

COVID-19 Vulnerable Populations Vaccination Immunisation Scholarships for Nurses (round 2) 2024 - EOI

Understanding Vaccines and the National Immunisation Program (HESA Accredited) Training

The PHN is supporting the Governments COVID-19 response with short-term activities aimed to increase access to the COVID-19 vaccination among vulnerable populations who cannot access or have difficulty accessing the vaccine through existing mechanisms.

Increasing the number of immunisations trained nurses that can utilise their expertise with vulnerable populations is one such strategy.

Course: South Australian Health Department's Centre for Education and Training's Immunisation Learning Course - **Understanding Vaccines and the National Immunisation Program (HESA Accredited)**

The course details can be viewed at:

[Understanding Vaccines and the National Immunisation Program \(HESA Accredited\) - Immunisation Learning Courses \(sahealth.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/understanding-vaccines-and-the-national-immunisation-program-hesa-accredited)

Number of free scholarships available: 100

These scholarships are for primary care providers working within the Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network (the PHN) region who are:

- Registered Nurses
- Enrolled Nurses allowed to administer medicines
- Aboriginal Medical Practitioners

Expressions of Interest (EOI) will open from 15th July 2024 until all scholarships are allocated.

The purpose of the immunisation training scholarships is to upskill eligible nurses that service priority vulnerable populations enabling the delivery of more COVID vaccinations.

The priority 'vulnerable' populations are defined as:

- people in rural and remote areas, including those with limited healthcare options, and those who cannot travel to a regional centre
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- those who are experiencing homelessness, including those living on the streets, in emergency accommodations, boarding houses or between temporary shelters
- people living in public or social /community housing
- vulnerable women including those experiencing domestic and family violence
- those who do not have a Medicare card or are not eligible for Medicare
- culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse people, especially asylum seekers and refugees and those in older age groups who may find it difficult to use other vaccination services
- children aged 5-11 who have complex needs, who are not captured by another suitable vaccination channel

- people with a disability, including mental health conditions, or who are frail and cannot leave home (homebound individuals) and their families
- Older persons and those residing in residential aged care facilities
- Disability accommodation residents
- Aged care and disability workers
- People who identify as LGBTIQ+
- People with drug and /or alcohol dependencies
- any other vulnerable or at-risk groups identified as requiring dedicated support to access COVID-19 vaccinations.

How to apply

The Expression of Interest (EOI) for the one hundred (100) free scholarships will be managed through the online grants' portal, SmartyGrants, **on a first in basis to eligible applicants**, with a waitlist taken in case any positions become available.

EOI close on 30/10/24 or when the allocation is exhausted (whichever is sooner) but may be extended at the PHN's discretion.

The online course must be completed with 20 weeks of commencing (first registration with the course provider) and must be started no later than 31/12/24 and this will form part of the condition of being awarded the scholarship.

Applicants can not apply if they are already receiving funding or have other funding options available to complete an immunisation course.

Please note that the PHN cannot provide retrospective reimbursement for finalised or started immunisation trainings with the South Australian Health Department's Centre for Education and Training, or other similar providers.

Eligibility

Registered Nurses and Enrolled Nurses allowed to administer medications, and Aboriginal Medical Practitioners from the Hunter, New England and Central Coast) area are eligible to apply, (AHPRA number to be supplied), with priority given to those in rural areas.

Applicants must state in the EOI, the Vulnerable Populations as outlined in these guidelines, that they will be servicing once they have completed their course.

Applicants must list their current employer and the geographical location they will be operating in.

Applicants will sign a Letter of Agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the scholarship.

Applicants must agree for their details to be supplied to the training provider to allow contact for enrolment purposes and to allow notification to the PHN on their enrolment status.

Assessment of EOI's will be based on meeting the criteria, responses to the questions in the EOI and priority of those in rural and remote areas within the Hunter New England and Central Coast region.

Priority will also be given to those who have not received previous training or other funded development opportunities from the PHN.

Applicants must ensure they have access to a computer and internet connection sufficient to complete the course.

Applicants must not already hold valid accreditation in immunisation.

Those not eligible:

Those not eligible to apply include primary health workers:

- Not working within the HNECC PHN geographical region.
- Who are not expected to continue working within the next 12 months
- Applicants deemed not eligible by HNECC PHN
- Currently working for a Local Health District, are employed by NSW Health or have other funding streams available to complete the course.

Note: Previous grant recipients are eligible only if they have fully complied with any previous PHN contract commitments including reporting and acquittal requirements.

Discontinuation of the course

If successful applicants are unable to meet the course requirements, the next available eligible person on the waitlist will be offered the scholarship. If an applicant awarded a scholarship fails to start or complete the course or needs to discontinue the course due to personal or exceptional circumstances, they are to discuss options with either the training provider, and must inform the PHN immediately. Failure to commence or complete the course without notifying the PHN may result in repayment of the course fees.

Terms and Conditions

The following HNECC PHN terms and conditions will apply including:

- The PHN will not be reimbursing any associated costs involved in completing the training.
- Only 1 training position per person will be allocated.
- Applications that do not meet the criteria will not be eligible.
- Applicants are to notify the PHN immediately and prior to training if circumstances have changed and they are unable to complete the training.
- Allocation of training grants will be on a first in basis.
- Applicants may withdraw from the training with prior notice. The position will then be re-allocated to the next eligible applicant on the waitlist.
- Applicants will be notified of their outcome of their EOI. Submitting an application is no guarantee of receiving a place.
- Applicants must agree for their details to be supplied to the training provider to allow contact for enrolment purposes.

Application Process

- Expressions of Interest (EOI) are to be completed through the online form on the PHN grants portal, SmartyGrants.
- HNECC PHN reserves the right to close the EOI round if all training positions have been awarded prior to the closing date or extend the closing date if positions are still available.
- Applicants may be contacted to discuss their eligibility and ability to meet the criteria. This will constitute part of the eligibility assessment.

If you have any questions regarding the scholarships, please contact the PHN Grants team on grants@thephn.com.au.