



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**



# THE BONDED MEDICAL PROGRAM

**Legacy Scheme Participant Information Booklet**

March 2022

This Legacy Scheme Participant Information Booklet provides an overview of the Bonded Medical Program (the Program) that commenced on 1 January 2020 for participants of the Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) and the Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme (referred to as legacy schemes).

**The Australian Government's stronger rural health strategy includes a \$550 million investment to improve the health of people living in rural, regional and remote Australia.**

The Strategy supports the distribution of the health workforce through a range of incentives to give doctors more opportunities to train and practice in rural and remote Australia. The Bonded Medical Program is one of these incentives.

The Bonded Medical Program gives a Commonwealth funded place in a course of study in medicine at an Australian university to participants who commit to working as medical practitioners in a regional, rural or remote community after graduation.

This booklet includes information on the Bonded Medical Program. It covers:

- The benefits of opting in to the program
- How to opt in
- The Bonded Return of Service System (BRoSS)
- Obligations
- Return of Service Obligation (RoSO)
- Choice of locations for your return of service,
- Breaching the conditions of the program
- Where to go for support and further information.

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

- [\*\*Health Insurance \(Bonded Medical Program\) Rule 2020\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Part VD of the Health Insurance Act 1973\*\*](#)
- Information about your privacy can be found at: [\*\*Privacy Act 1988\*\*](#)

Information in this booklet is published as a guide only. Please refer to *Part VD of the Health Insurance Act 1973* and *Health Insurance (Bonded Medical Program) Rule 2020* (links above) for further details.

For further information on legacy scheme obligations:

- [\*\*Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship \(MRBS\) Scheme\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Bonded Medical Places \(BMP\) Scheme\*\*](#)

More information is also available on the Department of Health (Health) website: [\*\*Bonded Medical Program\*\*](#).

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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 period of three (3) years once they have completed their course of study in medicine at an Australian university.

Participants of the Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) and the Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme (legacy contract based schemes) can decide whether to opt in to the statutory scheme. The MRBS and BMP schemes are closed to new participants.

# Work out if this booklet is for you

PHASE	COHORT YEARS	SCHEME	REFERENCE
<b>APPLICANT</b>	<b>2020 ONWARDS</b>		
Applicant		Bonded Medical Program (the Program)	Prospective Student Information Booklet
<b>PARTICIPANT</b>	<b>2001- 2019</b>		
Student			Legacy Scheme
Intern			Participant Information Booklet
Pre-Vocational		Legacy Scheme Participant	
Vocational			(this booklet)
Fellow/ Non Fellow			

# Why opt in?



**3 Year RoSO**



**Self-manage  
my RoSO**



**Access to  
flexible  
arrangements**



**RoSO in more  
locations**



**Streamlined  
conditions**

## Potential benefits

Your Program RoSO can be reduced by 1:1 credit for all RoSO approved and completed under previous arrangements

- There is more flexibility in when, where and how your RoSO can be completed
- Fellowship is encouraged but not required to complete your RoSO
- You will receive support throughout each phase of the Program through the Rural Workforce Agency (RWA) in your State/Territory

The department's online web portal, the Bonded Return of Service System (BRoSS) will provide the ability to self-manage your participation in the Program

You can log in 24/7 to:

- check location eligibility
- plan, activate and document eligible training
- confirm your Program progress

# Who can opt in

Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) Scheme participants that have completed their course of study in medicine at an Australian university are able to opt in to the Program.

Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme participants can choose to opt in to the Program at anytime.

The MRBS Scheme was closed to new entrants in 2016.

The BMP Scheme was closed to new entrants in 2020.

The MRBS and the BMP Schemes are referred to as “Legacy Schemes”.

## More information to help you decide if you want to opt in

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

When considering whether to opt in to the Program, the fact sheets at the links below set out important considerations for legacy scheme participants. These fact sheets also provide a useful comparison table between the legacy schemes and the Program.

**[Obligations fact sheet for MRBS scheme participants seeking to opt in to the new Program](#)**

**[Obligations fact sheet for BMP scheme participants seeking to opt in to the new Program](#)**

Participants are encouraged to seek independent legal advice prior to making a decision to opt in.

