



Information Pack for the Flying Doctor Give Them Wings Scholarships 2022

Do you have students who could use some financial assistance with their tertiary education?

INTRODUCTION

Recruiting and retaining health professionals in rural areas is a long-standing problem in Australia and overseas.

In active recognition of this problem, the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Victoria launched the Give Them Wings scholarship program in 2012. These scholarships are a part of RFDS Victoria's strategic vision to help grow and better equip Victoria's rural workforce.

Give Them Wings scholarships have been awarded annually to first year university students from regional and rural Victoria who are studying nursing or an allied health discipline. In addition to providing financial assistance, the scholarships are intended to encourage students to seek employment in regional or rural Victoria upon graduation, and put their vital skills to work in the communities that need them the most.

GIVE THEM WINGS 2022

In 2021, each scholarship was to the value of \$4,000. Acknowledging the increasing cost of living, we are working with our sponsors to increase this value in coming years.

These scholarships recognise that students from remote and rural locations often face additional costs when undertaking their studies. As such, the Give Them Wings scholarships are intended to support students above and beyond the traditional costs associated with university studies, such as course fees, books and computer equipment. For instance, the scholarship funds can be put towards such items as:

- transportation costs
- living expenses
- accommodation costs

Each scholarship recipient will also have the opportunity to experience a day in the life of a Flying Doctor – either on the road or in the air. This opportunity will provide important first-hand exposure to the work undertaken by the Flying Doctor's Mobile Patient Care teams. Following this experience, the recipients will be required to provide a short article describing their time in the field with the Flying Doctor.

Additionally, recipients will be required to take part in some form of promotional activity for the scholarships, which could take the form of a social media post, a public speaking engagement, involvement in a video or featuring in an interview by phone or email.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a Give Them Wings scholarship, applicants must demonstrate that they are:

- an Australian citizen or permanent resident;
- studying full time at a Victorian university campus in 2022;
- in their first year of university in 2022;



- enrolled in nursing or an allied health discipline; and
- currently residing in, or have grown up in, regional, rural or remote Victoria.

Eligible areas of study include (but are not limited to) the below:

- Aboriginal health work
- Audiology
- Chiropractic care
- Dentistry and Oral health
- Dietetics/Nutrition
- Exercise physiology
- Medical imaging
- Nursing and midwifery
- Occupational therapy
- Optometry
- Orthotics and prosthesis
- Osteopathy
- Paramedics
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Psychology and mental health fields
- Radiography
- Social work
- Speech pathology

Applicants will need to provide proof of enrolment in their course.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

To apply for a Give Them Wings scholarship, students must complete an online application form. This questionnaire will include a series of questions designed to:

- uncover each student's reasons for choosing their course of study;
- highlight their involvement in, or contribution to, their community;
- highlight their understanding of the unique challenges facing rural communities in terms of access to health care service; and
- explore their understanding of RFDS Victoria's role in rural communities.

Incomplete application forms will not be assessed.

Once submissions close, all applications will be reviewed by the Give Them Wings judging panel to ensure applicants meet all of the eligibility requirements. Complete written applications from eligible applicants will be assessed and scored, with the highest scoring applicants shortlisted to progress to an interview with the judging panel.

The interviews are designed to allow the judges to seek further information about the applicants' professional and personal attributes, with all applicants asked the same questions. These interviews will be conducted via a video call, and will each take no longer than 30 minutes to complete.

When all of the interviews are completed, the judges will tally their scores, and the applicants with the highest final scores will be selected to receive a Give Them Wings scholarship.

ADVICE FOR APPLICANTS

Competitive candidates will be able to demonstrate they are passionate about their chosen course of study, and that they are committed to seeing their course through to its completion.



As this scholarship is designed to encourage health care professionals to work in rural and regional towns within Victoria, the ideal candidates will be able to articulate an understanding of the health care needs of rural communities, and express a strong desire to work in regional or rural Victoria upon graduation. They will also understand the unique challenges facing rural health care professionals, and have given some thought to how they will overcome them.

Competitive candidates will also have thoroughly researched the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and have a clear understanding of the organisation's mission and vision, and of the services offered specifically in Victoria.

Finally, all shortlisted applicants are encouraged to adequately prepare for their interviews, and have a clear idea of exactly how the scholarship funds will best help them personally.

KEY DATES

Scholarship submissions open	Monday 7 March 2022
Scholarship submissions close	Friday 29 April 2022
Shortlisted applicants contacted	Tuesday 17 May 2022
Applicant interviews	Early June 2022
Scholarship recipients announced	Mid June 2022
Awards ceremony	Friday 15 July 2022

TESTIMONIALS FROM PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

"Being awarded the Give Them Wings scholarship has helped me afford all the many expenses that go along with attending university away from your home town. Whilst being a great help financially, I also feel a tremendous amount of pride that an organisation doing so much good in the community sees value in supporting my studies." – **Lydia, 2020 recipient**

"I had to relocate for my studies which meant I was living out of home, which comes with many expenses. This scholarship gave me extra support and assistance to be able to live out my plans of going to university and studying my dream course." – **Tilly, 2020 recipient**

CONTACT

Students with questions about the scholarships or their eligibility are encouraged to contact the Give Them Wings scholarship team at scholarships@rfdsvic.com.au

Additionally, students who wish to be notified by email when applications open in 2022 can send an expression of interest to scholarships@rfdsvic.com.au

