



S·A·R·R·A·H
Services for Australian
Rural and Remote Allied Health

19 December 2016

An Update from SARRAH to our Parliamentarians

Allied Health Scholarships

Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH) recently received a funding agreement providing \$1.72 million to allocate approximately 190 allied health scholarships for the 2017 academic year under the Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Support Scheme (NAHSSS).

Whilst SARRAH welcomes the announcement by Assistant Minister for Rural Health, Hon Dr David Gillespie MP, unfortunately funding will not continue for those successful scholars beyond 2017. This represents a 65% cut based on the allocation of 548 allied health scholarships in 2016.

Undergraduate and postgraduate students will not be able to sustain their funding beyond 2017 which represents a significant risk to their future studies in 2018 and beyond. This cut in funding for the 2017 cohort of students will have a longer term adverse impact on the rural and remote health workforce. At a minimum, successful scholars should be afforded a mechanism through which they can maintain their financial support beyond 2017. This will ensure that a cohort of allied health professionals is not lost in the transition to the new Health Workforce Scholarship Program to be rolled out during 2017.

Federal Budget Submission

SARRAH has finalised and submitted to Treasury its budget submission for 2017-18. Contained in the submission are calls for greater funding and support for:

- Progressing health reform such as introducing a blended primary health care payment model
- Investing in technology such as the provision of telehealth services
- Reversing the \$72.5 million in cuts to Health Workforce Scholarships
- Improving the quality of allied health workforce data to properly inform policy development
- Mentoring for rural and remote allied health professionals to improve workforce retention
- Providing Indigenous healthcare services that support 'Closing the Gap'
- Enhancing client support such as health promotion and preventative care activities.

SARRAH is not confident about funding being allocated to these important areas of need. However, if you don't ask, you don't receive. To access a copy of the budget submission, [please click here](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Rod Wellington
Chief Executive Officer