

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Thursday 6 July 2017

SCHOLARSHIPS TO IMPROVE RURAL HEALTH SERVICES

A new scholarship scheme has been announced to support health professionals working in rural and regional areas to increase their skills and capabilities.

The Health Workforce Scholarship Program will be administered across the country by a consortium of Rural Workforce Agencies (RWAs). In the Mallee Rural Workforce Agency Victoria will administer scholarships.

Member for Mallee Andrew Broad says under the new scheme the Health Workforce Scholarship Program will deliver specifically to the needs of each community with ongoing scholarships of up to \$10,000 per year.

“The new program will allocate scholarships based on the individual needs of each community, whether that is for GPs, nurses, dentists or allied health professionals,” he said.

“In the Wimmera Mallee Mildura region one of our biggest feats is keeping health professionals in our regional towns, and this latest initiative is going to assist with that.”

Those eligible for the scholarships are post-graduate medical, nursing or allied health professionals undertaking further study.

Across the Wimmera Mallee Mildura region, RWAV will assess each region on a needs basis to determine where scholarships are most needed.

The aim of the Health Workforce Scholarship Program is to improve access to the services needed in remote and rural areas across Australia by supporting an increase in skills, capacity and scope of practice of privately employed health professionals.

“This program will play a key role in ensuring we retain our health professionals across the Wimmera Mallee and Mildura regions and continue delivering essential primary health care services.” Mr Broad said.

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The Health Workforce Scholarship Program is one part of the government's investment into the future supply and distribution of the health workforce. The RWA's delivering the program will also deliver the John Flynn Placement Program, which arranges placements of students with rural doctor mentors.

Mr Broad says he will continue to push to improve rural health services and rural health outcomes across the Electorate of Mallee.

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