

COMMUNIQUÉ 11 May 2010

Clinical Training Funding – Upcoming Request for Proposals

As announced by Health Ministers on 22 April 2010, a significant expansion of clinical training capacity for health and medical professionals is underway as part of the \$1.6 billion Hospital and Health Workforce Reform National Partnership Agreement announced by COAG in November 2008.

Health Workforce Australia (HWA) will soon call for proposals from government agencies (including government health and aged care providers), universities and non-government health and aged care providers to support the increase in clinical training for professional entry health disciplines from the 2011 academic year. The call for proposals will be advertised in all major daily newspapers on 15 May 2010.

Funding is available through the request for proposals to deliver additional clinical training in public, non-government, health, aged care and university sectors across Australia. Recurrent funding will be available to support growth in clinical training, and will build up to approximately \$145m annually.

In addition there will be one-off incentive funding to support establishment and start up costs associated with new clinical training activity. Priority will be given to develop capacity in underserved areas and new settings, for example, rural and remote areas, primary care, mental health, aged care, dental and private sector settings. This incentive component will be a one-off allocation of \$70m and is in addition to the \$67 million recently committed by the Commonwealth Government under the Increased Clinical Training Capacity Grants.

The 24 disciplines agreed by Health Ministers as eligible for funding support are listed at Attachment A. It is important to note that this does not mean that all proposals will receive funding from HWA, as priorities will be determined as part of the request for proposal process.

Clinical Training Funding Request for Proposals – Information Sessions

Information sessions are planned from 17 – 20 May in all major capital cities.

Melbourne	Mon 17-May	09:00 - 11:00	Cliftons Training Facility, 440 Collins Street
Adelaide	Mon 17-May	15:00 - 17:00	Cliftons Training Facility, Lv 1, 80 King William St
Sydney	Tues 18-May	09:15 - 11:15	Cliftons Training Facility, 190-200 George Street
Brisbane	Tues 18-May	15:30 - 17:30	Mercure Brisbane, 85-87 North Quay
Perth	Wed 19-May	13:00 – 15:00	Cliftons Training Facility, Mezzanine Flr, Australia Place, cnr St Georges Trce & William Street
Darwin	Wed 19-May	13:00 – 15:00	Darwin Airport Resort, 1 Henry Wrigley Drv, Marrara
Canberra	Thur 20-May	13:00 – 15:00	Crowne Plaza, 1 Binara Street
Hobart	Thur 20-May	13:30 – 15:30	Mercure Hotel, 156 Bathurst Street

Government agencies (including government health and aged care providers), universities and government and non-government health and aged care providers seeking financial support to expand clinical training capacity should note the scheduled times and locations, and register to attend.

To register for the information sessions, please visit the HWA website at: www.hwa.gov.au. Please note that the request for proposals documentation will not be released on the website until 9am, Saturday 15 May 2010.

University Survey of Clinical Placements

In 2009 a survey of University clinical placements was undertaken to capture information about current and planned student enrolments and clinical placement activity. HWA acknowledges and appreciates the information provided by universities, as it has been crucial in the development of clinical training reforms. The information gathered, which covers a range of health disciplines, including student numbers, clinical training requirements and supervision arrangements will assist with allocation of clinical training funding as part of the request for proposal process. Universities will soon receive summaries of the data collected to enable dialogue to continue around how best to support and grow the system.

Identifying untapped capacity

To support the growth in student numbers, HWA will undertake a separate mapping exercise to identify the increased demand in clinical placements generated by future growth in student numbers, and will then assist universities in meeting that demand. The mapping exercise will establish and validate the current level of clinical placement activity and student numbers, and will quantify the current and projected (2011-14) demand for and available supply of clinical placements. It will assist in identification of the 'what and where' of capacity for further growth in clinical placements.

Clinical training governance and organisation

As part of identifying demand for and supply of clinical training places, a longer term mechanism to plan, co-ordinate and facilitate clinical placements at a regional level across government and non government health and aged care providers and the tertiary education sector is required for managing the growth, diversity and quality of clinical placements.

Extensive consultation with universities, health and aged care providers and jurisdictions has been undertaken to identify a model for the governance and organisation of professional entry clinical placements in Australia, as a key component of the workforce reforms. As a result of the feedback from the consultation process, Health Ministers have agreed that HWA will establish Integrated Regional Clinical Training Networks to:

- Promote access to clinical training placements opportunities.
- Facilitate systematic reporting of clinical training activity KPIs.
- Build relationships and collaborations between education and clinical training providers (particularly when exploring new capacity) including sourcing new clinical placement settings and opportunities.
- Facilitate forward planning and deployment of training requirements and placement opportunities.
- Match supply and demand for placements and recommend distribution accordingly.
- Support education and service providers in the management of clinical placements.

HWA will now consult with the sector to identify the most suitable and effective size and configuration of Networks across Australia, and undertake an assessment of the options for organisations of these networks for consideration by Health Ministers.

To align with other recent reforms announced by the Council of Australian Governments and other network approaches to health education and training, it is expected that these networks will be developed over the next 12 months.

NB: This process is separate from and unrelated to the Request for Proposals process outlined above.

ATTACHMENT A

Clinical Training Funding Initiative - Potentially Eligible Professions

Audiology
Aboriginal Health
Chiropractic
Dentistry
Dietetics
Exercise Physiology
Medical Laboratory Science
Medicine
Midwifery
Nursing
Occupational Therapy
Optometry
Oral Health (Dental Hygiene & Dental Therapy)
Orthoptics
Orthotics and Prosthetics
Osteopathy
Paramedicine
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology (Clinical Neuropsychology)
Psychology (Clinical)
Psychology (Community)
Psychology (Counselling)
Psychology (Educational & Developmental)
Psychology (Forensic)
Psychology (Health)
Radiation Science (incl. Radiotherapy, Radiation Therapy, Nuclear Medicine technology)
Social Work
Sonography
Speech Pathology