

# **Nurse Practitioner Pharmacotherapy Scholarships**

## **GUIDELINES**

This document should be used to assist applicants to complete the Scholarship Expression of Interest. It provides background information, eligibility and selection criteria.

Barwon South West Pharmacotherapy Area Based Network

Western Victoria PHN



An Australian Government Initiative

## Table of Contents

<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>Important Dates and Information at a Glance</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Background and Aims</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Eligibility</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Scholarship Value and Requirements</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>How to Apply</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Responsibilities</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Selection Criteria</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Assessment Process</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Payment of Scholarship Grant</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Complaints</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Contact</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Appendix 1- PABN services</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Appendix 2 – Masters of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)</b> .....	<b>8</b>

## Important Dates and Information at a Glance

- Applications open: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016
- Applications close: 17.00, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016
- Completed applications must be submitted electronically to [aneill.kamath@westvicphn.com.au](mailto:aneill.kamath@westvicphn.com.au)
- Applicants must complete the *Nurse Practitioner Pharmacotherapy Scholarship Expression of Interest (Eoi)* form addressing the eligibility and selection criteria requirements.
- It is anticipated that applicants will be notified of the outcomes of the selection process by 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- Two scholarship up to the value of \$30,000 (exclusive of GST) each are available.

## Background and Aims

Opioid dependence contributes to a significant burden of disease within the Victorian community. The emerging issue of pharmaceutical opioid dependence has resulted in a rapid increase in opioid pharmacotherapy service demand which the current workforce is finding difficult to absorb.

The Victorian pharmacotherapy / opioid replacement therapy (ORT) model is a 'community based' approach that promotes prescribing ORT in a general practice setting. Research identifies better outcomes in this setting than in public 'clinic' based settings. The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) supports this approach and promotes a tiered service model that aims to deliver a more efficient and effective pharmacotherapy service that responds to fluctuating levels of client need.

DHHS has established five Pharmacotherapy Area Based Networks (PABNs) across the state to ensure a more localised approach to connecting care, driving best practice and improving ORT client outcomes. The PABNs aim to improve service coordination and referral pathways, and enhance workforce capacity.

The Barwon South West (BSW) PABN provides support to community based ORT practitioners as outlined in Appendix 1.

Nurse Practitioners would add significant value to the BSW's opioid pharmacotherapy service system, the alcohol and other drug (AOD) service system; and the general practice environment more broadly via the capacity to offer diagnostic and prescribing expertise while operating from a holistic nursing framework, thus increasing consumer service delivery.

Examples of service system enhancements that Nurse Practitioners offer include:

- Assessment, consultation and education.
- Enhanced withdrawal and management capacity.
- Pharmacotherapy prescribing.

The PABN's Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program aims to attract motivated Nurse Practitioners to the field and support and develop their capacity through the provision of scholarship funding.

## Eligibility

As the lead agency for the BSW PABN, the Western Victoria Primary Health Network (PHN) is seeking applications from AHPRA Registered Nurses (Division 1) practicing in the region who:

- Commit to undertaking an AHPRA approved Masters of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) in a stream relevant to primary health care and general practice. A list of appropriate Masters options for this Scholarship is included at Appendix 2 including Victorian and national (on-line) options\*. Study must be completed within four years of commencement.
- Commit to selecting a speciality domain that enables graduate Nurse Practitioners to prescribe Schedule 8 opioid analgesics and work in a primary care / general practice environment. The [current Victorian DHHS list](#) includes:
  - Acute care
  - Aged care
  - Critical care
  - Maternity
  - Mental health
  - Paediatric
  - Perioperative
  - Primary care.
- Commit to undertaking DHHS approved Opioid Pharmacotherapy Training to gain expertise and competence as an opioid pharmacotherapy prescriber (currently 1.5 day duration).
- Have the endorsement of their employing organisation.

*\*Note: some on-line options also include face-to-face requirements. Scholarship funding can only be used for tuition fees – all other costs will be at the expense of the successful scholarship recipient.*

## Scholarship Value and Requirements

Two scholarships up to the value of \$30,000 (exclusive of GST) each will be awarded to successful applicants.

Applicants will need to provide employer endorsement and consent for any time commitment during work hours.

The scholarship monies will be paid to the recipient on a semester-by-semester basis and upon receipt of copies of university fee invoices due. University fee invoices must be provided at least four weeks prior to the university payment date.

The Masters of Nursing must be completed within four years from commencement.

