



Australian Government
Department of Health

BONDED MEDICAL PROGRAM



Participant Information

JANUARY 2020



This Participant Booklet provides an overview of the Bonded Medical Program new arrangement commencing 1 January 2020.

Current participants of the Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) and Bonded Medical Places (BMP) schemes may choose to opt in to the new arrangement on or from 1 January 2020.

The Australian Government is committed to improving health outcomes for all Australians. It aims to build a sustainable high quality health workforce that is distributed across the country according to community need.

There are shortages of trained doctors in regional, rural and remote areas. The Government is delivering programs to support doctors to live, train and build careers in regional, rural and remote communities.

The Bonded Medical Program allows more medical practitioners to live and work in areas where they are needed most.

This booklet includes information on the Bonded Medical Program:

- Potential benefits of opting in
- How to opt in
- Obligations under the Program
- Choice of locations for your return of service
- Where to go for support and further information

More information is also available on the Department of Health (Health) website:

health.gov.au/new-arrangements-bonded-medical-program

For more information about the legislation which supports the Bonded Medical Program please refer to the following resources available online:

- Part VD of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2019A00070>
- *Health Insurance (Bonded Medical Program) Rule 2020*
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L01513>
- Information about your privacy can be found at:
Privacy Act 1988 <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2019C00241>

Information correct at publication on January 2020

Information in this booklet is published as a guide only.
Please refer to the Act and Rule (links above) for further details.

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The Bonded Medical Program

The Bonded Medical Program (the Program) provides students a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) at an Australian university in return for a commitment to work in eligible regional, rural and remote areas for a specified period once they have completed their medical degree.

There are two existing schemes: the Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) and the Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme. The MRBS and BMP schemes are closed to new participants.

From 1 January 2020, the Bonded Medical Program (Program) new arrangement comes into effect.

The Bonded Medical Program from 1 January 2020:

New students entering the Program have access to more choice, more locations, better support and streamlined conditions.

Existing students and doctors may have the choice to opt in to the new arrangement.

Program participants will have access to Health's online web portal, the Bonded Return of Service System (BRoSS), to manage their Return of Service Obligation (RoSO), find locations and access flexible arrangements.



3 Year RoSO



Self-manage my
RoSO



Access to
flexible
arrangements



RoSO in more
locations



Streamlined
conditions

Participants of the Bonded Medical Places (BMP) scheme 2016–2019 who have a 12 month RoSO will keep this under the new arrangement.

Work out if this booklet is for you

The diagram below provides a timeline of the phases in the Program. Cohort years are provided as an indicative guide, based on the usual time taken for a participant to move from one phase to another.

If you are a participant in the Intern, Pre-Vocational, Vocational or Fellow/ Non Fellow phase, this booklet is for you.

Otherwise, you should read the Student Information Booklet for information that is relevant to you.

PHASE	COHORT YEARS	SCHEME	REFERENCE
APPLICANT			
✓ Applicant	2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonded Medical Program (the Program) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Information Booklet
PARTICIPANT			
✓ Student	2014–2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old BMP Old 1 Year BMP Old Medical Rural Bonded Scholarships 	
✓ Intern	<2013, 2014, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old BMP Old 1 Year BMP Old Medical Rural Bonded Scholarships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant Information Booklet (this booklet)
✓ Pre-Vocational	2011–2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old BMP 	
✓ Vocational	2007–2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old Medical Rural Bonded Scholarships 	
✓ Fellow/ Non Fellow	After 2011		

Opt In

From 1 January 2020, eligible existing Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) and Bonded Medical Places (BMP) scheme participants can opt in to the new arrangement. MRBS scheme students will be eligible to opt in any time after completion of their medical course.

Eligible to opt in	Ineligible to opt in
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Current bonded student under the BMP scheme ✓ Current bonded doctor of either the BMP scheme or the MRBS scheme ✓ Bonded student of the MRBS scheme when your bonded CSP in your medical course is complete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Previous participant of either the BMP scheme or the MRBS scheme who has completed their obligations ✗ Existing participant of the MRBS scheme or the BMP scheme who is in breach of their contract or deed of agreement

The decision to opt in will depend on the benefits the new arrangement offers you and what phase or stage you are at under your existing arrangement.

Opting in is voluntary, and participants who choose not to opt in will keep their existing contract or Deed of Agreement (DoA).

