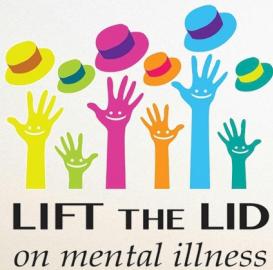


# AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH

Rotary  
Districts of Australia



## Funding 2026

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND  
OTHER FUNDING FOR RESEARCH  
AND HEALTH PROMOTION



## A SNAPSHOT OF HOW WE ALLOCATE OUR GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING

	<b>TOTALLING \$1,971,867</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>2026</b>
MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS	<b>Research Project Grants—Mental Health of 0-12 year old's</b> Australian Rotary Health provides grants for research relating to the mental health of 0-12 years for up to three years per project. (Funding outcomes from our symposium— <i>Healthy Children - Bright Futures, improving the mental health of 0-12 year old's.</i> )	Up to \$100,000 pa	11	<b>\$986,617</b>
	<b>Ian Scott Scholarships</b> Named after the founder of Australian Rotary Health, Ian Scott scholarships provide financial support to PhD students conducting research into mental health.	Up to \$35,000 pa	1	<b>\$22,000</b>
	<b>Post Doctoral Fellowships</b> Australian Rotary Health offers three fellowships to early career researchers in the area of Mental Health. They are the Royce Abbey, Colin Dodds and Geoffrey Betts Postdoctoral Fellowships. Research relating to the prevention of mental health issues.	Up to \$125,000 pa	2	<b>\$250,000</b>
OTHER RESEARCH	<b>Funding Partners PhD Scholarships</b> Jointly funded by a Rotary Club or District, Australian Rotary Health and a University, PhD Scholarships provide funds for research into any area of health or medicine. ( <i>Including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in returned armed forces and Emergency Services</i> )	Up to \$35,000 pa	29	<b>\$440,750</b>
EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS	<b>Rural Medical Scholarships</b> Rural Nursing Scholarships give an incentive for students to complete at least one year in a rural area.	\$5,000 pa	8	<b>\$35,000</b>
	<b>Rural Nursing Scholarships</b> Rural Nursing Scholarships provide an incentive for nursing students to complete their 3 <sup>rd</sup> year major clinical placement and graduating year in a rural/remote area.	Up to \$12,500 pa	3	<b>\$37,500</b>
	<b>Indigenous Health Scholarships</b> A partnership between a Rotary Club or District and some State governments to provide scholarships to Indigenous Australians who can then use their education to benefit other Indigenous people.	\$5,000 pa	40	<b>\$200,000</b>

## RESEARCH—MENTAL ILLNESS & ALL OTHER HEALTH AREAS

Mental health problems are on the rise in Australia. Depression is estimated by the World Health Organisation to become the leading cause of disease burden by 2020.

Australia Rotary Health is leading the way in remedying this neglect by funding Mental Health Research Grants, Ian Scott Scholarships and Post Doctoral Fellowships into mental health. Funding Partner PhD Scholarships are a three way partnership between Australian Rotary Health, our Funding Partner and a University. Funding partners can be individuals, Rotary Clubs or Districts. As a Funding Partner you choose the area of health you would like to fund, even choose the State.



### Personality Disorder Research

Ian Scott PhD Scholarship recipient Bianca Kavanagh hit the ground running at Deakin University this year, beginning her PhD research on personality disorders. In the first half of 2018, Bianca had conducted a clinical trial investigating the functional outcomes of comorbid personality disorder and depression. She has since also examined the quality of life of Australian women with personality disorder and presented these findings at the World Federation for the Society of Biological Psychiatry conference in Japan.

“Working in a community mental health setting highlighted the poor treatment and health outcomes of people with personality disorder. It was also evident that this group of disorders was associated with a lot of stigma, and high co-occurrence with other mental health conditions.”

**Bianca Kavanagh**

**Ian Scott PhD Scholarship (2018-2020)**

***Personality Disorder as a Moderator of Psychiatric Clinical Outcomes***



“Since Australian Rotary Health first provided \$180,000 for our work, we have secured nearly \$3.5M in other competitive funding to continue to develop and test our interventions”.