# How to opt in

Familiarise yourself with the Bonded Medical Program legislation

- Read Part VD of the [\*Health Insurance Act 1973\*](#)
- Read the [\*Health Insurance \(Bonded Medical Program\) Rule 2020\*](#)

## The opt in steps

- Advise the department of your intention to opt in by emailing [\*\*BondedMedicalProgram@health.gov.au\*\*](mailto:BondedMedicalProgram@health.gov.au) using the title convention Subject: (your legacy scheme): (your name): (Opt in Request).
- The department will review your record to check all current obligations are up to date and that you are eligible to opt in. This may require you to provide additional information to confirm your RoSO.
- You will be asked to sign a request to opt in pro-forma that states you voluntarily wish to opt in to the Program and you agree to participate in the Program using BRoSS.
- The Secretary of Health needs to agree to your participation in the Program.
- You become a Bonded Participant in the Program the day after the Secretary agrees to your participation and notifies you in writing.

We are currently working with affected individuals to address the issues that arose during implementation of the program in 2020. In parallel, we are working through a large number of requests to opt in. As each one requires a thorough review, this is taking some time, and there are delays in processing new opt-in requests.

Read about our [\*\*progress in addressing implementation issues\*\*](#).



# Bonded Return of Service System (BRoSS)

BRoSS is the online system which will assist Bonded Participants to plan, monitor and manage their own obligations under the Program.

Information entered into BRoSS will be used to send email notifications and reminders to assist participants to manage their Program obligations. BRoSS has extensive in-system guidance, notifications and messaging so participants know where they are up to in the Program and what is coming up next for them.

Bonded Participants will be responsible for ensuring their BRoSS record is up to date and that it contains information about the milestones and events they have achieved so these count towards meeting their obligations.

BRoSS has been built to incorporate the latest and most effective security and personal information authentication processes. BRoSS complies with the *Privacy Act 1988*.

## When do I have to sign in to BRoSS?

You must register a RoSO plan no later than the day you finish your course of study in medicine at an Australian university. Then you must log in to BRoSS at least every 6 months from the completion date of your medical course to confirm or update the details of your RoSO plan. You will also log in when you have a Program event to report. Reporting obligations are listed in sections 15 and 16 of the *Health Insurance (Bonded Medical Program) Rule 2020*.

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

As a Bonded Participant you have obligations under the *Health Insurance Act 1973*.

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

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 Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship participants, if:**

- 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;
- you advise the department that you wish to opt in to the Bonded Medical Program under section 124ZU; and
- the Secretary makes a decision agreeing to your participation and notifies you in writing of that decision.

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 Bonded Medical Places Scheme participants, if:**

- 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;
- you advise the department that you wish to opt in to the Bonded Medical Program under section 124ZU; and
- the Secretary makes a decision agreeing to your participation and notifies you in writing of that decision.

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.

## **MRBS RoSO Obligations**

If you opt in to the Program – having received a CSP and scholarship under your former MRBS Scheme – you are required to complete the RoSO in eligible regional, rural or remote areas for a period of three (3) years (less any RoSO served under your former MRBS scheme contract).

You are required to complete your RoSO within 18 years from the day you complete your course of study in medicine at an Australian university.

## **MRBS RoSO Breach**

If you do not complete your RoSO within the 18 year timeframe you will be liable to pay 100% of the scholarship amount paid to you during your course of study in medicine, less a pro-rata amount based on any proportion of RoSO completed, plus interest.

You will also be subject to a period – of up to 6 years – during which a medicare benefit is not payable in respect of professional services rendered (i.e. a Medicare Ban).

Any amounts owing will be recoverable as a debt due to the Commonwealth. Refer to 124ZJ Breach of condition of Bonded Medical Program – Medicare benefits not payable.

# Bonded Medical Places Scheme RoSO Obligations

If you opt in to the Program - having received a CSP under your former BMP Scheme - you are required to complete the RoSO in eligible regional, rural or remote areas for a period of three (3) years.

*\*NB: Participants from 2016–2019 who have a 12 month RoSO will keep this under the Program.*

You are required to complete your RoSO within 18 years from the day you complete your course of study in medicine at an Australian university.

## Bonded Medical Places Scheme RoSO Breach

If you do not complete your RoSO within 18 years of the date you completed your course of study in medicine you will be in breach of Program conditions. You will be required to repay the CSP-related cost of your medical course less a pro-rata amount for any RoSO you have completed, plus interest.

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

- Part VD of the [\*\*Health Insurance Act 1973\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Health Insurance \(Bonded Medical Program\) Rule 2020\*\*](#)

# Return of Service Obligation (RoSO)

Once you are a bonded participant in the Program you are required to complete your RoSO 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) less any RoSO served under your former MRBS scheme contract or BMP Scheme agreement.