Potential benefits of opt in

Participants who opt in can benefit from the following:

- your Program RoSO can be reduced by 1:1 credit for all RoSO worked under previous arrangements
- your individual contract or DoA is replaced with a statutory scheme
- there is more flexibility in when, where and how your RoSO can be completed
- Fellowship is encouraged but not required to complete your RoSO
- Health's online web portal, the Bonded Return of Service System (BRoSS) provides the ability to self-manage your participation in the Program. You can log in 24/7 to plan, check, update and confirm your Program progress
- you will receive support throughout each phase of the Program through the Rural Workforce Agency in your State/Territory

Participants of the BMP scheme (pre 2016) and MRBS scheme could get a reduction in RoSO of between two (2) or three (3) years depending on your circumstances.

Can I opt in and complete my 3 year RoSO based on credit for previous RoSO worked?

Participants who have completed 3 years of their current return of service have the opportunity to opt in, count their service towards completion of their RoSO and finalise their participation in the Program.



MRBS scheme participants will have a reduction in Medicare ban from 12 years to 6 years under a breach of conditions.

How to Opt In

Participants in the MRBS scheme who have completed their medical course and all participants in the BMP scheme can email BRoSS@health.gov.au on or from 1 January 2020 to apply to opt in. The opt in period is open ended.

Health will review your record to check all current obligations are up to date and that you are eligible to opt in. Once you have been approved by Health to opt in, you will receive an email with instructions.

You will need to agree to participate in the Program. Once this is complete, you will have entered the Program under the new arrangement.

You are encouraged to ensure that you are up to date and compliant with all obligations under your existing scheme. This will assist Health in determining your eligibility to opt in, ensuring a smooth and easy transition.

Opt In checklist

- ✓ Email BroSS@health.gov.au with your request to opt in to the Program
- ✓ Receive your approval to opt in from Health with links to information and instructions on how to agree to participate in the Program
- ✓ Read Part VD of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2019A00070>
- ✓ Read the *Health Insurance (Bonded Medical Program) Rule 2020*
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L01513>
- ✓ Read any additional information provided to make sure you understand what it means to participate in the Program
- ✓ Agree to participate in the Program
- ✓ Receive confirmation



Do I have to sign a contract?

The Bonded Medical Program new arrangement is a statutory scheme. There are no individual contracts or deeds of agreement. You only have to agree to participate in the new arrangement.

Bonded Return of Service System (BRoSS)

Participants in the Program will have access to the Bonded Return of Service System (BRoSS) to self-manage their Return of Service Obligation (RoSO), find locations and access flexible arrangements.

- **Applicants** – can access information about the Program and accept the place offered by your university
- **Participants** – can self-manage personal details, planning, tracking and management of RoSO online
- **Universities** – can manage their Bonded Medical Program applicant firm offer lists
- **Rural Workforce Agencies (RWAs)** – can, with consent, access participant contact details to offer support
- **Health administration** – can perform administrative tasks including Program management, Program evaluation and reporting

Functions of BRoSS will be released throughout 2020.

Health uses the information you enter into your BRoSS Record to send you email notifications and reminders to assist you to manage your Program obligations. It is important to keep the information in your BRoSS Record up-to-date.

Do I have to log in to BRoSS to update my personal information?



Yes. You are required to log in to BRoSS at least every 6 months to keep your personal information up-to-date.

Your personal information in BRoSS is safe. BRoSS complies with the *Privacy Act 1988*. It is designed with the latest and most effective security and personal information authentication.

Participant obligations

The Agreement

Participants are bounded by Part VD of the *Health Insurance Act 1973 (Act)* and must abide by the *Health Insurance (Bonded Medical Program) Rule 2020 (Rule)*.

You become a Bonded Medical Program participant if:

- a) you reside in Australia;
- b) you:
 - i. are an Australian citizen; or
 - ii. hold a permanent visa;
- c) you have been offered a place in a course of study in medicine at an Australian university;
- d) the offer is subject to you participating in the Bonded Medical Program;
- e) you have accepted that offer and you are enrolled in the course of study in medicine at that Australian university; and
- f) you have agreed to participate in the Bonded Medical Program using a web portal maintained by the Department.

For former Bonded Medical Places Scheme participant, if:

- a) you were a party to a deed of agreement with the Commonwealth (as represented by the Department) for funding of a place in the Bonded Medical Places Scheme, including a deed of agreement as varied;
- b) you advise the Department that you wish to opt in to the Bonded Medical Program under section 124ZU; and
- c) the Department agrees, in writing, to your participation in the Bonded Medical Program;

you are a bonded participant in the Bonded Medical Program on and after the day the Secretary agrees, in writing, to your participation in the Program. You will remain a participant until the day you complete your RoSO.