Upon completion of the scholarship study and training activities, the awardee will be required to commence prescribing ORT and become a pharmacotherapy Nurse Practitioner champion in their clinic and / or general practice environment in the BSW region for a minimum of one year. The PABN can assist to co-facilitate these activities.

## How to Apply

**Applications open:** 3rd November 2016    **Applications close:** 17.00, 1st December 2016

The *Nurse Practitioner Pharmacotherapy Scholarship Expression of Interest (Eoi)* form must be used. Applications that do not use this Eoi form will not be assessed. Completed Eois must be in typed format (not hand written).

The completed Eoi should be emailed to [aneill.kamath@westvicphn.com.au](mailto:aneill.kamath@westvicphn.com.au)

## Responsibilities

Western Victoria PHN is responsible for:

- Providing the scholarship funds to eligible recipients via a transparent process.
- Monitoring the use of scholarship funds to ensure the promotion of enhanced pharmacotherapy service capacity and that the aims of the Pharmacotherapy Scholarship Program are met.

Scholarship recipients are responsible for:

- Completing activities specified under the scholarship Letter of Agreement (LoA) aligned with the aims of the Pharmacotherapy Scholarship Program including:
  - Providing evidence of successful completion of approved and relevant Masters of Nursing studies on a semester by semester basis.
  - Providing evidence of successful completion of DHHS approved Opioid Pharmacotherapy Training.
- Providing university tuition fee invoices for payment at least four weeks prior to the university payment date.
- Notification to Western Victoria PHN if at any time they fail to complete aspects of their studies or discontinue scholarship activities for any reason.

Employing organisations are responsible for:

- Supporting their employed scholarship recipient with professional development and / or time available as agreed.

## Selection Criteria

Applicants must complete the *Nurse Practitioner Pharmacotherapy Scholarship Expression of Interest (Eoi)* form including a concise outline of how they meet the following selection criteria:

1. Capacity to undertake study during and / or outside work hours, including endorsement of your current employer and their agreement to any time commitment during work hours (where relevant). 25%
2. Commitment to working in the general practice environment in the Barwon South West region, including prescribing opioid pharmacotherapy for a minimum of one year following completion of Masters of Nursing. 40%
3. An interest in pharmacotherapy and a willingness and capacity to expand your knowledge and skill base in this area by undertaking study in a relevant Masters of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) and speciality domain (refer Eligibility p. 4); as well as commitment to completing competency training in DHHS approved opioid pharmacotherapy and prescribing, on completion of Masters. 25%
4. Willingness and capacity to promote ORT training and the benefits of ORT prescribing and encourage colleagues to undertake pharmacotherapy training and practice\*. 10%

*\*Note: The PABN can assist to co-facilitate these activities and this should be included in your response. Refer Guidelines Appendix 1 or telephone (03) 5564 5888 for further information.*

## Assessment Process

Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of their completed Eoi which will be assessed against the stated eligibility and selection criteria.

Assessment of Eois will be undertaken by the Western Victoria PHN. It is anticipated that all applicants will be advised of the outcomes of the assessment process by 7th December 2016.

## Payment of Scholarship Grant

Successful applicants will sign a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the PHN to undertake scholarship activities as detailed in the eligibility and selection criteria of the successful EoI. The scholarship will be paid by the PHN as follows:

- First instalment upon receipt of the signed LoA, evidence of relevant Masters of Nursing enrolment and copy of the university fee invoice due.
- Subsequent instalments will be paid upon receipt of evidence of successfully completing semester subjects and copy of the next university fee invoice due.

The payment instalment documentation listed above must be provided to Aneill Kamath, Western Victoria PHN Pharmacotherapy Network Coordinator at least four weeks prior to the university payment date (refer contact details below).

In the event that the scholarship recipient fails to pass a subject, future payments will be at the discretion of the Western Victoria PHN on a case by case basis.

In the event that the scholarship recipient discontinues their studies, or does not complete DHHS approved ORT pharmacotherapy and prescribing training, the Western Victoria PHN reserves the right to review and possibly recoup funds depending on the circumstances.

In the event that the scholarship recipient changes employer they must provide evidence that:

- They continue to meet the terms of the LoA.
- They continue to work within the BSW region.
- Their new employer endorses and agrees to their Masters study commitments.

## Complaints

If a scholarship applicant is dissatisfied with the decision, or the process undertaken coming to the decision, the applicant can email the contact person below and the complaint will be handled in accordance with the Western Victoria PHN Complaints Policy and Procedure.

Complaints regarding a scholarship funding agreement that has been executed will be handled in accordance with the agreement.

