



Community  
Pharmacy  
Agreement

# RURAL PHARMACY SCHOLARSHIP MENTOR SCHEME

*Effective from 1 July 2015*

Programme Specific Guidelines are currently available in draft form and will shortly be updated to comply with the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines. Updates to these programme guidelines will not change the intent of this programme, but will provide additional clarity for participants. This programme will continue to operate under these draft guidelines until updated programme guidelines are published.

# PROGRAMME SPECIFIC GUIDELINES



Australian Government  
Department of Health



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## PROGRAMME SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

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# PROGRAMME SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the Programme Specific Guidelines governing the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Mentor Scheme. This document must be read in conjunction with the 6CPA General Terms and Conditions. Definitions in the 6CPA General Terms and Conditions apply in these Programme Specific Guidelines.

The Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Mentor Scheme is an initiative of the Rural Pharmacy Workforce Programme (RPWP). The RPWP is designed to strengthen and support the rural pharmacy workforce, in turn to provide increased access to quality pharmacy services for consumers residing in rural and remote regions of Australia.

RPWP is part of the suite of Rural Support Programmes funded under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement to support targeted programmes and services which improve access to PBS medicines and services for people living in rural and remote regions of Australia.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The Mentor Scheme is designed to provide pharmacy students with guidance and support from a practicing rural pharmacist. Involvement in the Mentor Scheme is compulsory for all holders of the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship and holders of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship.

The Scheme provides funding of \$375 (GST exclusive) to Mentors per mentored student per year.

## 3. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

### 3.1 Mentor eligibility

In order to participate in the Scheme, Mentors must meet the following eligibility criteria. They must:

- 1 Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- 2 Be a practicing pharmacist
- 3 Have the capacity to be in contact at least quarterly with their scholar
- 4 Be practicing in a rural area
- 5 Agree to provide reports in accordance with these Guidelines
- 6 Agree to participate in longitudinal studies or annual surveys.

### 3.2 Eligible Rural Locations

For the purpose of the Mentor Scheme, 'Rural' will be determined by the Pharmacy Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia (PhARIA).

Mentors practicing in the following PhARIAs will be deemed eligible: PhARIA 2 – 6 PhARIAs for a particular location can be found by visiting the following website: <http://gisca.adelaide.edu.au/projects/pharia.html>

The Guild reserves the right to determine whether a location is deemed eligible based on the categories above.

## 4. MENTOR ACTIVITIES

The aim of the Scheme is to reinforce the scholar's ties to rural and regional Australia and provide support to scholars during each year of their pharmacy studies, outside of the university and formal study environment. To assist in achieving this, Mentors are required to develop a Learning Plan with their scholar and have ongoing contact on at least a quarterly basis.

**Learning Plan:** using the electronic form provided the Mentor and scholar should together develop a realistic and meaningful Learning Plan at the beginning of each year. The activities in the Learning Plan should be achievable and relevant to the current level of study and should include activity to be undertaken with the mentor, participation in the rural health club and any other rural activities.

**Mentor Report:** using the electronic form provided the Mentor must provide a brief report at the end of each academic year outlining contact with their scholar and detailing the scholar's rural health activities.

**Mentor Details:** Using the electronic form provided the mentor must submit details to enable payment. Once submitted the Mentor will receive payment via EFT to the bank account nominated on the Mentor Details form.

Forms can be completed and submitted via [www.6cpa.com.au](http://www.6cpa.com.au)

## PROGRAMME SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

### 5. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

These Guidelines are administrative and reflect the intention of the Guild and the Australian Government as to how the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Mentor Scheme is to be administered.

These Guidelines do not confer any entitlement to a person to receive payment as a Mentor. Neither the Guild nor the Australian Government will accept liability for any loss or damage incurred by a person in expectation of payment for Mentor duties.

The Guild may provide the Department of Health with information about the Scheme, the use of funds under this Scheme and on any issues that may arise in relation to a particular circumstance.

The Programme Specific Guidelines that govern all of the Rural Support Programmes undergo a continuous quality improvement process which may result in revisions to the Guidelines from time to time. All revisions will be undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Health and may involve a consultation process.

### 6. RESOURCES

Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Mentor Scheme resources are available for download at [www.6cpa.com.au](http://www.6cpa.com.au)

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### CONTACT

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