For former Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship participant, if:

- a) you were a party to a contract with the Commonwealth (as represented by the Department) for a Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship, including a contract as varied; and
- b) you advise the Department that you wish to opt in to the Bonded Medical Program under section 124ZU; and
- c) the Department agrees, in writing, to your participation in the Bonded Medical Program;

you are a bonded participant in the Bonded Medical Program on and after the day the Secretary agrees, in writing, to your participation in the Program. You will remain a participant until the day you complete your RoSO.

For your information links to the Act and Rule are provided below:

- Part VD of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2019A00070>
- *Health Insurance (Bonded Medical Program) Rule 2020*
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L01513>

Information about your privacy can be found at:

- *Privacy Act 1988* <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2019C00241>

Return of Service Obligation (RoSO)

If you opt in to the new arrangement, you receive your CSP in return for your commitment to work in eligible regional, rural or remote areas for a period of three (3) years after you have completed your medical course.

This is referred to as your Return of Service Obligation (RoSO).

If you are a participant of the BMP scheme (2016-2019) and opt in, you retain your 12 month RoSO.

How long do I have to complete my RoSO?

You are required to complete your RoSO within 18 years from the day you complete your medical course or from the date you opt in the new arrangement.



You have a wide range of options as to when, where and how you choose to complete your RoSO within the Program's required timeframe and requirements.

Program requirements about when and how you work your RoSO are designed to be flexible, responsive and easy for you to self-manage as your circumstances change and your medical career develops.

On opt in, any RoSO you worked under your existing arrangement, including any scaling benefit you earned, will be credited to you to reduce your RoSO under the new arrangement.

RoSO can be non-continuous, full-time or part-time work and fly in/ fly out work in eligible locations for participants with a 3 year RoSO.

Participants with a 12 month RoSO retain flexibility in how and where you complete your RoSO but you must work full-time.

RoSO time commitments (3 year RoSO)



You have a
3 YEAR
RoSO

which must be completed **within 18 YEARS** from the day you complete your medical course or from the date you opt in to the new arrangement.

You **must** register a preliminary RoSO Plan within 3 months of your opt in date.

You can start your RoSO as soon as you complete your medical course and commence your medical internship.

You may complete up to **18 months** (50%) of the 3 year RoSO **prior to attaining Fellowship** and complete your remaining RoSO after attaining Fellowship.

Alternatively, you may complete **all** of your 3 year RoSO **after you have attained Fellowship**.



If you **do not** attain Fellowship **within 12 years** after completing your medical course, you will be required to complete all outstanding RoSO within the next and **final 6 years** of the required 18 year RoSO period timeframe.



You can work your RoSO in employment which is:

FULL-TIME
minimum **35** HOURS
PER WEEK

PART-TIME
minimum **20** HOURS
PER WEEK
and is less than 35 hours per week

or on a
PER DAY OR minimum
DAILY BASIS **7.5** HOURS
PER DAY
and is less than 20 hours per week



MM 4-7 6 MONTH ROSO
DISCOUNT

If you work full-time for the **first 24 months** of your RoSO in locations classified as **Modified Monash Model (MMM) category 4-7** (MM 4-7); you will receive a scaling benefit under the scaling rule. This means you could get a **6 month RoSO discount** if you continue to work full-time in locations classified as MM 4-7.



How long is one (1) RoSO week?

There is no definition of a “week” in the Rule. Instead, the Rule focuses on the amount of hours a participant works in a week. The Rule provides that a participant may complete their RoSO by working on either a full-time, part-time or per-day basis with definitions as follow:

Full-time basis: A bonded participant completes 1 week of their RoSO on a full-time basis, if they are employed in eligible work for at least 35 hours or more in that week.

Part-time basis: A bonded participant completes 1 week of their RoSO on a part-time basis, if they are employed in eligible work for at least 20 hours, but less than 35 hours, in a week.

Per-day basis: A bonded participant completes 1 week of their RoSO on a per-day basis, if they are employed in eligible work on several different days.