\*NB: Participants from 2016-2019 who have a 12 month RoSO will keep this under the Program.

## How long do I have to complete my RoSO?

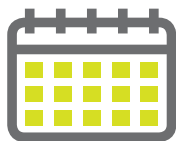
You are required to complete your RoSO within 18 years from the day you complete your course of study in medicine at an Australian university.

RoSO can be non-continuous, full-time or part-time work and fly-in/fly-out work in eligible locations.

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

# RoSO time commitments (3 year RoSO)



You have a **3 year RoSO**

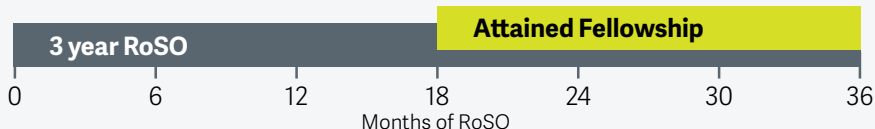
which must be completed **WITHIN 18 YEARS** from the day you complete your medical course.

You **must** register your preliminary RoSO Plan in BRoSS **no later than the day you complete your medical course.**

You can start 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 timeframe.



You can work your RoSO in employment which is:

FULL-TIME  
MINIMUM

**35** hours per week

PART-TIME  
MINIMUM

**20** hours per week

OR ON A  
PER DAY OR  
DAILY BASIS  
MAXIMUM

**20** hours per week

**MM 4-7**

**6 MONTH  
RoSO CREDIT**



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 MM4-7.

## 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 with a total of at least 20 hours accumulated in a period of greater than a week.

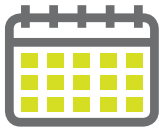
\* Note that if a participant is completing RoSO on a ‘per-day basis’ but reaches 20 hours in a single week, then that week will be assessed as 1 week of eligible work on a ‘part-time basis’ (where the participant is employed in eligible work for at least 20 hours, but less than 35 hours, in a week).

### 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.

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 may 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 roster 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 your 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"> <li>✓ Salaried professional service positions</li> <li>✓ Medicare billed service positions</li> <li>✓ After hours and deputising services</li> <li>✓ On call positions</li> <li>✓ Outreach positions delivering fly-in/fly-out services</li> <li>✓ Aeromedical services which provide aeromedical evacuation/ retrieval services to patients in eligible locations</li> <li>✓ 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</li> <li>✓ Telehealth services from an eligible location and delivered to an eligible location</li> <li>✓ Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators Fellowship (RACMA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Clinical research positions</li> <li>✗ Academic teaching positions</li> <li>✗ Medical, hospital or organisational administrative work (except RACMA)</li> <li>✗ Clinical practice in a discipline other than medicine. For example if you were a nurse prior to medical school, doing locums as a remote area nurse will not count towards RoSO as a doctor</li> </ul>

## 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 bonded participant, you can use your BRoSS RoSO mapping tool to find which locations are classified as eligible for you to work your RoSO.**

## 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 specialty or have become a Fellow.

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### **From internship to completion of your 3 year RoSO**

You will be able to complete your RoSO in locations:

- classified as MM 2-7 when you entered the Program. These are also called your 'point of entry locations' and the location classification will be retained and recorded against your BRoSS record to use as eligible locations at any point during your participation in the Program.
- classified as eligible locations and you complete a RoSO Activity reducing your RoSO, the location is also retained and recorded in BRoSS and will be classified as a 'quarantined location' which will remain an eligible location for the duration of your participation in the Program.

AND

- 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 six (6) months before you commence work at that location, your work can contribute to your RoSO.

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### **General Practitioner**

You can choose from MM 2-7 locations plus you will be able to work your RoSO in locations classified as a Distribution Priority Area (DPA) (excluding inner metropolitan areas\*).

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### **Specialist other than a general practitioner**

You can choose from MM 2-7 locations plus you will be able to work your RoSO in locations classified as a District of Workforce Shortage (DWS) (excluding inner metropolitan areas\*).

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\* Locations in outer metropolitan or non-metropolitan areas which are classified as a DPA or a DWS (as relevant to your specialty) 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 **Modified Monash Model (MMM)** classifications to better distribute the health workforce in rural and remote areas.

The 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 3-7 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.

