

## **Deakin Rural Clinical Schools**

### **Southwest Opioid Training Program Scholarships – supported by Western Victoria Primary Health Network**

Deakin's Rural Clinical Schools are seeking applications from General Practitioners for participation in the *Deakin Opioid Training Program*, commencing in 2019. Two \$10,000 scholarships are available to enable eligible General Practitioners to participate in this program for a period of two years.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The opioid training program is an initiative designed to enhance capacity for best-practice pain management and opioid prescribing in South Western Victoria. General Practitioners undertaking this program will be provided with advanced training in pain and opioid management, allowing them to enhance their clinical expertise. They will be supported to take a lead role in educating Deakin's Rural Clinical School students and other learners within their practice on this topic.

Commencing in 2019 as part of Deakin's Doctor of Medicine (MD) program, there will be a specific curriculum focus on developing students' understanding and competence in pain management and safer opioid prescribing. Medical students in years three and four will complete online modules through the Better Pain Management program, designed by the Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. The program has been designed for specialist and general medical practitioners, medical students, nurses and allied health practitioners engaged in the care of patients with persistent pain. Students will also undertake interactive workshops focused on the multidisciplinary management of pain.

#### **PROPOSAL**

##### ***Type of Scholarship***

The Western Victoria Primary Health Network is supporting the development of opioid prescribing capacity in South Western Victoria through the provision **of two \$10,000 scholarships** for selected General Practitioners to undertake advanced training in pain management and safer opioid prescribing, following which they will become facilitators of pain management and safer opioid prescribing workshops for Deakin's Rural Clinical School students. Participants will be encouraged to disseminate their learning from this program within the context of their clinical practice.

##### ***Selection Criteria***

- A General Practitioner or GP registrar from a teaching practice hosting Deakin's Rural Clinical School students
- Practicing in the Barwon South West Region
- Unconditional APHRA registration as a General Practitioner in Australia
- Obtain the endorsement of their employer, if relevant

##### **The following applicants will be given priority:**

- General Practitioners currently working in alcohol and other drug (AOD) service delivery and/or Mental Health in South Western Victoria or with an intention to do so

- Those General Practitioners who can demonstrate how the knowledge gained through the program will be disseminated to improve pain management and safer opioid prescribing practices in South Western Victoria

### **Program Components**

#### **1. Pain management training**

The recipient will be provided with training in pain management and opioid prescribing through completion of the following courses:

- the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) approved Medication - Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependence (MATOD) training through Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) :
  - Module 1: Safer Opioid Prescribing, a 2 hour online training approved for **4 Category 2 RACGP QI&CPD points** for the 2017-2019 triennium
  - Module 2: Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependence, a one day face-to-face workshop approved for **40 Category 1 RACGP QI&CPD points** for the 2017-2019 triennium

For more information about MATOD training, click [here](#)

- The Better Pain Management program (12 online modules), designed by the Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. For more information about the BPM training modules click [here](#)

#### **2. Facilitation of pain management workshops for Deakin Rural Clinical School students**

Participants will be required to **facilitate six half-day pain management and safer opioid prescribing workshops over a two year period for Deakin Rural Clinical School students**. These are likely to be held in Warrnambool (and possibly Ballarat) and involve case-based discussions and a multi-disciplinary approach to pain management and safer opioid prescribing. The participant will be invited to contribute to the development and customisation of workshop materials.

#### **Special Conditions:**

Each recipient agrees to:

- Meet the donor, Western Victoria PHN at least once over the duration of the scholarship and discuss their experience and the impact of the program
- The donor sharing their photo and stories regarding the training program and impact through various media and communication channels
- Commit to undertaking above mentioned training requirements – *the scholarship is intended to cover costs of travel or accommodation to attend face to face training programs (MATOD Module 2).*

**Number offered per year**

Two (2) x scholarships, commencing Semester 1, 2019.

**Value**

\$10,000 over two years

(\$5,000 on completion of MATOD training course and BPM modules and \$5,000 on completion of development and facilitation of pain management and safer opioid prescribing workshops for Deakin students)

**Duration**

Following completion of training, a two-year commitment to the teaching of student workshops is required.

**Application Process**

Eligible Deakin affiliated practices in the South West region will be notified by email of the scholarships availability.

Applications addressing the selection criteria should be submitted, by Friday December 21<sup>st</sup>, to :  
Cara English

[cara-lee.english@deakin.edu.au](mailto:cara-lee.english@deakin.edu.au)

Applications will be considered by a selection panel based on the selection criteria. Applicants will be notified of the outcome in January 2019.

**Further information**

Further enquiries regarding the opioid training program scholarships should be addressed to:

Prof. Karen Dwyer

[karen.dwyer@deakin.edu.au](mailto:karen.dwyer@deakin.edu.au)