

PROGRAM RULES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Assistant Traineeship Scheme

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the Program Rules governing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Assistant Traineeship Scheme. This document must be read in conjunction with the *Pharmacy Programs Administrator General Terms and Conditions* (General Terms). Definitions in the General Terms apply in these Program Rules.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Assistant Traineeship Scheme is an initiative of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rural Workforce Program. The Program is designed to strengthen and support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pharmacy workforce, which in turn will provide improved, culturally appropriate pharmacy services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patients.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Workforce Program is part of the suite of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific Programs funded under the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) to support Quality Use of Medicines and services that are designed to reduce adverse events and associated hospital admissions or medical presentations.

2 BACKGROUND

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Assistant Traineeship Scheme is a continuing Program under the Pharmacy Programs Administrator, as part of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce Programs. These Programs aim to improve access to quality Community Pharmacy services by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, taking account of cultural issues in meeting health needs.

The aim of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Assistant Traineeship Scheme is to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in the pharmacy workforce, allowing Pharmacies to better meet the needs of their local communities.

A maximum Allowance of \$10,000 (GST exclusive) may be paid to an eligible Community Pharmacy that employs and supports an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Assistant to complete a nationally accredited Pharmacy Assistant training course. A Community Pharmacy may submit an application for funding for more than one nationally accredited Pharmacy Assistant training course per Pharmacy Assistant.

The funding is to cover the full training costs for the Pharmacy Assistant and also contribute to the wages and other costs incurred by the Community Pharmacy.

3 PARTICIPATION

3.1 Pharmacy Eligibility

To be considered eligible for the purposes of this Allowance, the Community Pharmacy must:

1. Meet the definition of a Community Pharmacy as outlined in the General Terms
2. Agree to the reporting requirements in these Program Rules
3. Be actively trading and continue to actively trade throughout the period of time the Allowance applies to

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4. Employ a Pharmacy Assistant who meets the criteria as defined by these Program Rules
5. Provide evidence that the Pharmacy Assistant has been employed and enrolled in a nationally accredited Pharmacy Assistant training course
6. Consent to disclosure of personal information for the purpose of monitoring, managing and promoting the Allowance
7. Agree to advise the Pharmacy Programs Administrator within 21 days in event of the following:
 - a. Any changes in the duration of study undertaken by the Pharmacy Assistant
 - b. The Pharmacy Assistant ceases employment with the Community Pharmacy
 - c. The Pharmacy Assistant ceases to undertake the approved training course for which the funding was allocated
 - d. The Community Pharmacy ceases to be actively trading
 - e. The Community Pharmacy is sold in respect of all its interests.

3.2 Pharmacy Assistant Eligibility

To be considered eligible for the purposes of this Allowance, the Community Pharmacy must employ or already have employed a Pharmacy Assistant who:

1. Is an Australian citizen
2. Is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and provides evidence either by:
 - a. A completed Self-Identification Form – available from the PPA [website](#)
 - b. A letter of confirmation
 - c. Evidence obtained from an Incorporated Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community Organisation
3. Undertakes a nationally accredited Pharmacy Assistant training course
4. Will complete the training course within two years of receipt of advice that funding has been approved
5. Agrees to the reporting requirements in these Program Rules
6. Consents to disclosure of personal information for the purpose of monitoring, managing and promoting the allowance.

4 APPLICATION PROCESS

Community Pharmacies must submit an official electronic application form and attach all required documentation in order to be considered for payment of an Allowance.

Application forms can be completed and submitted via the Pharmacy Programs Administrator Portal. A separate application must be submitted for each Pharmacy Assistant.

Community Pharmacies are responsible for securing and employing an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Assistant. Both the Community Pharmacy details and the Pharmacy Assistant details must appear on the application form.

Applications must be received by the Pharmacy Programs Administrator within 90 days of the Pharmacy Assistant commencing a nationally accredited Pharmacy Assistant training course. This rule applies in all circumstances; late applications will not be accepted.

