



### **What is the Bonded Medical Program?**

The Bonded Medical Program provides students a Commonwealth supported place in a medical course at an Australian university in return for a commitment to work in regional, rural or remote areas for a specified period. The Bonded Medical Program was established in 2001. There are two schemes; the Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) and the Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme. The MRBS Scheme is now closed.

From 1 January 2020, applicants will enter the program under a modernised BMP Scheme.

To date more than 10,000 participants have participated. Over 4,500 of these participants are currently completing their medical course at one of the 20 Australian universities participating in the program.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

The program is open to Australian citizens and permanent visa holders. To be eligible, an applicant must have:

- accepted a bonded Commonwealth supported place in a course of study in medicine at an Australian university
- agreed to participate in the Bonded Medical Program using a web-portal called the *Bonded Return of Service System* (BRoSS).

### **How do I apply for a bonded Commonwealth support place in a medical course?**

Applications are managed by the participating university or relevant admissions centre. Applicants must meet the same entrance requirements as other students applying for a place of study in a medical course. For further information, please contact your university or relevant admissions centre.

### **How do I register in the Bonded Medical Program?**

Applicants who have confirmed enrolment in a bonded Commonwealth supported place at university will receive an email from the Department of Health requesting they log into the program's administrative system, BRoSS. In BRoSS, applicants will be able to view program information and accept the program's terms and conditions.

Registration via BRoSS is essential by 31 March 2020 to maintain enrolment in a first year bonded Commonwealth supported place in a medical course. Registration into the program commences a participant's bonded scholar phase of the program. BRoSS will support participants through each phase of their medical career from commencement as a bonded

scholar until all return of service obligations under the program have been completed.

### **What must I do as a participant?**

Participants of the BMP Scheme have agreed to complete their medical course within the requirements of the university and to undertake 3 years of return of service obligation (RoSO) in regional, rural or remote areas within 18 years of completing their medical course.

### **Summary of BMP Scheme key features**

#### **Return of Service Obligations (RoSO)**

- 3 years RoSO
- Eligible locations for bonded participants are classified using any of the following:
  - Modified Monash Model 2-7
  - Distribution Priority areas (DPA) for General Practitioners
  - Outer Metropolitan District of Workforce Shortage for all other specialities
- RoSO may be non-continuous, full time or part-time or fly in/fly out work
- fellowship (medical specialisation) is not essential.

#### **Timeframes**

- completion of all RoSO within 18 years from completion of the medical course
- 18 months RoSO can be worked pre-fellowship
- if fellowship is not attained by the end of the 12th year after completion of the medical course, all RoSO must be completed within the remaining 6 years of the 18 year timeframe.

#### **Administration**

- clear processes for consideration of exceptional circumstance to extend the time frame to complete RoSO for medical reasons
- clear consistent management of withdrawals
- breach is triggered by a failure to:
  - complete the medical course within university requirements and timeframe
  - complete all RoSO obligations within 18 years of completing the medical course.

#### **Support**

- access to BRoSS web portal and mobile phone application to log on and update personal details and plan, track and self-manage RoSO
- BRoSS will directly link participants with the Rural Workforce Agency in their state/territory to receive support throughout each phase of the program.

### **Further information:**

For more information on the Bonded Medical Program, please see the Department of Health website:

<http://www.health.gov.au/new-arrangements-bonded-medical-program>.



BRoSS@health.gov.au