## Contact

All inquiries can be directed to:

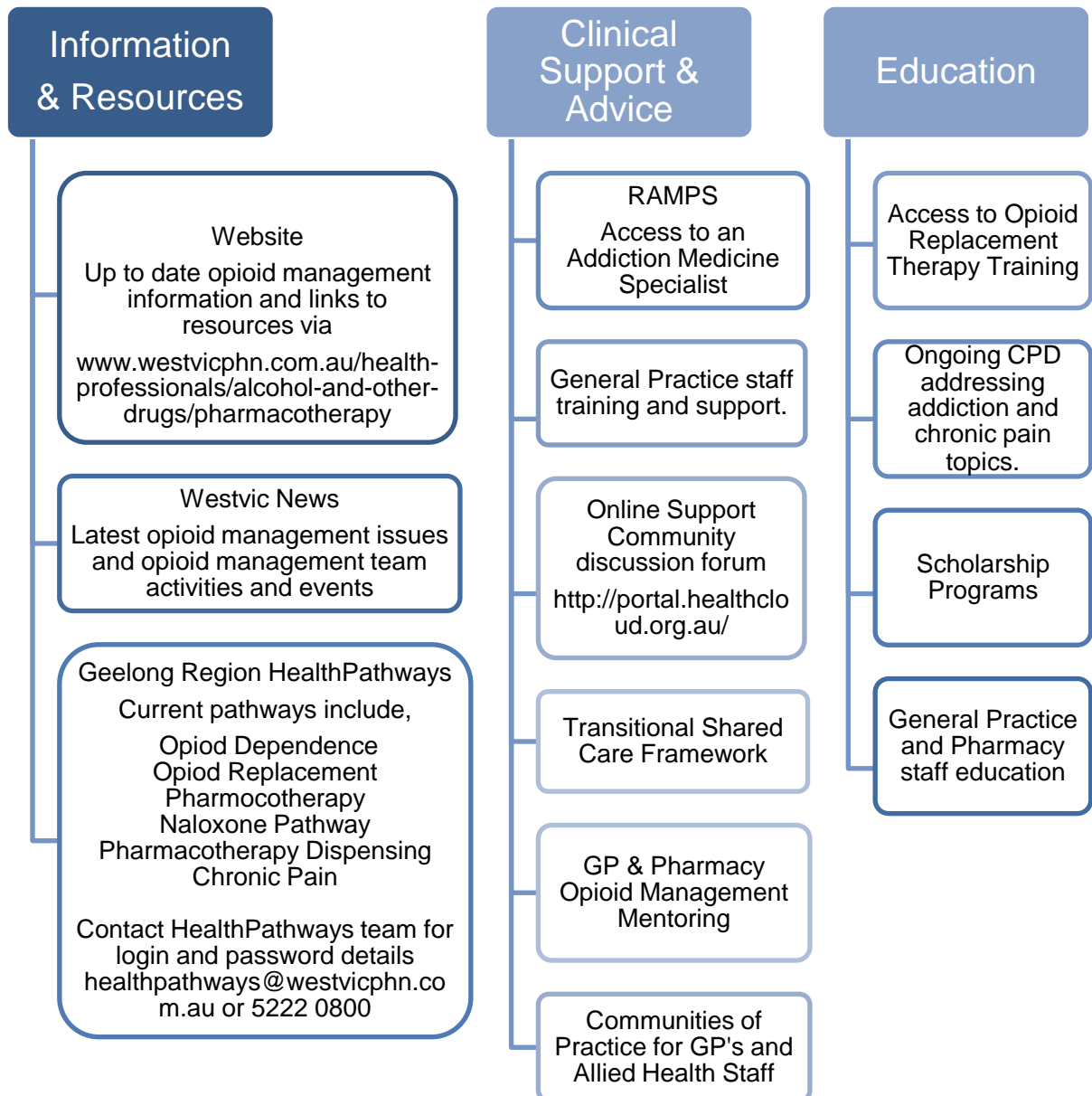
Mr Aneill Kamath  
Email:  
Telephone:

Pharmacotherapy Network Coordinator  
[aneill.kamath@westvicphn.com.au](mailto:aneill.kamath@westvicphn.com.au)  
03 5564 5888

## Appendix 1- PABN services

### Western Victoria Primary Health Network (PHN) - Pharmacotherapy Area Based Network (PABN)

The PABN has been established to support local GPs and pharmacists to manage patients using opioids in the Barwon South West region of Victoria. The PABN team offers:



### Information and Resources

- Detailed care and referral pathways related to pharmacotherapy.
- Web downloads of latest guidelines, health professional resources and more.
- Clinical Support and Advice.
- RAMPS (Rural Addiction Medicine Pharmacotherapy Specialists) - provides access to an Addiction Medicine Specialist (AMS) for GP secondary consults and education.
- Guidance on Department of Health and Human Service requirement for prescribing Schedule 8 medications.
- Access to online forum to share information and gain support with other health professionals working in pharmacotherapy.



