

Support for Rural Specialists in Australia (SRSA)



Grants for Individual Specialists Accessing Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Individual Application Guidelines

SRSA Program Management Unit must receive completed applications by 5:00pm EST on the closing date of the funding round. Late applications will not be accepted.

SRSA is an initiative of the Australian Department of Health and managed by the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges
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1. Background

SRSA is an Australian Government funded initiative and has been set up as part of the consolidation of continuing education and training support for rural health. It is a consolidation of the Support for Rural Specialists in Australia (SRSA) program.

2. Aims of the SRSA Program

- 2.1 The overall aims of the SRSA Program is to provide rural specialists with access to professional support and training opportunities.
- 2.2 This will be achieved by:
 - a. providing support and training via online learning programs; and
 - b. providing individual grants to enable rural specialists to access training not available in their home town.
- 2.3 SRSA will provide a streamlined program of support and education for health professionals in rural and remote Australia to access multidisciplinary or continuing education projects.

3. SRSA Funding Opportunities – General Information

3.1 Eligibility and Target Groups

- 3.1.1 Core to the SRSA Program will be the delivery of CPD to rural health professionals to:
 - (a) support clinical and professional capacity, recognising that in rural and remote areas CPD is vital to:
 - supporting rural workforce retention;
 - providing clinicians with relevant professional education systems and networks to maintain clinical and professional standards;
 - reduce professional isolation; and
 - addressing the specific challenges of life-long learning in rural and remote settings.
 - (b) help improve the skill and competence of specialists working in rural areas and enhance the quality of services provided to their communities.
- 3.1.2 Funding under the SRSA is available to rural and remote medical specialists to support activities for specialists working in RA2 (Inner regional) to RA5 (Very

remote) as defined by the Australian Geographical Classification – Remoteness Areas (ASGC-RA) system categories.

3.1.3 The total funding under each component will be determined by the CPMC in consultation with the Department of Health and may vary over the life of the Program. Total funds will be divided to support the two components outlined in 2.2:

1. SRSA e-Learning platform to deliver CPD; and
2. SRSA individual CPD support grants.

3.1.4 Through its CPD support and associated activities, the SRSA Program aims to achieve increased knowledge and skills that will be transferable to clinical practice with relevant and site appropriate education.

3.2 SRSA Sub-Committee and the SRSA Program Management Unit.

3.2.1 The SRSA Sub-Committee will be established in consultation with the member Colleges of the CPMC and the Department of Health to provide oversight and expert advice over the life of the program.

3.2.2 The SRSA Program Management Unit (PMU) currently located within The Royal Australasian College of Physicians is contracted by the CPMC to administer the SRSA Program.

3.2.3 The contact details for program staff are:

SRSA Program Manager: admin@ruralspecialist.org.au

Telephone: 02 9256 5419

Website: www.ruralspecialist.org.au

3.3 Applications

3.3.1 Applications for SRSA Individual Grants will be assessed by an Assessment Panel appointed by the Sub-Committee. Applications will be assessed according to the criteria of each SRSA Program component as outlined in the SRSA Guidelines. The Guidelines and Application Forms are available at: www.ruralspecialist.org.au

3.3.2 Applications for funding must be based on the relevant Guidelines and Application Forms and submitted in the prescribed format.

3.3.3 Further information regarding the SRSA Program can be found at: www.ruralspecialist.org.au

4. SRSA Individual CPD Support Grants

4.1 As part of the Program, grants to support access to CPD are available to individual medical specialists who live and work in rural and remote Australia. Applications from individuals must meet the Eligibility Criteria and Application Requirements described below and be supported by their relevant medical college.

4.2 SRSA Individual CPD Support Grants - Eligibility Criteria

4.2.1 Funding will be available to rural and remote medical specialists according to the following eligibility criteria:

1. Medical specialists who live and work in areas determined using the Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Areas (ASGC-RA) system categories 2 to 5 as follows:
 - RA2: Inner regional
 - RA3: Outer regional
 - RA4: Remote
 - RA5: Very remote

Information on the remoteness classification of any town or community in Australia can be readily provided through the Department of Health “Map Locator” which is integrated into the Australian Government’s DoctorConnect website and is available online via:

<http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/Publishing.nsf/Content/Locator>

2. All applicants must hold current practice qualifications and registrations including compliance with any state and territory requirements and compliance with the Medical Board of Australia. International Medical Graduates who are undertaking Specialist Medical College requirements for specialist recognition following assessment by the College via the Australian Medical Council Specialist Assessment Pathway are eligible to apply.

