

Victorian Stroke Clinical Network 2017 Conference Scholarships Applicant Guidelines

What are the scholarships?

The Victorian Stroke Clinical Network (VSCN), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is offering conference scholarships to cover registration expenses for nursing and allied health professionals currently working in the Victorian public health sector to attend with the SMART Strokes 2017 conference or the 27th Annual Scientific meeting of the Stroke Society of Australasia.

- Information on SMART Strokes 2017 is available at <http://www.smartstrokes.com.au/pages/welcome.html>
- Information on the 27TH Annual Scientific Meeting of the Stroke Society of Australasia (SSA Conference) is available at <http://www.conference.co.nz/ssa17>

This is in line with Recommendation 26 of the Stroke Care Strategy for Victoria which aims to “encourage and support staff providing stroke care to undertake appropriate education, training and research”.

Scholarships offer

Scholarships include full registration and 2 nights’ accommodation at the SMART Strokes 2017 conference, being held at the Marriott Gold Coast, QLD from 10-11 August 2017 or full registration and 3 nights’ accommodation at the 27TH Annual Scientific Meeting of the Stroke Society of Australasia (SSA) 23-25 August 2017, Queenstown, NZ.

The scholarships are the equivalent of full conference delegate fees and specified accommodation (approximate value \$1,000) for nursing or allied health professionals and will be paid directly to the conference organiser by the VSCN.

Successful applicants will be responsible for their own travel arrangements.

Who is eligible?

Scholarships are available to nursing and allied health staff employed in the Victorian public health sector, in a service where stroke patients receive care/management (including: acute, sub-acute and community care).

Applicants for the SSA conference are responsible for ensuring they have a passport that is valid for 6 months beyond the date of the SSA conference, and they can obtain organizational permission to attend this international event.

What is the selection process?

There are two steps in the selection process:

1. The assessment of eligible applications against the key selection criteria (outlined in this document) by Safer Care Victoria officers and representatives from the VSCN Leadership Group.
2. The assessment of applications against industry need, targeted areas of practice and government workforce priorities (where the number of eligible applications is greater than the available funding).

Scholarships will be granted at the discretion of Safer Care Victoria and the decision of the organisation is final. Late applications, hand written or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Key Selection Criteria

- Criterion 1** The applicant must be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia.
- Criterion 2** The applicant must have current professional (nursing or allied health) registration for Australia. *An Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registration number must be provided. Where an applicant's health care discipline is not regulated by AHPRA, employer confirmation that the applicants qualifications are relevant and up to date will be sought.*
- Criterion 3** The applicant must be currently practicing, or employed, in the Victorian public health sector (0.5 FTE to full time) within the specialty of stroke or managing stroke as a significant part of their case load (>50%); for a minimum of 6 months continuous service.
- Criterion 4** The applicant must have the support of their employer to attend their conference of choice. *Applicants need to provide contact details for their department manager/supervisor. The VSCN will email this contact to verify the applicants employment status, acknowledge this application, and confirm they will support the applicant to attend the conference should they be successful in being awarded a scholarship (including confirmation that leave will be granted if required).*
- Criterion 5** The applicant must be able to demonstrate their commitment to stroke care and their intention to transfer knowledge gained at the conference back to their employing health service.

How do I apply?

Application form

- To apply for a scholarship:
- Applications **must be completed via the online application form.**
- Complete all sections of the VSCN Conference Scholarships 2017 Application form
- Due to the online application process there will be no option to save your submission for completion at a later date. The exact questions asked on the application form are available with the scholarship information. Applicants are encouraged to use these questions and prepare their submission on a word document to facilitate entry into the online application.
- Employer endorsement will be obtained via email.
- The link to the online application form is available from <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/quality-safety-service/clinical-networks/clinical-network-stroke/vscn-education>

Submission

Applications can only be submitted via the online form.

Application deadline

Applications close at **5.00 pm on Monday 15 May 2017**. The online portal will close automatically at this time and no applications will be eligible after this time. If acknowledgement of receipt is required, please contact the Manager via email.

Contact: Sonia Denisenko, Manager, Victorian Stroke Clinical Network, phone (03) 9096 1297 or email Sonia.Denisenko@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Scholarship conditions

Submission of applications will be considered as consent to these conditions.

Participation in data collection	Successful applicants are required to notify the department if they change their contact details in the 24 months following receipt of a scholarship. This is to assist in the collection of data regarding stroke workforce education. Evaluation data will be used to inform future policies relating to the stroke workforce and the Victorian Stroke Clinical Network scholarship program. For example, scholarship applicants may be contacted and requested to complete an evaluation survey/dissemination activity.
Dissemination of learning	Successful applicants will be expected to report back to their health service in the form of a brief written report, or a presentation, to assist in the dissemination of this education to the wider stroke community. This should be completed within three months of attending the conference.
Withdrawal from the conference	Recipients withdrawing from the conference FOR ANY REASON are required to notify the Victorian Stroke Clinical Network Program Manager within 1 week of withdrawal.
VSCN Communication	Contact details for all applicants will be added to the Victorian Stroke Clinical Network email list and applicants will receive ongoing correspondence about the Network's activities as a result of this application.

What happens if I am successful?

Notification of successful applicants

Successful applicants will be notified in June 2017.

The department notes that it may also request further documentation before confirming receipt of a scholarship.

Disbursement of scholarship funds

Scholarships will be awarded across the state. Scholarships will cover full registration and specified accommodation for the conference for nursing and allied health professionals. **No funding support will be provided for travel.** Scholarship funding will be paid directly to the conference organiser by the VSCN.

Where successful applicants have already registered for the conference, the conference organisers will reimburse the original payment directly to the recipient.

Where successful applicants have not registered for the conference, the VSCN will pay the conference organiser directly. Online registration forms must still be completed by successful applicants.

Privacy Statement

The Department of Health & Human Services collects personal information to allocate scholarships and for the development of policy relating to the Victorian Stroke Clinical Network. Personal information may be disclosed to named employers to assist in assessment of a candidates eligibility, for data collection and for administration purposes. Individuals can access their personal information held by the Department by contacting the VSCN on 9096 1297 or by email on stroke.clinicalnetwork@dhhs.vic.gov.au. Candidates may choose to give some or none of the information requested, however this may impact on the VSCN's ability to process your application.

Further information

Contact: Sonia Denisenko, Manager – Victorian Stroke Clinical Network

Email: sonia.denisenko@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Website: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/quality-safety-service/clinical-networks/clinical-network-stroke/vscn-education>