



S·A·R·R·A·H
Services for Australian
Rural and Remote Allied Health

7 March 2017

An Update from SARRAH to our Parliamentarians

Allied Health Scholarships

Welcome to our first update for 2017.

As reported in our last update, SARRAH will allocate a reduced number of allied health scholarships for the 2017 academic year under the Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support Scheme (NAHSSS). Applications closed on 27 February 2017 and approximately 2,920 were received.

The allied health undergraduate (entry level) scholarship received 504 eligible applications, of which 144 identified as extenuating circumstances. These applicants include people who have experienced either sexual abuse, domestic violence, family member with mental health issues or a terminal illness or both parents have died. SARRAH will only be able to offer 5 scholarships to these applicants.

To view the NAHSSS application timeline for the 2017 academic year click [here](#). Finally a tender for the Health Workforce Scholarship Program is yet to be released by the government.

2016 Conference

SARRAH convened its 2016 National Conference during 27-29 October in Port Lincoln. The conference was a great success, attracting over 200 delegates from throughout Australia to discuss the way forward for attracting, supporting and retaining allied health professionals in rural and remote Australia.

Throughout the presentations, delegates were asked to contribute their ideas on the key conference themes and their feedback went towards the development of a set of recommendations to strengthen the allied health workforce across Australia. A complete set of recommendations are available by clicking [here](#) covering seven key areas to be given priority including: consumers; workforce; service gaps; research; governance, networks and partnerships; communications; and funding.

It is significant to note that these are the issues highlighted by those practising as rural and remote allied health providers today, making them highly relevant to our efforts to address their needs and, in doing so, to confront the inequality of health provision that continues to disadvantage Australians who reside in these settings.

We look forward to working with you and your office to make these recommendations a focus of future planning efforts.

Thank you for your continued support.

Rod Wellington
Chief Executive Officer