- *On each of which the participant works for at least 7.5 hours; and*
- *With a total of at least 20 hours accumulated in a period of greater than a week.*

**Note that if a participant is completing RoSO on a ‘per-day basis’ but reaches 20 hours in a single week, then that week will be assessed as 1 week of eligible work on a ‘part-time basis’ (where the participant is employed in eligible work for at least 20 hours, but less than 35 hours, in a week).*

Example for a 3 year RoSO participant

You could choose to complete a 6 month period of RoSO part-time (minimum 20 hours per week) eligible work; and at the same time, work part time in non-RoSO work in an inner metropolitan location. In this example, at the end of your 6 months of part-time work, you would accrue 6 months towards your RoSO.

RoSO time commitments (12 month RoSO)



You have a
12 MONTH
RoSO

which must be completed **within 18 YEARS** from the day you complete your medical course or from the date you opt in to the new arrangement.

You **must** register an initial RoSO Plan within 3 months of your opt in date.

You can start and complete your RoSO at any time across the 18 year period provided under the Program.



You must work your RoSO in employment which is:

FULL-TIME
minimum **35** HOURS
PER WEEK

You may complete your RoSO in one period of time, or in a series of periods of time each of which is at least 10 consecutive weeks.

Example for a 12 month RoSO participant

You could choose to complete a 3 month locum of RoSO full-time (minimum 35 hours per week) eligible work; and choose to return 12 months later to do a further 3 month RoSO full-time eligible work in the same RoSO location. In this example, you would have completed 6 months of your 12 month RoSO at the end of the second locum period.

I work a fortnightly shift with varying hours across my roster including on weekends. How will my hours worked be counted towards my RoSO?



Your employment agreement or arrangement will be used to determine whether your RoSO is completed on a full-time, part-time or per day basis. Hours may be worked across any day of the week including weekends.

What counts as ‘eligible work’ under a RoSO

Work which you would like to count towards your RoSO must be categorised as ‘eligible work’.

‘Eligible work’ must meet certain requirements such as the type of professional service, the length of time you work in a location, and location eligibility.

There are no restrictions on the work that you undertake which you do not wish to count towards your RoSO during the 18 year period.

Will contribute to your ROSO	Will not contribute to your RoSO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Salaried professional service positions ✓ Medicare billed service positions ✓ After hours and deputising services ✓ On call positions ✓ Outreach positions delivering fly-in/fly-out services ✓ Aeromedical services which provide aeromedical evacuation/ retrieval services to patients in eligible locations ✓ Services delivered in an eligible location that are billed to a Medical Provider Number linked to a “Health Office” in either an eligible or non-eligible location ✓ Telehealth services from an eligible location and delivered to an eligible location ✓ Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators Fellowship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Clinical research positions ✗ Academic teaching positions ✗ Medical, hospital or organisational administrative positions ✗ Paramedicine

Do I need approval / permission as to where I work?

If you opt in to the Program, you no longer need permission to work in RoSO ineligible areas as long as you complete your RoSO within Program requirements and timeframes.



Work locations for RoSO

The Program applies one or more of the following geographic and workforce classifications to determine locations which are eligible for you to complete your RoSO:



- Modified Monash Model (MMM)
- Distribution Priority Areas (DPA) for General Practitioners
- Districts of Workforce Shortage (DWS) for Specialists other than General Practitioners

As a participant, you can use your BRoSS RoSO mapping tool to find which locations are classified as eligible for you to work your RoSO or you can use the Health Workforce Locator on Doctor Connect www.doctorconnect.gov.au.

More choice, more locations

Locations that are eligible to you will depend upon the year you enter the Program and where you are up to in your medical career.

Additional locations will become available when you commence vocational training in a medical speciality or have become a Fellow.

From internship to completion of your 3 year RoSO

You will be able to work your RoSO in locations which:

- were classified as MM 2–7 when you entered the Program. These are called your ‘point of entry locations’ and are classified under the 2019 MMM. Your ‘point of entry locations’ will be recorded in your BRoSS Record.

OR

- are reclassified as MM 2–7 after you have entered the Program due to periodic classification updates. If a location is classified as MM 2–7 within 6 months before you commence work at that location, your work can contribute to your RoSO.
-

General Practitioner

You can choose from MM2–7 locations plus you will be able to work your RoSO in locations classified as a distribution priority area (excluding inner metropolitan areas*).

Specialist other than a general practitioner

You can choose from MM2–7 locations plus you will be able to work your RoSO in locations classified as a district of workforce shortage (excluding inner metropolitan areas*).

*Locations in outer metropolitan or non-metropolitan areas which are classified as a DPA or a DWS (as relevant to your speciality) within 6 months of you commencing work at that location are eligible RoSO locations.

