

## *Dr Andrew Egan Rural Medical Scholarship 2024*

The Dr Andrew Egan Rural Medical Scholarship was established in 2021 to honour the memory of Dr Andrew Egan who was dedicated, procedural GP VMO in Cooma for more than 30 years. Dr Egan was a past President of the Rural Doctors' Association NSW (RDANSW) in 2018/19 after being a member since the formation of the Association. He was well-respected colleague, friend, father, and husband of wife Anne who worked as a GP at Bombala Street Surgery, providing VMO services to the local hospital in obstetrics, anaesthetics, emergency medicine and general in-patient medical care.

As a long-time supervisor of GP registrars, many GPs have appreciated Dr Egan's care and teaching and he enjoyed meeting keen, young doctors who were like himself, passionate about rural medicine and wanting to make a difference.

The RDA NSW is a non-profit organisation with our core business being to ensure the viability of working in the country for rural doctors by addressing key industrial issues. The association is proud to work with the Egan family to offer medical students from rural NSW the opportunity to apply for financial and mentoring support while they are on their pathway to becoming a rural doctor.

### **Terms and Conditions**

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#### ***General Information***

Nominations are now open for **second year medical students from rural NSW** attending university in 2024 to apply for one of two \$7,500 scholarships.

To qualify for the scholarships, applicants must already be enrolled in an Australian Medical School within NSW & ACT, have a letter of support from a senior figure in their local rural community and not be recipients of another scholarship.

Applicants will be required to submit a 2,000 word or less, essay format application incorporating why they are studying medicine, career goals and an understanding of the role and value of rural doctors in Australia.

The scholarship program will also provide the opportunity for successful applicants to receive advice and support throughout their degree for a minimum of one year, from members of the Rural Doctors Association NSW (RDA NSW) Committee, through a mentoring arrangement on matters relevant to their chosen career in rural medicine. Successful students will be required to join the RDA NSW as a medical student member.

#### ***To apply a student must:***

1. Be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident.
2. Ordinarily reside in a rural or regional area of New South Wales, greater than 50km from the nearest University campus offering medical degrees that provide complete training from Year 1 to graduation. \*Medical students who reside outside of NSW in border towns may apply for the scholarship and must provide evidence in their application of their involvement in NSW through

school, sporting groups and/or clubs. Applications from medical students living in border towns will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3. Must be currently enrolled in the second year of an Australian medical school within NSW or ACT.
4. Provide a letter of support from the principal of their high school, or another senior person within their local community.
5. Not be a recipient of another scholarship. (Successful recipients who forfeit their existing scholarship are accepted.)

### **Application Requirements**

In 2,000 words or less explain:

1. Why you have chosen to study medicine, career goals and demonstrate an understanding of the role and value of rural doctors in Australia.
2. Demonstrate your level of involvement in your local community, including examples of your involvement in local, rural community projects.
3. How would this scholarship benefit you financially?
4. Explain your current plans post medical graduation, including any specialist study and where you intend to work.
5. Applications are to be submitted to: Executive Assistant, RDA NSW Office, PO BOX 88, Gundagai NSW 2722 or via email: [admin@rdansw.com.au](mailto:admin@rdansw.com.au) by 5pm on **29<sup>th</sup> February 2024**. *(Please note that the office is located in a rural area not serviced by express post services and as such entries should be posted early.)*

### **Selection Process**

A committee incorporating rural doctors' and members of Dr Egan's family will assess all applications. The selection will be based on the information provided in relation to the requirements above. The committee's decision will be final and no further correspondence will be entered into. Where there is a deemed conflict of interest, an alternative member of Dr Egan's family or the RDA NSW will be required to undertake the assessment.

Applicants will be advised in writing by **Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024** if they have been successful.

### **Conditions**

1. The successful applicants may be requested to attend a venue / event where the successful recipients will be announced.
2. The scholarship recipients must be willing to have their stories published in various forms of communication to members and the public to promote the scholarship and it's recipients e.g. local newspapers, RDA NSW website, social media, newsletters.

3. The scholarship recipients will be required to join the RDA NSW as a Medical Student member, which is free, and maintain their membership for a minimum of one year.
4. Applicants must secure a pass rate in all subjects to continue to be eligible to receive their scholarship payments.
5. Students must provide access to their academic transcripts upon request to their RDA NSW mentor or RDA NSW administration staff, and the RDA NSW mentor & administration staff agree to keep the information confidential between them and the Scholarship selection committee.
6. Scholarship recipients will be required to keep in contact with their mentor on a regular basis over the year to ensure a continued interest in and connection to rural medicine.
7. Scholarship recipients are encouraged to attend the annual RDA NSW/NSW Rural Doctors Network *Rural GPs Conference* at Coogee Beach in November. RDA NSW will be responsible for organising the scholarship recipient's conference registration. The Scholarship recipient will be responsible for organising their own transport to/from the conference, accommodation and any other expenses incurred in attending the conference.
8. Students are required to provide written feedback to RDA NSW on the benefits of the scholarship and provide any suggestions that they feel may benefit future scholarship recipients.
9. Scholarship recipients are expected to act in an appropriate manner, which best represents the RDA NSW & The Egan family at all times. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the Scholarship Selection Committee or the withdrawal of the Scholarship.