

## Guidelines for Applicants

These guidelines will assist you through the Queensland Health Mental Health Scholarship Scheme application process. Please read these guidelines carefully to ensure that you understand the scholarship benefits, application processes, terms and conditions.

The Mental Health Scholarship Scheme has been developed to enhance the capability of the mental health workforce in Queensland Health. It targets mental health care professionals who wish to develop their mental health competencies through post graduate studies that will enhance their and their service's delivery of recovery oriented consumer focussed services, and increase staff confidence, job satisfaction and opportunities for career development.

### Eligibility for Scholarship

You are eligible to apply for this scholarship if you are:

- a **permanent, temporary contract or casual health professional** ***currently*** working in Mental Health Queensland Health. Successful applicants must maintain their employment status during the period of the scholarship
- an Australian citizen or a Permanent Resident of Australia
- completing formal tertiary postgraduate study in advanced mental health clinical practice
- able to meet the university admission requirements of the postgraduate programme in which you are proposing to enrol.

**Students who are in receipt of a University Commonwealth Supported Place are not eligible for assistance.**

### How to Apply:

- Complete the Mental Health Scholarship application form available on the website: <http://qhps.health.qld.gov.au/qcmhl> from September 2009.
- Closing date for applications is **30 October 2009**

Forward your application to:

The Mental Health Scholarship Coordinator  
Qld Centre for Mental Health Learning (QCMHL)  
Locked Bag 500  
SUMNER PARK BC QLD 4074

Written advice on the outcome of your application will be sent to you within six (6) weeks of the closing date, including reasons if you are unsuccessful.

## **Financial Assistance**

All Mental Health Care Professionals receive a set rate of **\$1,000.00** per subject for study completed in 2010.

To obtain the scholarship recipients are required to complete the scholarship claim form and attach:

- a copy of the semester results
- evidence of course fee payment for the semester, eg. original tax invoice receipt for fees paid in full; or evidence of FEE-HELP deferment.

This application is then to be forwarded to the Mental Health Scholarship Coordinator. Claims for each semester must be finalised within 6 months of completion of the subject. Claims submitted outside of this timeframe will not be considered.

Scholarship holders may negotiate with their line manager to access leave for course requirements and additional financial subsidies which may be available (eg. the Professional Development Allowance).

## **Merit Selection Process**

A selection panel will be convened in order to short-list and make recommendations to the Senior Director, Mental Health Branch for the award of scholarships.

**Applications must be fully completed** for consideration by the Scholarship Selection Panel. Awarding of scholarships will be based on:

- responses to the assessment criteria
- course relevance to the Queensland Health Mental Health Service workforce development needs
- the relevance of the course to advancing clinical skills and knowledge
- level of qualifications and professional development history
- geographic location and local service need
- area of specialty
- employment status including length of temporary contract and your intention to continue to work in mental health services, if relevant.

## **Priority will be given to:**

- Registered Nurses undertaking courses leading to endorsement as a Mental Health Nurse
- Registered Nurses undertaking approved post graduate studies courses in sub-specialties of Mental Health Nursing (e.g., Child and Youth, Dual Diagnosis, Older Persons Psychiatry, etc).
- previous scholarship recipients continuing in the same program for their second year of study
- Allied Health and other professionals undertaking approved postgraduate studies in Mental Health

Should all available scholarships be awarded, applicants who are considered meritorious but not successful in the first round will be placed on a Reserve List. Should a recipient decline the offer, or cease their course of study, the scholarship will be offered to applicants placed on the reserve list in order of merit.

## **Obligations**

- The scholarship will be awarded following acceptance into the nominated course, and acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Mental Health Scholarship process.
- Recipients shall comply with the conditions of the Scholarship.
- Scholarships are available for postgraduate study completed in 2010. Scholarships will not be retrospective i.e. for study completed before this date.
- All recipients are required to immediately notify the Mental Health Scholarship Coordinator in writing of any change of circumstance eg:
  - upon withdrawing from the postgraduate study program
  - non-completion of a subject
  - failure to pass a subject
  - upon a change in employment status.
- The scholarship will be terminated if the recipient, during the term of the scholarship, ceases to be employed by Queensland Health.
- Recipients who have withdrawn from the scholarship scheme may reapply for a scholarship at a later stage.
- Recipients agree to participate in any evaluation activities regarding the effectiveness or outcomes of the Scholarship Scheme.
- Recipients shall notify the Mental Health Coordinator of changes in their circumstances which may affect their eligibility to receive/continue with the scholarship.
- Course results will remain confidential.

## **Further Information**

### **Jenny Gryl**

Mental Health Scholarship Coordinator  
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[mhscholarships@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:mhscholarships@health.qld.gov.au)

### **Vera Fitzgerald**

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### **Barb Bowler**

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