## Education

- Access to pharmacotherapy prescriber training.
- Access to a range of RACGP accredited CPD events on addiction and chronic pain.
- Access to Pharmacotherapy Communities of Practice (CoP) - A health professional led, informal, self-organised network of peers with diverse skills and experience. CoP members are provided with collegial support, development and learning opportunities to enable them to improve the quality of pharmacotherapy services across the Barwon South West region. CoP activities may include case discussions, expert speakers, workshopping local requirements and forums.

## Contact

For program enquires contact the Team Coordinator on telephone 5564 5888

For specialist opioid management support and advice contact:

- Clinical Advisor Phone:      Geelong 5222 0800                      Warrnambool 5564 5888
- RAMPS Clinical Nurse:      Phone 5564 5888                      Fax 5564 5800

## Appendix 2 – Masters of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)

<b>Education Provider:</b>	Deakin University
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Nursing Practice (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>State:</b>	VIC
<b>Approved Campuses:</b>	Melbourne VIC
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse
<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner
<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	2 years full time or 4 years part time
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Nursing Practice (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

<b>Education Provider:</b>	Charles Darwin University
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>State:</b>	NT
<b>Approved Campuses:</b>	Darwin and Alice Springs
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse
<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner
<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	2 years
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

<b>Education Provider:</b>	Charles Sturt University
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Clinical Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>State:</b>	NSW
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse

<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner
<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	Full Time 1.5years, PT 2 years
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Clinical Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

<b>Education Provider:</b>	Edith Cowan University
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>State:</b>	WA
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse
<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner
<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	1.5yrs full time, 2.5 years part time
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

<b>Education Provider:</b>	Flinders University
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>State:</b>	SA
<b>Approved Campuses:</b>	Sturt
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse
<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner
<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	18 months
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

<b>Education Provider:</b>	James Cook University
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>State:</b>	QLD
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse
<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner
<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	24 months part-time
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

<b>Education Provider:</b>	La Trobe University
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>State:</b>	VIC
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse
<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner
<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	2 years
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

<b>Education Provider:</b>	Monash University
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Advanced Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>State:</b>	VIC
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse
<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner

<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	3 years part time
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Advanced Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

<b>Education Provider:</b>	Queensland University of Technology
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>State:</b>	QLD
<b>Approved Campuses:</b>	Kelvin Grove
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse
<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner
<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	1 year
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

<b>Education Provider:</b>	University of Melbourne
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Advanced Nursing Practice (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>State:</b>	VIC
<b>Approved Campuses:</b>	Carlton, VIC
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse
<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner
<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	2 years
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

<b>Education Provider:</b>	University of Newcastle
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>State:</b>	NSW
<b>Approved Campuses:</b>	Newcastle
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse
<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner
<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	2 years
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

<b>Education Provider:</b>	University of Queensland
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Nurse Practitioner Studies
<b>State:</b>	QLD
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse
<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner
<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	2 years
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Nurse Practitioner Studies
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

<b>Education Provider:</b>	University of Sydney
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>State:</b>	NSW
<b>Approved Campuses:</b>	Camperdown
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse
<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner

<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	2 years FTE
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

<b>Education Provider:</b>	Western Sydney University
<b>Program of Study Name:</b>	Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>State:</b>	NSW
<b>Approved Campuses:</b>	Off campus
<b>Profession:</b>	Nurse
<b>Division:</b>	Registered Nurse (Division 1)
<b>Endorsement:</b>	Nurse Practitioner
<b>Course Type:</b>	Masters Degree
<b>Course Length:</b>	4 years (part time)
<b>Qualification:</b>	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)
<b>Qualification Type:</b>	Endorsement
<b>Program Status:</b>	Approved

Note: this list is a guide only and should not be considered exhaustive. Scholarship applicants are responsible for confirming the approvals and relevance as outlined in the Guidelines. A variety of associated course costs may be incurred such as travel requirements – the Scholarship can only be applied to tuition fees. Further information about AHPRA approval can be found [here](#) .