provided retrospectively, if a trainee needs to travel back to country or community due to unforeseen circumstances. If such an instance occurs, and a grant application is approved the RANZCP will support the trainee to ensure the delivery of the

grant in a timely and appropriate manner.

- 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 and the Torres Strait Islands.
- Any variances to the above will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Please note: Reasonable costs associated with travel, accommodation and meal expenses (in accordance with the [RANZCP travel policy](#)) for the applicant within Australia are eligible for funding as part of the Grant application.

Application process:

The application process for the Grant will include the following steps:

- One Grant is available per applicant per calendar year, the total funding must not exceed \$3,000 (GST inclusive).
- Applicants must complete an online application form, which will include the option for trainees to provide a brief personal statement outlining their reasons (such as cultural obligations, or hardship that is restricting their ability to return to country for cultural responsibilities, feeling of burnout, etc.) for applying for the Grant.
- Applicants must provide RANZCP membership Id for verification by RANZCP staff.
- Applicants must advise whether the leave is approved by their employer on the application form. Further, applicants may provide a letter of support for their application from their supervisor or employer. The Letter of Support is optional and is not required to receive funding.
- Applications will be reviewed by RANZCP Staff only, and the Australian Government Funded Training Program (AGFTP) Management Group. Applications will be de-identified for review and approval by the Management Group.
- Successful applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email with an attached letter of confirmation.

If applicants require a break in training in addition to the Grant, applicants are required to notify the RANZCP formally and complete the break in training form.

Applicants are advised that if requesting a grant due to burnout within the RANZCP Training Program, this will in no way adversely affect their good standing with the College or progression on the training program. If an applicant has additional and serious concerns about their mental health and wellbeing, they are encouraged to contact the [RANZCP Confidential Member Advice Line](#) (Phone: 1800 941 002 (Australia) or 0800 220 728 (Aotearoa New Zealand)) or utilise the [RANZCP Member Support Program](#).

If applicants require to go back to Country and the leave to do so is not supported by their employer, or there is an absence of cultural leave, applicants may request a letter of support and recommendation from the RANZCP to support their leave application.

In addition, whilst the RANZCP is providing financial support, please consider any potential risks associated with physical attendance 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 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.

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

Standardised rates for Travel (if applicable):

Please note the estimated cost breakdown within your application cannot exceed the [RANZCP standardised rates](#).

Assessment of applications:

The applications will be assessed by RANZCP Staff including the Australian Government Funded Training Program (AGFTP) Management Group.

How to claim funds:

Successful applicants (Awardees) will receive funds into their nominated bank account following a letter of confirmation.

Use of Grant:

- The Awardee is responsible for arranging all 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 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 confirmation.

Further information:

For further information about other support projects funded through the STP, please visit our [website](#).

Please contact stp@ranzcp.org or 03 9640 0646 should you have any questions.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists has received Australian Government funding under the Specialist Training Program for this initiative.