



**Media Release
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Health scholarship gives country students a flying start

Applications are now open for the 2016 'Give Them Wings' health scholarships, which give students from country Victoria a flying start at university.

The four scholarships, valued at \$2,500 each, contribute towards university living expenses for first year students and include a Royal Flying Doctor experience. 'Give Them Wings' is open to first year students from Victorian regional and rural communities, with two nursing and two allied health scholarships to be awarded in 2016.

Now in its fifth year, 'Give Them Wings' is the result of a partnership between the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Victoria and Rural Health Workforce Australia, the national body for the Rural Workforce Agencies including RWAV in Victoria.

"These scholarships are another way we can work to improve health outcomes in Victoria," said Scott Chapman, CEO of RFDS Victoria. "We want to do this by encouraging the next generation of nursing and allied health professionals from rural Victorian communities."

RHWA CEO Greg Mundy said the scholarships offered timely support for first year nursing and allied health students. "A contribution like this can make a big difference to a young person leaving a small town to attend university and we welcome applications from all across Victoria," he said.

Applications for the 2016 'Give Them Wings' scholarships close on 31 March. Further details, including the application form, are available at www.rhwa.org.au/GiveThemWings

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Note to editors:

About the Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria

The not-for-profit Royal Flying Doctor Service has been taking the finest care to the furthest corners of Australia since 1928. Voted Australia's Most Reputable Charity for five years in a row, within Victoria the RFDS delivers air and road patient transport and primary health care programs, including mobile dental, eye and diabetes telehealth services.

About Rural Health Workforce Australia

Rural Health Workforce Australia is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to making healthcare more accessible in rural and remote Australia. It is the national body for the state and territory Rural Workforce Agencies which recruit and support health professionals in rural and remote communities. RHWA also supports the National Rural Health Student Network, which represents Australia's 28 university Rural Health Clubs.