# Frequently Asked Questions

## Allied Health & Alcohol and Other Drug Postgraduate Scholarship Program

October 2025

### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide clear, accessible answers to common questions about the Allied Health & Alcohol and Other Drug Postgraduate Scholarship Program. It is designed to support prospective applicants by summarising key information from the program guidelines, helping them understand eligibility, application, assessment and payment processes. This document is not a substitute for the guidelines. Applicants should refer to the full guidelines for detailed requirements and instructions.

### What is the Allied Health & AOD Postgraduate Scholarship?

This scholarship provides up to $13,000 to support allied health (AH) professionals and alcohol and other drug (AOD) workers undertaking postgraduate studies. It's funded by the Victorian Department of Health to develop skills and build workforce capability in Victoria's public mental health and AOD sectors.

### How much funding is available?

The scholarship offers up to $13,000 towards your course fees. Payments are made each semester for up to four years, or until the $13,000 cap is reached.

### How many scholarships are there?

There are approximately 70 scholarships available. 50 are for allied health professionals and 20 for AOD workers.

### Who is eligible to apply?

You must:

* Be an Australian citizen, NZ citizen, permanent resident or humanitarian visa holder.
* Be employed at 0.5 FTE or more in a Victorian state-funded mental health or AOD service.
* Be enrolled or intending to enrol in an eligible postgraduate course for Semester 2, 2025, or Semester 1, 2026.
* Have at least two years of cumulative experience in your field.
* **For Allied Health applicants:** Be directly employed in a state-funded mental health service, and be qualified in one of the following disciplines:
	+ Art therapist
	+ Clinical pharmacist
	+ Counsellor
	+ Dietician
	+ Exercise physiologist
	+ Music therapist
	+ Occupational therapist
	+ Physiotherapist
	+ Psychologist
	+ Social worker
	+ Speech pathologist
	+ Youth worker
* **For AOD applicants:** Be working in a consumer-facing role in a state-funded AOD service.

### What does FTE mean?

FTE stands for Full-Time Equivalent, which is a unit of measurement for the total number of hours worked by employees (full-time, part-time, etc.) in a company, expressed in terms of full-time work.

### What courses are eligible?

Your postgraduate course must:

* Be an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Level 8 or higher qualification (Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Master's, or Doctorate).
* Be delivered by a Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)-accredited university or higher education provider.
* Enhance your skills for providing mental health or AOD treatment and support.

**Priority courses**

Examples of courses which support consumer-facing service delivery include but are not limited to:

* Graduate Diploma in Psychology (Advanced)
* Graduate Diploma of Mental Health
* Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma or Master of Addictive Behaviours
* Master of Clinical Psychology
* Graduate Certificate of Family Therapy
* Graduate Certificate in Child and Adolescent Mental Health
* Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Science
* Master of Therapeutic Arts Practice
* Graduate Certificate or Master of Counselling (Alcohol & Drug studies)
* Graduate Certificate or Master of Science in Addiction Studies
* Graduate Diploma of Forensic Behavioural Science
* Graduate Diploma of Psychological Science
* Master of Mental Health Science - Child Psychotherapy
* Graduate Certificate - Addiction Studies
* Master of Child Play Therapy

A list of courses approved for the 2025-2026 financial year are available to download [below](#_List_of_approved).

### What if my course is not on the example list?

Courses not listed may still be eligible if they meet the criteria in the guidelines. The Department of Health will assess unlisted courses on a case-by-case basis once you apply.

### What can the scholarship be used for?

The funding is intended to contribute to the course fees for an eligible postgraduate qualification.

### What if my course has already started?

You can still apply for a scholarship if you have already commenced your course. However, **scholarship payments cannot be backdated before semester 2 2025**.

Example 1: If your course began in Semester 2 2025 and your scholarship is approved in January 2026, your payments will be backdated to the beginning of your course.

Example 2: If your course began in Semester 1 2025 and you are entering your second year in 2026, your payments will only be backdated to Semester 2 2025.

### Can psychologists use this scholarship to gain endorsement in an area of practice?

Yes. If you’ve completed an undergraduate psychology qualification or already have general registration as a psychologist, this scholarship can support a postgraduate course that leads to endorsement.

This may enable you to:

* Obtain general registration (if not already held)
* Commence a registrar program for endorsement in an area of practice such as clinical psychology, clinical neuropsychology, or forensic psychology.

### What is the Victorian Mental Health and Wellbeing Workforce Capability Framework?

This Framework, originally released in December 2021 as “*Our workforce, our future”*, outlines the knowledge, skills and ways of working required across the mental health and wellbeing workforce to deliver high-quality care, support and treatment.

It was developed in response to recommendation 58 of the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System. More information is available at [Our Workforce, Our Future](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/our-workforce-our-future) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/our-workforce-our-future>>

### Can I apply if I’m receiving another scholarship funded by the Victorian Government?

No. You are ineligible if you are receiving scholarship funding through any other Victorian Government funded scholarship program for course enrolment in 2025-26. This includes but is not limited to scholarships provided by the Hamilton Centre and Turning Point.

### What if I defer my course?

You can defer your studies and remain eligible for the scholarship. The maximum timeframe for completing your course, including any deferrals, is four years. You must inform the Department of Government Services (DGS) of any deferral at AHAOD.scholarships@grants.vic.gov.au

### What happens if I withdraw from my course?

If you withdraw before payment is made, you will no longer be eligible for the scholarship. Applicants are required to advise the Department of Government Services at AHAOD.scholarships@grants.vic.gov.au with any changes to your application.