How eligible locations are determined

Modified Monash Model (MMM)

Health uses the MMM classifications to better distribute the health workforce in rural and remote areas. Link - <https://www.health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/modified-monash-model>

The Modified Monash Model (MMM) is a geographical classification that categorises different areas in Australia into seven remoteness categories. It was developed to better target health workforce programs to attract health professionals to more remote and smaller communities. The MMM classifies metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas according to geographical remoteness, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and town size. MM 1 is a major city and MM 7 is very remote.

Distribution Priority Areas (DPA) for General Practitioners

The new DPA system uses the best available data to identify those communities most in need of GP services.

- Inner metropolitan areas are automatically deemed non-DPA because these communities have the choice of multiple health service providers such as GPs, hospitals, nursing and allied health professionals. These major cities account for 70% of Australia's population.
- Areas classified MM 5–7 are automatically deemed DPA. This includes small rural towns, remote communities and very remote communities.
- Northern Territory is automatically deemed DPA due to the unique challenges the Territory faces in recruiting and retaining health professionals.

Link - <https://www.health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/distribution-priority-area>

Districts of Workforce Shortage for Specialists (DWS)

A District of Workforce Shortage (DWS) is an area where people have poor access to specialist medical practitioners. Link – <https://www.health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/district-of-workforce-shortage>

An area is classified as DWS if its ratio of specialists to population is worse than the national average. Under the Program, inner metropolitan locations are not eligible for you to complete your RoSO.

Can I complete my RoSO working at an Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS)?

Yes, you can complete your RoSO at an AMS if it is located in an eligible location.



RoSO completed prior to changing specialties will still be counted. If Fellowship is not obtained within 12 years of graduating from medical school, then the remaining RoSO must be completed without completion of Fellowship within the remaining 6 years of the 18 year timeframe.

Changes to location eligibility

Updates to MMM, DPA or DWS will be automatically available in your BRoSS Record. Locations which are no longer eligible will be removed.

You can continue to work your RoSO in a location even if the location becomes ineligible due to a reclassification of the MMM, DPA or DWS during the time you work there.

What are some faster ways I can complete my RoSO?



If you work 24 months, full time in MM 4–7 locations and have become a Fellow, and you continue to do so, you will attract the scaling benefit. This provides credits towards your RoSO which can result in your 3 year RoSO being reduced to 2.5 years.

Once you have worked RoSO in a location, you can always return to that location to complete further RoSO. These locations are called ‘quarantined locations’.

Extension of time to complete your RoSO

You can apply to Health for an extension of time to complete your RoSO only if you or a member of your family has a medical condition that prevents you from completing your RoSO in the required 18 years.

Your application must be received prior to completion of your 18 year period and must provide evidence.

A two (2) year extension may be provided at the discretion of the Department of Health, taking the period for you to complete your RoSO from 18 years to 20 years.

If I take maternity leave or long service leave, can I get an extension of time to complete my RoSO?

No, periods of leave such as maternity and long service leave do not count as reasons for extension. 18 years is considered sufficient time to complete your RoSO.



Participant responsibilities

As a participant, you are responsible for ensuring your BRoSS Record is up-to-date.

Information you provide in your BRoSS Record will be used to count how much RoSO you have worked.

Your RoSO Plan will record your proposed and confirmed locations and timeframes and how much RoSO you have completed.

You are required to:

Stay in touch	You are required to log in to BRoSS at least every 6 months to check, update and confirm your information while participating in the Program. Penalties may apply if you do not keep your information up-to-date.
Keep up-to-date	Update personal contact details within 6 months of any changes to those details.
Register a RoSO Plan	You must register an initial RoSO Plan within 3 months of your opt in date.
Manage your RoSO	As a participant you will be able to update or change any proposed plans you have made in your registered RoSO Plan at any stage. The plans you make are totally flexible.

Document your activities	<p>Report when you reach key milestones such as commencement and completion of your internship, completion of vocational training or attaining Fellowship and information about your medical specialisation.</p> <p>Update your RoSO Plan every three months as a minimum with Program milestones and RoSO events you wish to count towards meeting your obligations.</p> <p>Enter eligible work into your registered RoSO Plan.</p>
Provide evidence	<p>Submit the required evidence in support of your claim including documents such as certificate of attainment or letter from the relevant organisation. Where these are not available, a Statutory Declaration including the required information signed by you must be provided.</p>

Withdrawal from the Program or breach of obligations

Program withdrawal

If you decide to withdraw, you are required to confirm your withdrawal via your BRoSS Record.