**Distribution Priority Areas** areas are reviewed annually and can change throughout the year if an application for consideration of exceptional circumstances is successful.

## 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.

An area is classified as DWS if its ratio of specialists to population is lower 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 may complete your RoSO at an AMS that meets the eligibility requirements under your agreement.

***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 maybe 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. Location eligibility is updated regularly.

***You can continue to complete 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 have become a Fellow and have completed 24 months of RoSO on a full-time basis in an MM 4-7 location, then you can access the scaling benefit. This means that if you continue to work in an MM 4-7 location on a full-time basis, then each month of completed RoSO in that third year will count as two months. The result being that your 3 year RoSO is reduced to 2 years and 6 months.

***Once you have worked RoSO in a location, you can 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 the department 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 you must provide evidence from the treating practitioner.

The Secretary of Health has the discretion to grant an extension. This would not normally extend the period to complete your RoSO by more than 2 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.

# Bonded participant responsibilities

As a bonded 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:

## NOTIFIABLE EVENT OBLIGATIONS

### Section 15(1):

within 6 months of the following events, participants must upload the following information and evidence to BRoSS.

### Section 15(2):

if a participant is unable to provide the evidence or information, they must upload a statutory declaration to BRoSS that:

- (a) explains why the relevant evidence or information cannot be obtained; and
- (b) attests the relevant information.

## Notifiable Event

<b>Item 1</b>	Name change
<b>Item 2</b>	Any change in the primary or secondary contact details, including phone number, email address or postal address
<b>Item 3</b>	Any change which impacts upon completion time of study in medicine
<b>Item 4</b>	Completion of study in medicine (i.e. graduation)
<b>Item 5</b>	Provisional registration with AHPRA
<b>Item 6</b>	Commencement of internship
<b>Item 7</b>	Completion of internship
<b>Item 8</b>	General registration with AHPRA
<b>Item 9</b>	Commencement of vocational training
<b>Item 10</b>	Attainment of medical specialisation



## RoSO REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

### Section 16(1):

a participant must, within the timeframes outlined below, upload the following information and evidence to BRoSS.

### Section 16(2):

if a participant is unable to provide the evidence or information, they must upload a statutory declaration to BRoSS that:

- (a) explains why the relevant evidence or information cannot be obtained; and
- (b) attests the relevant information.

### Required information

### Reporting timeframes

#### Item 1 Participant must:

Register a RoSO plan in BRoSS that proposes one or more eligible locations where the participant can complete their RoSO.

#### (a) For students:

no later than the study completion date

#### (b) For participants:

within 3 months of opting in to the Program

#### Item 2 Participant must:

Provide evidence to confirm completed work in accordance with registered RoSO plan.

No later than 3 months after a participant has completed work at an eligible location

#### Item 3 Participant must:

- update their RoSO plan
- update expected completion date
- upload evidence verifying any changes to terms of work

No later than 3 months after participant changes the expected completion date of work in eligible location

#### Item 4 - Participant must:

Confirm or update the details of their RoSO plan.

#### (a) For students:

every 6 months from the completion date of the participant's course of study in medicine.

#### (b) For participants:

every 6 months from the participant's date of opt in to the Program.

# Program withdrawal

If you decide to withdraw, you are required to confirm your withdrawal via your BRoSS Record. The consequences of withdrawing from the Program are specific to your legacy scheme.

## **For ex-MRBS participants:**

If you withdraw from the Program, you will be liable to repay the former MRBS scholarship amount paid to you during your course of study in medicine, less a pro-rata proportion based on any RoSO completed, plus interest.

You will also be subject to a period - of up to 6 years - during which a Medicare benefit is not payable in respect of professional services rendered (i.e. a Medicare Ban).

Any amounts owing will be recoverable as a debt due to the Commonwealth.

## **For ex-Bonded Medical Places Scheme participants:**

If you withdraw from your course of study in medicine, you will be liable to pay the CSP-related cost of the course of study in medicine for the years or part year (semester) of study undertaken, plus interest.

If you have completed your study but have not completed your RoSO within the 18 year timeframe (or an extended period), you will be liable to pay 100% of the CSP-related cost of your course of study in medicine, less a prorata amount based on any proportion of RoSO completed, plus interest.

This amount will be recoverable as a debt due to the Commonwealth.

## **Breach of RoSO obligations**

The consequences of not meeting the RoSO obligations under the Program are specific to your legacy scheme.

