



Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent

PUGGY HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

About this Scholarship

On 3 October 2001, the then Minister for Health and Ageing approved the establishment of an Indigenous health scholarship scheme to address the limited number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people entering the health sector.

Today, the current Minister for Health and Ageing makes these funds available through the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (**Department**) as scholarships to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health students under the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme (**Scheme**) in recognition of Dr Arnold "Puggy" Hunter's contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

The funds under the Scheme are administered by Royal College of Nursing Australia (**RCNA**).

About confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent

An applicant for a scholarship under the Scheme may request from your community organisation confirmation of his or her Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

It is a condition of eligibility for a scholarship under the Scheme that an applicant must provide satisfactory evidence of his or her Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent to the Department, RCNA and the members of the Working Party assessing the applicant's application (**Working Party**). Where possible, the Department will use the documents provided by the applicant and your community organisation to determine proof of an applicant's Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Note: Your community organisation may be requested to provide additional evidence if the documents provided by your community organisation are not considered sufficient by the Department or the Working Party.

Your community organisation will be responsible to ensure that only people who are Aboriginal persons or Torres Strait Islanders receive benefits to which they are entitled, and that people who are not Aboriginal persons or Torres Strait Islanders do not receive them.

Your community organisation should therefore consider carefully whether to certify the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent of an applicant who is seeking a scholarship under the Scheme when completing and signing the attached Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent Form.

Note: Your community organisation should **not** provide confirmation unless it has evidence before it that the applicant:

- Is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander;
- Identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and
- Is recognised by your community organisation as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Important Notice:

Section 136.1 of the Criminal Code Act 1995 makes it an offence punishable by imprisonment of 12 months for a person to make a statement to a Commonwealth entity in or in connection with an application, knowing that statement to be false or misleading.

About who can confirm of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent

Community organisations able to provide acceptable confirmation will usually be:

- (a) An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander association incorporated under Part IV of the *Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976*; or
- (b) An incorporated community organisation where all the members of the governing body are Aboriginal persons or Torres Strait Islanders.

About privacy of the applicant's personal information

RCNA will collect, use and disclose the personal information provided by your community organisation about the applicant for the purpose of:

- Working out the applicant's eligibility for a scholarship under the Scheme;
- Keeping statistical and other records of scholarship applicants;
- Funding, administering and managing the Scheme; and
- Keeping financial records.

RCNA may disclose some or all of the applicant's personal information provided by your community organisation to the Department and any members of the Policy Advisory Group in order to fund, administer and manage the Scheme.

If the Scheme in the future is no longer funded by the Department, but by another Commonwealth department or agency, then the applicant's personal information will be used and disclosed to that department or agency.

Further information

If you require further information or you are not sure whether your community organisation can confirm the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent of an applicant, please contact RCNA as the Scheme's fund administrator:

The Fund Administrator
Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme
Royal College of Nursing, Australia
PO Box 219
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600

Free call: **1800 688 628**
E-mail: scholarships@rcna.org.au

Statutory Declaration

PUGGY HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Commonwealth of Australia
STATUTORY DECLARATION
Statutory Declarations Act 1959

I, _____
Insert your full name

* *If none, cross out* * also known as _____
Insert your maiden name, community or traditional name, if you have one.

of _____
Insert your street address, suburb/city/town and state/territory

Insert your occupation

make the following declaration under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*:

* *Delete one* 1. I am of Aboriginal* / Torres Strait* Islander descent.

2. I am accepted as a person of such descent by the

_____ (“Community”)
Insert the full name of the Community

3. I have lived in that Community for _____ years.
Insert number

* *Delete one* 4. I currently do* / do not* live in that Community.

I understand that a person who intentionally makes a false statement in a statutory declaration is guilty of an offence under section 11 of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*, and I believe that the statements in this declaration are true in every particular.

Signature of person making the declaration

Declared at _____ (place) in _____ (state/territory)

this _____ day of _____ (month) 20____ (year)

before me

*Signature of person before whom the declaration is made
(See attachment for a list of persons able to do so)*

*Insert printed name and qualification
of person before whom the declaration
is made*

Insert address of person before whom the declaration is made)

Note 1 A person who intentionally makes a false statement in a statutory declaration is guilty of an offence, the punishment for which is imprisonment for a term of 4 years — see section 11 of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*.

Note 2 Chapter 2 of the *Criminal Code* applies to all offences against the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* — see section 5A of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*.