Please note: General Practitioners (ACRRM and RACGP) are ineligible to apply for funding under the Program, as CPD for these practitioners is funded through other Australian Government programs.

4.2.2 The CPD course provider must be either nationally accredited, nationally recognised or an accredited/professional private educational provider. Training providers may include but are not confined to universities, registered training organisations or professional bodies such as medical colleges and their equivalents.

4.2.3 Other forms of education, such as clinical attachments in specialist units or proctoring by relevant visiting specialists are eligible for grant funding, but must conform to meet individual Specialist Medical College CPD program frameworks.

4.2.4 Funding under this program supplements areas not currently serviced by state and territory or other Australian Government programs.

4.3 SRSA Individual CPD Support Grants - Application Requirements

The following application requirements should be taken into account when preparing a funding submission:

- The Applicant meets the eligibility criteria as outlined below in paragraph 4.2;
- Individuals must demonstrate that the proposed activity meets a specific learning need;
- The CPD event must be directly relevant to the applicant's current employment in a rural or remote area of an Australian state or territory;
- The CPD event must be accomplished in Australia and must take place within the time frame specified in the Application Form;
- Courses and/or education activities nominated must be accredited by the relevant professional body;
- Courses and/or education activities must include a minimum of 6 hours of face-to-face learning per individual;
- The CPD event must have specific and explicit learning objectives and contain specific learning activities planned according to the educational objectives. The application must clearly document the outcomes of learning and implications for practice and outline a clear process for monitoring the achievement of learning objectives; and

4.4 SRSA Individual CPD Support Grants – Selection Criteria

Applications **MUST** address the specific selection criteria

The following criteria will be applied to applications for funding of individual CPD activities by individual medical specialists:

- Demonstration of identified need at 'local' level with respect to identified healthcare needs in context of individual educational needs.
- Location; rural and remote focus. The aim of the SRSA program is to provide CPD and educational opportunities for eligible medical specialists and multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) in rural and remote areas of Australia.
- Demonstration of appropriate educational principles to enable key knowledge/skills attainment and transfer.
- Ability to integrate learning to a wider context.
- Ability to contribute to / demonstrate sustainable changes in practice.
- Relative 'cost effectiveness' / 'value'.

- Ability to reduce isolation.
- Demonstrated hardship or difficulty in participating in approved CPD activities.

4.5 SRSA Individual CPD Support Grants - Application Assessment

- 4.5.1 Applications for Individual Grants will be assessed by an Assessment Panel appointed by the Sub-Committee. Applications will be assessed according to the criteria of each SRSA Program component as outlined in the SRSA Guidelines.
- 4.5.2 Annual Scientific Meetings are considered to be lower priority than practical skills workshops.
- 4.5.3 Further information regarding the SRSA Program can be found at: www.ruralspecialist.org.au

4.6 SRSA Individual CPD Support Grants – Budget Guidelines

Applications will be accepted up to a value of \$2,000 per training day up to a maximum of 5 days education per person, per annum.

4.7 SRSA Individual CPD Support Grants – Budget and Travel Expense Guidelines

Please note that all expense items claimed under a SRSA Individual CPD grant require a tax invoice showing the supplier's name, address, ABN number and GST amount.

Air travel

Only economy class air travel will be reimbursed.

Accommodation

Overnight accommodation prior to an event will be reimbursed only where the travelling times makes it impractical to travel on the morning of the event or to return on the same day following the event.

Where overnight accommodation is required, a maximum of \$275 per night will be refundable per night.

Reimbursement of taxis

Taxis between home/airport/location of activity identified in the Grant Application Form will be reimbursed.