**Professor Eoin Killackey, Orygen, The National Centre of Excellence in Youth – Mental Health Grant**

“The guidelines were launched at the inaugural National Summit on Mental Health of Tertiary Students in 2011 and have been disseminated to all tertiary education institutions in Australia, helping to promote best practice and improve support for students with mental health problems.”

**Dr Nicola Reaveley, University of Melbourne - Mental Health Research Grant**

We were fortunate to get funding from ARH to study NAcetylcysteine (NAC) in depression. The findings from that study gave us the capacity to apply for a definitive NHMRC grant. Since that finding, a number of independent studies have replicated this finding, and we now have evidence at a meta-analytic level that NAC might be efficacious for the treatment of depression.

**Professor Michael Berk, Deakin University - Mental Health Research Grant**



### Mental Health Research

Australian Rotary Health (ARH) funded study has identified factors that may help some children become more resilient following trauma. ARH Mental Health Research Grant recipient Professor Melissa Green and her team at the University of NSW examined factors associated with resilience in children residing in NSW, who were known to child protection services by the age of 13.

“Understanding why some maltreated children do not show developmental difficulties may help us to understand factors that contribute to resilience following trauma.”

In the study, around 55% of children had developed typically in areas of social, emotional, and cognitive functioning at 5 years old, and continued this trajectory at 11 years old. These children were considered ‘stress resistant’. A further 13.5% of children who showed poor early development at 5 years old, but showed improvement by middle childhood, were considered to possess ‘emergent resilience’

**Professor Melissa Green**

**Mental Health Research Grant (2017—2018)**

***Determinants of risk and resilience in maltreated children using multi-agency administrative records: A population record-linkage study.***

# INDIGENOUS HEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Indigenous children under the age of five are three times more likely to die than other children in Australia.

Supporting Indigenous Australians to obtain qualifications in the fields of health and medicine is one way of helping to close the gap between the health of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Indigenous students often face family and financial pressures that make studying more of a challenge. Indigenous Health Scholarships assist students with their day-to-day expenses and help to ease some of that pressure....



"My oncology term actually changed my life, concerning the way I look at life and how fortunate we are to have our health and not be facing a terminal illness."

**Erika Chapman-Burgess—Bachelor of Medicine/Surgery**

"The team at bounceREHAB were highly motivating and inspiring, which helped me set some clear goals for myself – to one day open my own practice of allied health professionals. The experience was so amazing and I didn't want to leave."

**Sarah Large —Bachelor of Allied Science (Physiotherapy)**

"I had two, five-week blocks of placement. Both were interesting and extremely rewarding with one highlight being working with extremely rare genetic heart disease. Once again my exposure taught me a such so much about how to better explain and apply my knowledge."

**James Begley—Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise & Sports Science)**

"I particular have enjoyed working in the pediatric clinic this semester as I have been able to help create achievable goals for my patients and by modifying unhealthy behaviors my patients have been able to achieve and see excellent results."

**Michael Lawler—Bachelor of Dentistry**



## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RURAL DOCTORS & NURSES

Chronic staff shortages and the vastness of this country mean that the health services available to Australians in rural and regional areas are often much less effective than those in our major cities. The drought has also had an impact on rural health.

By providing incentives for doctors and nurses to study and work in a rural area it exposes them to the rewarding aspects of rural life and allows them to enjoy the fellowship of Rotarians. In many cases students choose to stay on and pursue their career in the area, thus benefiting the entire community.



"I made many connections with the people I cared for on the ward. The ICU was a great place to consolidate knowledge from my final year practical skills. I challenged myself to get out of my comfort zone, performed handover every day and took charge of patient care."

**Stephanie Merton—PDG Joe Scorer Rural Nursing Scholarship**

"One of the highlights of this year was attending a medical conference organised by the local health district. Meeting medical students and senior clinicians who are senior to me from across the district allowed me to hear their reflections on their regional experiences."

**Christo Joseph—Rural Medical Scholarship**



### I am interested in receiving:

- Newsletters**
- Information – Mental Illness Grants**
- Information – Indigenous Health Scholarships**
- Information – Funding Partners Scholarships**
- Information – Rural Medical Scholarships**
- Nursing Scholarships**
- A speaker at my Rotary Club**

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

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**Phone:** .....

**Email:** .....

**Club:** .....

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