If payment has already been made, you may be required to repay the funds

### Can I change my course?

Yes, you can transition to another eligible course and still receive the scholarship. You must notify the Department of Government Services (DGS) of the change at AHAOD.scholarships@grants.vic.gov.au to ensure the new course meets the eligibility requirements.

### What happens if I change employers during my course?

You can move between roles or services as long as your new position continues to meet the eligibility criteria.

### How do I apply?

You must apply online via the official program portal via this [link here](https://grants.business.vic.gov.au/PublicForm?id=ahaods-r1).

### What are the key program dates?

**Applications open:** 11am 21 October 2025 **Applications close:** 4pm 19 November 2025

**Application assessments:** December-February 2026 **Outcome notifications:** March 2026 **Payments:** June 2026

### What documents do I need to apply?

You may be required to provide:

* Proof of identity (AUS/NZ passport; Victorian driver licence or learner permit; Medicare card; foreign passport with an Australian visa) [Proof of identity user guide](https://www.vic.gov.au/dgs-proof-identity-verification-user-guide) <https://www.vic.gov.au/dgs-proof-identity-verification-user-guide>
* Proof of Employment: A signed letter of offer or employment contract and a recent payslip.
* Proof of Enrolment: Your Unique Student Identifier (USI), student ID number, and if available, a confirmation of enrolment letter from your university.

### What are the assessment criteria?

You must submit **four short statements** (100–150 words each) the address:

* Why you chose a career in the public mental health or alcohol and other drugs (AOD) workforce.
* Your ongoing commitment to the sector and your career goals.
* How your chosen course aligns with your professional development.
* How your learning will improve outcomes for consumers, families, and carers.

Please see [the guidelines](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/allied-health-and-alcohol-and-other-drug-postgraduate-scholarship-program) for further information.

**Note:** Use of AI-generated responses is discouraged. If AI tools are used, your statements must be **personalised** and reflect your own experiences, attributes and values.

### How are applications assessed?

First, applications are checked for eligibility and given a prioritisation score based on the criteria within the guidelines. Please note, meeting the criteria does not guarantee a scholarship.

Then applications are assessed for merit and scored by a Department of Health panel based on the four assessment questions. The prioritisation and merit scores are combined to determine those applicants who will be successful for a grant.

Once these applicants are selected, their enrolment status in an eligible program is confirmed using data from the Commonwealth Department of Education.

Once these checks are completed, applicants will be contacted with their outcome.

Please see [the guidelines](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/allied-health-and-alcohol-and-other-drug-postgraduate-scholarship-program) for full details.

### How are applicants weighted?

Extra weighting is given to eligible applicants who:

* **Are first-time recipients**.
* **Have not received other funding** **support** for the 2025-26 financial year.
* **Work in regional or rural Victoria**.
* **Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander**.
* **Have a disability**.
* **Hold a Health Care or Pension Card**.
* **Are completing courses that enhance consumer-facing clinical skills**.

### If I’m unsuccessful, can I apply again?

This is the final round of the Allied Health & AOD Postgraduate Scholarship Program. Unfortunately, future application rounds are not planned.

### How are payments made?

Successful applicants will be asked to complete a claim form to receive payment. An official student tax invoice or statement of account from the university confirming semester course costs must also be provided.

Payments are made via bank transfer in June and November and will equal your semester course fees. This process is repeated each semester for a maximum of four years, or $13,000, whichever occurs first.

### List of approved courses

|  |
| --- |
| Graduate Certificate |
| Graduate Certificate in Addiction Studies |
| Graduate Certificate in Addictive Behaviours |
| Graduate Certificate in Alcohol and Drug Studies |
| Graduate Certificate in Clinical Education |
| Graduate Certificate in Counselling |
| Graduate Certificate in Counselling (Addiction) |
| Graduate Certificate of Counselling (Alcohol & Drug Studies) |
| Graduate Certificate in Counselling (Behavioural Health) |
| Graduate Certificate in Domestic and Family Violence |
| Graduate Certificate in Family Therapy |
| Graduate Certificate in Forensic Behavioural Science  |
| Graduate Certificate of Health Administration |
| Graduate Certificate in Health and Human Services  |
| Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Education |
| Graduate Certificate in Mental Health |
| Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Science |
| Graduate Certificate of Sexology  |
| Graduate Certificate in Suicidology |
| Graduate Certificate of Therapeutic Child Play |

|  |
| --- |
| Graduate Diploma |
| Graduate Diploma of Addictive Behaviours |
| Graduate Diploma of Child Psychotherapy Studies |
| Graduate Diploma of Counselling  |
| Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution |
| Graduate Diploma of Forensic Behavioural Science |
| Graduate Diploma of Forensic Psychology |
| Graduate Diploma of Health Leadership and Management |
| Graduate Diploma of Health Management |
| Graduate Diploma of Mental Health |
| Graduate Diploma of Psychological Science |
| Graduate Diploma of Psychology |
| Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Advanced) |
| Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Bridging) |
| Graduate Diploma of Youth Mental Health |

|  |
| --- |
| Master’s Degree |
| Advance Clinical Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) |
| Master of Advanced Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) |
| Master of Child and Adolescent Mental Health |
| Master of Clinical Family Therapy |
| Master of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy  |
| Master of Counselling |
| Master of Family and Systemic Therapy |
| Master of Family Therapy |
| Master of Forensic Behavioural Science  |
| Master of Health and Human Services Management |
| Master of Health Leadership |
| Master of Mental Health Practice |
| Master of Mental Health Science - Child Psychotherapy |
| Master of Neuroscience |
| Master of Professional Psychology |
| Master of Sensory Integration |
| Master of Social Work |
| Master of Suicidology |

|  |
| --- |
| Doctorate Degree |
| Doctorate of Social Work |
| Doctorate of Social Work (Professional Doctorate) |