Private car travel

If a private car is used in place of air travel, please consult with SRSA Program Management Unit staff to obtain approval. Private car travel will be reimbursed at a rate of 0.69c per km. Where a private car travel will be used in place of air travel, the total amount reimbursable will be to a maximum of the respective flight cost.

Meal allowance

Amounts refundable for meals are as follows:

Breakfast up to \$20.00

Lunch up to \$30.00

Dinner up to \$60.00

Airport parking

Airport parking facilities may be used where necessary and will be reimbursed.

Accompanying Persons

SRSA grant funds do not cover costs associated with accompanying persons.

5. SRSA Program Further Information

5.1 Complaints

Robust and transparent complaints resolution policies and procedures will be established by the CPMC. These are available from the SRSA PMU.

5.2 Evaluation

The participant will be required to complete a brief evaluation following the completion of the CPD activity/activities nominated within the Application Form.

5.3 Other Funding Sources

SRSA is one of a number of measures to support health professionals in rural and remote Australia to access MDT and CPD activities. There are a number of other Australian Government programs which also support rural specialists and research. Information about other programs is available from the Department of Health at: <http://www.ruralhealthaustralia.gov.au/>

Contact your College to enquire about other funding opportunities available to you.

5.4 Further Information

For further information on the SRSA Program, please contact the SRSA Program Manager on (02) 9256 5419 or at admin@ruralspecialist.org.au

6. Specialist Medical College Contact Details (updated 29 Sept 2016)

<p>ACD</p> <p>Mr Brett O'Neill (Director, Education Services) PO Box 3785 Rhodes NSW 2138 brett@dermcoll.edu.au</p>	<p>RACS</p> <p>Mr Paul Cargill (Senior Policy Officer, Fellowship Relations) 250-290 Spring Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000 paul.cargill@surgeons.org (03) 9276 7415</p>
<p>ACEM</p> <p>Ms Andrea Johnston (Manager, CPD) 34 Jeffcott Street WEST MELBOURNE VIC 3003 andrea.johnston@acem.org.au (03) 9320 0444</p>	<p>RANZCOG</p> <p>Ms Michele Quinlan (Director, Practice and Advocacy) Ms Maggie van Tonder (Manager, Practice and Advocacy) Ms Angie Spry (Coordinator, Provincial Fellows) 254-260 Albert St EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002 mquinlan@ranzco.org.au (03) 9412 2939 mvantonder@ranzco.org.au (03) 9412 2960 aspry@ranzco.org.au (03) 9412 2971</p>
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<p>ANZCA</p> <p>Ms Sarah Kleinitz (Policy Manager) Ms Ellen Pascoe (Manager, Government Programs) 630 St Kilda Road MELBOURNE VIC 3004 skleinitz@anzca.edu.au (03) 9093 4953 policy@anzca.edu.au (03) 9510 6299 epascoe@anzca.edu.au (03) 9093 4963</p>	<p>RANZCP</p> <p>Dr Huseyin Mustafa (Manager, Practice and Partnerships) 309 La Trobe St MELBOURNE VIC 3000 Huseyin.mustafa@ranzcp.org</p>
<p>CICM</p> <p>Ms Lisa Davidson (Manager, Fellowship Affairs) Suite 101, 168 Greville Street PRAHRAN VIC 3181 lisad@cicm.org.au (03) 9514 2888</p>	<p>RANZCR</p> <p>Ms Pamela Taylor (Head of Speciality Training) Level 9/51 Druitt St SYDNEY NSW 2000 pamela.taylor@ranzcr.edu.au (02) 9268 9704</p>
<p>RACMA</p> <p>Ms Christine Cottrell (Manager, Private Infrastructure and Clinical Supervision Program) 10/1 Milton Parade MALVERN VIC 3144 ccottrell@racma.edu.au (02)8247 6239</p>	<p>RCPA</p> <p>Ms Vanessa White (Head RCPA, PMO) Dr Kathy Robinson (Education Advisor) 207 Albion St SURRY HILLS NSW 2010 vanessaw@rcpa.edu.au (02) 8356 5894 kathyr@rcpa.edu.au (02) 8356 5831</p>

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