### **For ex-MRBS Scheme participants:**

If you do not complete your RoSO within the 18 year timeframe (or an extended period), you will be liable to pay 100% of the scholarship amount paid to you during your course of study in medicine, less a prorata amount based on any proportion of RoSO completed, plus interest.

You will also be subject to a period - of up to 6 years - during which a Medicare benefit is not payable in respect of professional services rendered (i.e. a Medicare Ban).

Any amounts owing will be recoverable as a debt due to the Commonwealth.

### **For ex-Bonded Medical Places Scheme participants:**

If you do not complete your RoSO within 18 years of the date you completed your course of study in medicine (or an extended period), you will be in breach of Program conditions.

You will be required to repay the CSP-related cost of your medical course less a proportional amount for any RoSO you have completed, plus interest.

## 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.

For former Bonded Medical Places Scheme participants, the repayment amounts for each year of the medical course are available on the **[Department of Education, Skills and Employment website](#)** (refer to the Commonwealth contribution amount for the funding cluster that includes medicine).

### **What is the monetary value on breach under the Program and legacy schemes?**

The calculation is in the **[Health Insurance \(Bonded Medical Program\) Rule 2020](#)**.

You will no longer be a bonded participant:

- if you do not complete your RoSO within 18 years (or an extended period) of completing your course of study in medicine
- if you breach other conditions of the Program
- if you withdraw from the Program
- in the event of your death.

## 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 the department. 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 is 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 a 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:

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### **New South Wales and ACT**

#### **NSW Rural Doctors Network**

Website: <https://www.nswrdn.com.au/>

Email: [students@nswrdn.com.au](mailto:students@nswrdn.com.au)

Phone: 02 4924 8000

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### **Victoria**

#### **Rural Workforce Agency Victoria**

Website: <https://www.rwav.com.au/>

Email: [rwav@rwav.com.au](mailto:rwav@rwav.com.au)

Phone: 03 9349 7800

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### **Queensland**

#### **Health Workforce Queensland**

Website: <https://www.healthworkforce.com.au/>

Email: [Futureworkforce@healthworkforce.com.au](mailto:Futureworkforce@healthworkforce.com.au)

Phone: 07 3105 7800

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### **Western Australia**

#### **Rural Health West**

Website: <https://www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/>

Email: [info@ruralhealthwest.com.au](mailto:info@ruralhealthwest.com.au)

Phone: 08 6389 4500

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### **South Australia**

#### **Rural Doctors Workforce Agency**

Website: <https://www.ruraldoc.com.au/>

Email: [recruitment@ruraldoc.com.au](mailto:recruitment@ruraldoc.com.au)

Phone: 08 8234 8277

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### **Tasmania**

#### **HR Plus**

Website: <https://www.hrplustas.com.au/>

Email: [recruitment@hrplustas.com.au](mailto:recruitment@hrplustas.com.au)

Phone: 03 6332 8600

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### **Northern Territory**

#### **Northern Territory PHN**

Website: <https://www.ntphn.org.au/health-professionals>

Email: [ntphn@ntphn.org.au](mailto:ntphn@ntphn.org.au)

Phone: 08 8982 1000

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## Resources and contacts

**Department of Health website** at: [health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/bonded-medical-program](https://health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/bonded-medical-program)

Legislation supporting the Bonded Medical Program

- Part VD of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*  
[legislation.gov.au/latest/C2018C00319](https://legislation.gov.au/latest/C2018C00319)
- *Health Insurance (Bonded Medical Program) Rule 2020*  
[legislation.gov.au/latest/F2019L01513](https://legislation.gov.au/latest/F2019L01513)
- *Privacy Act 1988*  
[legislation.gov.au/latest/C2019C00241](https://legislation.gov.au/latest/C2019C00241)

**Modified Monash Model** [health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/modified-monash-model](https://health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/modified-monash-model)

**Distribution Priority Area** [health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/distribution-priority-area](https://health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/distribution-priority-area)

**District of Workforce Shortages for Specialists** [health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/district-of-workforce-shortage](https://health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/district-of-workforce-shortage)

**Further information Contact the Department of Health:**

- Telephone: 1800 987 104  
(available Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-5:00 pm AEST)

Email: [BondedMedicalProgram@health.gov.au](mailto:BondedMedicalProgram@health.gov.au) using the subject line:

'Bonded Medical Program – [Participant name] – [Request type]'

All information in this publication is correct as at March 2022