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Applications must also be accompanied by supporting documentation that includes, but is not limited to, evidence of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and evidence of enrolment in a nationally accredited Pharmacy Assistant training course. Community Pharmacies that have not supplied evidence will not be approved for payment.

Formal notice of payment of the Allowance will be provided to the Community Pharmacy via email if and where all Eligibility Criteria are met.

A Community Pharmacy whose application is unsuccessful may reapply for the Allowance and will be assessed against the criteria that are in effect on the date the application is received.

The Pharmacy Programs Administrator and/or the Australian Government may at any time request evidence from the Community Pharmacy in receipt of the Allowance to substantiate the application.

5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Community Pharmacy must agree to provide a Pharmacist Mid Training Report and a Pharmacist End Training Report using a reporting template within 30 days of the stipulated due date of the report.

The Pharmacy Assistant employed for the purposes of the Allowance will also be required to complete a Pharmacy Assistant End Training Feedback Report.

Funding will not be paid until all required documentation is submitted to, and accepted by, the Pharmacy Programs Administrator.

6 FUNDING ALLOCATION AND PAYMENT

The Allowance provides funding of \$10,000 (GST exclusive) to an eligible Community Pharmacy that employs and supports an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Assistant to complete a nationally accredited Pharmacy Assistant training course within 24 months.

Allowances are limited on the basis of available funds. Lodging an application does not guarantee receipt of an Allowance. Consequently, Community Pharmacies satisfying the Eligibility Criteria will not necessarily receive payment of the Allowance.

Payments will be made electronically based on the bank account details that are provided as part of the application process. Community Pharmacies will be required to complete a Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) form in order to receive payment.

Funding will be apportioned as follows:

1. A payment of \$5,000 (GST exclusive) will be made within 28 days of receipt and approval of: an application; evidence of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent; and evidence of enrolment of the Pharmacy Assistant in at nationally accredited Pharmacy Assistant training course
2. A subsequent payment of \$2,500 (GST exclusive) will be made at the mid-way point of the period of training undertaken by the Pharmacy Assistant and within 28 days of receipt and acceptance by the Pharmacy Programs Administrator of the Pharmacist Mid Training Report
3. A final payment of \$2,500 (GST exclusive) will be made on completion of the course by the Pharmacy Assistant and within 28 days of the receipt and acceptance by the Pharmacy Programs Administrator of the Pharmacist End Training Report and the Pharmacy Assistant End Training Feedback Report.

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Funding may be adjusted to take into account any changes in the employment or enrolment status of the Pharmacy Assistant. Any adjustments will be made at the discretion of the Pharmacy Programs Administrator.

The Pharmacy Programs Administrator reserves the right to seek the repayment of portions of the Allowance that have been overpaid.

7 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The receipt of the Allowance does not disqualify the Community Pharmacy from receiving other awards that support rural pharmacy practices.

The information on the application form for the Allowance will be used to assess eligibility to receive payment under the Allowance and its collection is authorised by law. Some information obtained from the application may be released to the Australian Government to assist with the monitoring of the Allowance.

Please note that the Program Rules that govern all of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce Programs undergo a continuous quality improvement process, which may result in revisions to the Program Rules from time to time. All revisions will be undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Health and may involve a consultation process.

8 AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Program applicants must retain full and true records in relation to the receipt and use of the allowance for not less than seven years after receipt of the allowance. Such records must be kept in a manner that permits them to be conveniently and properly audited. Program applicants may be subject to audits by the Australian Government Department of Health (or its representative) to ensure that the allowance is paid and used in accordance with the General Terms and these Program Rules, and must provide all and any records requested as part of such audit(s).

Program applicants that wrongfully or incorrectly receive support and/or do not meet the requirements set out in the General Terms and these Program Rules may be subject to compliance action (as determined by the Australian Government Department of Health or Pharmacy Programs Administrator) and repayment may be required. Under section 137.1 of the Criminal Code, giving false and misleading information is a serious offence. If an audit/compliance action is to be conducted, Program applicants will be required to produce documentation within a specified time frame.

9 RESOURCES

For further information on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Assistant Traineeship Scheme please visit the PPA [website](#).



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