- If you withdraw prior to the census date of your second year of study of your medical course, you are not required to repay the cost of your Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) in your medical course.
- If you withdraw after the census date of your second year of study of your medical course, you will be required to repay the cost of the study you have completed of your CSP.
- If you withdraw from the Program after you have completed your medical course and after you have worked some of your RoSO, your repayment will be reduced by the proportional amount of RoSO you have completed at the time you withdraw.

Breach of obligations

If you do not complete your 3 year RoSO (or 12 month RoSO for previous BMP 2016–2019 participants) within the required timeframe of 18 years, you will be in breach of Program conditions and will be bound by all obligations under this Program. You will be required to repay the cost of your bonded CSP in the medical course less a proportional amount for any RoSO you have completed. MRBS participants will be required to repay the cost of your scholarship and you will receive a six (6) year Medicare ban.

Repayment amounts

Repayments are recoverable from you and interest may be applied. The repayment amount applicable to your circumstances will be calculated and available to you in your BRoSS record.

The repayment amounts for each year of the medical course are available on the Department of Education and Training website at www.education.gov.au/funding-clusters-and-indexed-rates (refer to the Commonwealth contribution amount for the funding cluster that includes medicine).

What is the monetary value on breach under the Program?

Existing calculations can be found in contracts and Deeds of Agreement. For participants who have opted in to the Program, the calculation is in the Health Insurance (Bonded Medical Program) Rule 2020. Link – <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L01513>



You will no longer be a participant, if you:

- Do not complete your RoSO within 18 years of completing your medical course or from the date you opt in to the new arrangement. If this occurs, you will be in breach of Program conditions
- Breach conditions of the Program
- Withdraw from the Program

Request review of a decision

As a participant you are able to apply to the Department of Health for review of an original decision made by Health. Your application must be in writing and set out the reasons for your application and be made within 14 days of the original decision being made. You may withdraw your application at any time prior to the review being completed.

On completion of the review, you will receive written notice of the decision and advice on any right to have the decision reviewed by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Where to go for information and advice

There are many areas of support available to you while you are participating in the Program.

Rural Workforce Agencies

Rural Workforce Agencies (RWAs) are funded by the department to identify the rural health workforce needs in their State or the Northern Territory.

Participants can contact an RWA for advice and guidance, such as:

- providing participants options and recruitment support for placement into rural roles that meet their RoSO
- information about professional development and support to enable participants to be part of a broader rural medical professional network
- information about accessing rural medical experiences during undergraduate and early career years and access to grants

Contact your local RWA to find out more:

New South Wales **NSW Rural Doctors Network**Website: <https://www.nswrdn.com.au/>Email: students@nswrdn.com.auPhone: 02 4924 8000

Victoria **Rural Workforce Agency Victoria**Website: <https://www.rwav.com.au/>Email: rwav@rwav.com.auPhone: 03 9349 7800

Queensland **Health Workforce Queensland**Website: <https://www.healthworkforce.com.au/>Email: Futureworkforce@healthworkforce.com.auPhone: 07 3105 7800

Western Australia **Rural Health West**Website: <http://www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/>Email: info@ruralhealthwest.com.auPhone: 08 6389 4500

South Australia **Rural Doctors Workforce Agency**Website: <https://www.ruraldoc.com.au/>Email: recruitment@ruraldoc.com.auPhone: 08 8234 8277

Tasmania **HR Plus**Website: <https://www.hrplustas.com.au/>Email: bmp@hrplustas.com.auPhone: 03 6332 8600

Northern Territory **Northern Territory PHN**Website: <https://www.ntphn.org.au/health-professionals>Email: ntphn@ntphn.org.auPhone: 08 8981 5899

Resources and contacts

Department of Health website and Fact Sheets at:

health.gov.au/new-arrangements-bonded-medical-program

Legislation supporting the Bonded Medical Program

- Part VD of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2019A00070>
- *Health Insurance (Bonded Medical Program) Rule 2020*
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L01513>
- *Privacy Act 1988*
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2019C00241>

Modified Monash Model <https://www.health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/modified-monash-model>

Distribution Priority Area <https://www.health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/distribution-priority-area>

District of Workforce Shortages for Specialists
<https://www.health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/district-of-workforce-shortage>

Contact the Department of Health:

- Telephone: 1800 987 104
(available Monday to Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm AEST)
- Email: BRoSS@health.gov.au

Further information

Contact the Department of Health if you would like to learn more about the Program and your obligations.

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