



### What is the Bonded Medical Program?

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 closed to new participants after the 2015 academic year.

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 and areas for a specified period.

### What are the new arrangements?

New arrangements will create a modern, flexible administrative system with greater capacity to support bonded students and doctors to work and stay in regional, rural and remote areas.

New arrangements will be available to participants of the Bonded Medical Program from 1 January 2020.

A new IT system, the Bonded Return of Service System (BRoSS) will support the new arrangements. BRoSS will support participants through each phase of their medical career until all return of service obligations (RoSO) are completed. It will be easy to use and have in-built guidance to support users.

### Key features of the new BMP Scheme Return of Service Obligations (RoSO)

- a 3 year RoSO (reduced from 4-6 years)
- the 3 year RoSO can be reduced by 1:1 credit for all RoSO worked under previous arrangements
- 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 or part-time or fly in/fly out work
- fellowship (medical specialisation) is not essential
- participants who entered the BMP Scheme in the years 2016 to 2019 (inclusive) retain their 12 month RoSO worked full-time.

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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

- clearer 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.

### Eligibility to opt in

Participants will be eligible to opt in from 1 January 2020. From 1 January 2020 participants will be able to email the Department of Health (the department) advising they would like to opt in.

The department will review the participant's record to check all deed of agreement obligations are up to date.

### Considerations for current participants

The decision to opt in will depend on the benefits the new BMP Scheme offer a participant and the phase or stage they are at under their existing arrangement.

All participants are encouraged to keep their current deed of agreement obligations up to date in preparation for opt in.

The opt in period is open ended. Participants who choose not to opt in keep their existing deed of agreement and obligations.

### What if my obligations under my current deed of agreement are not up to date?

Please contact the BMP team to talk through the options available to you. This is recommended regardless of whether you choose to opt in to the reformed BMP Scheme or stay on your existing deed of agreement.

**Email:** [BMPScheme@health.gov.au](mailto:BMPScheme@health.gov.au)

**BMP Information Phone Line:** 1800 987 104  
(Monday – Friday 8:30am – 5pm AEST)

### Further information

For more information on the new arrangements for the Bonded Medical Program please see the Department of Health website:

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



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