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PUGGY HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Applicant Details:

Name of Applicant: * if none, please cross out ("Applicant")	_____ <i>Insert Applicant's full name</i> *also known as: _____ <i>Insert Applicant's maiden name, community or traditional name, if there is one</i>
Address of Applicant:	_____ _____ _____ _____ postcode: _____

Community Details:

Name of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community ("Community")	_____ <i>Insert name of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community</i> _____
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Community Organisation Details:

Name of your Community Organisation ("Organisation")	_____ <i>Insert full legal name of Community Organisation</i> ABN: _____ <i>Insert Australian Business Number</i>
Address of Organisation :	_____ _____ _____ _____ postcode: _____

The Community organisation understands that the Applicant is seeking a scholarship under the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme, which is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and administered by Royal College of Nursing, *Australia*. The Applicant has requested the Organisation to confirm the Applicant's Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

In support of the Applicant's scholarship application, the Organisation declares and confirms that:

1. It has or has been provided with sufficient evidence of the Applicant's Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent;
2. The Applicant:
 - (a) is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent;
 - (b) identifies as a person of such descent; and
 - (c) is recognised and accepted by the Community as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person;
3. The Applicant has lived in the Community for _____ years;
4. The Applicant currently still*/ no longer* lives in the Community;
5. The Community is the Applicant's traditional area or the area where the Applicant's descendants have lived for the last _____ years;

Delete one *

Dated this _____ day of _____ (month) 20____ (year)

<p>_____</p> <p>(insert full name of Organisation)</p> <p>.....</p> <p>(Print name of authorised signatory) Organisation Office Bearer</p> <p>AND</p> <p>.....</p> <p>(Print name of authorised signatory) Organisation Office Bearer</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>Signature of authorised person</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Signature of authorised person</p>
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A statutory declaration under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* may be made before—

(1) a person who is currently licensed or registered under a law to practise in one of the following occupations:

Chiropractor
Dentist
Legal practitioner
Medical practitioner
Nurse
Optometrist
Patent attorney
Pharmacist
Physiotherapist
Psychologist
Trade marks attorney
Veterinary surgeon

(2) a person who is enrolled on the roll of the Supreme Court of a State or Territory, or the High Court of Australia, as a legal practitioner (however described); or

(3) a person who is in the following list:

Agent of the Australian Postal Corporation who is in charge of an office supplying postal services to the public

Australian Consular Officer or Australian Diplomatic Officer (within the meaning of the *Consular Fees Act 1955*)

Bailiff

Bank officer with 5 or more continuous years of service

Building society officer with 5 or more years of continuous service

Chief executive officer of a Commonwealth court

Clerk of a court

Commissioner for Affidavits

Commissioner for Declarations

Credit union officer with 5 or more years of continuous service

Employee of the Australian Trade Commission who is:

(a) in a country or place outside Australia; and

(b) authorised under paragraph 3 (d) of the *Consular Fees Act 1955*;
and

(c) exercising his or her function in that place

Employee of the Commonwealth who is:

(a) in a country or place outside Australia; and

(b) authorised under paragraph 3 (c) of the *Consular Fees Act 1955*;
and

(c) exercising his or her function in that place

Fellow of the National Tax Accountants' Association

Finance company officer with 5 or more years of continuous service

Holder of a statutory office not specified in another item in this list

Judge of a court

Justice of the Peace

Magistrate

Marriage celebrant registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*

Master of a court

Member of Chartered Secretaries Australia
Member of Engineers Australia, other than at the grade of student
Member of the Association of Taxation and Management Accountants
Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy
Member of the Australian Defence Force who is:
 (a) an officer; or
 (b) a non-commissioned officer within the meaning of the *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982* with 5 or more years of continuous service; or
 (c) a warrant officer within the meaning of that Act
Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants or the National Institute of Accountants
Member of:
 (a) the Parliament of the Commonwealth; or
 (b) the Parliament of a State; or
 (c) a Territory legislature; or
 (d) a local government authority of a State or Territory
Minister of religion registered under Subdivision A of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*
Notary public
Permanent employee of the Australian Postal Corporation with 5 or more years of continuous service who is employed in an office supplying postal services to the public
Permanent employee of:
 (a) the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth authority; or
 (b) a State or Territory or a State or Territory authority; or
 (c) a local government authority;
with 5 or more years of continuous service who is not specified in another item in this list
Person before whom a statutory declaration may be made under the law of the State or Territory in which the declaration is made
Police officer
Registrar, or Deputy Registrar, of a court
Senior Executive Service employee of:
 (a) the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth authority; or
 (b) a State or Territory or a State or Territory authority
Sheriff or Sheriff's officer
Teacher employed on a full-time basis at a school or tertiary education institution