



National Office | 1 Napier Close, PO Box 219, DEAKIN WEST, ACT 2600

Tel: +61 (02) 62833400 | Fax: +61 (02) 62823565 | E-mail: [canberra@rcna.org.au](mailto:canberra@rcna.org.au) | Web: [www.rcna.org.au](http://www.rcna.org.au)

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Friday 12 March, 2010**

### **Postgraduate scholarships to help with the changing pace of aged care**

Nurses in the community aged care sector are being encouraged to take advantage of an Australian Government scholarship scheme to enhance their professional skills.

Royal College of Nursing, *Australia's* (RCNA) Acting Chief Executive Officer, Kathleen McLaughlin FRCNA, says the Postgraduate Community Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Scheme, which is administered by RCNA, is now seeking applications from community aged care nurses who are keen to keep up with the latest technologies, practices and innovations in health care.

"Our community aged care nurses should take advantage of these scholarships to nurture their careers and professional development and to ensure they're right up there with the latest knowledge and 'know how' in the aged care sector," Ms McLaughlin said.

"The Rudd Government is providing funds for post graduate scholarships for community aged care nurses to continue to improve quality of care," she said.

"Nurses can utilise these postgraduate scholarships to fund a variety of activities including:

- up to \$10,000 for tertiary studies
- up to \$5,000 for short courses/workshops
- up to \$3,000 for conference attendance.

"Professional development is costly and nurses in the community aged care sector deserve these scholarship opportunities, especially if we want to encourage nurses to stay in the aged care sector. Last year alone, over 130 nurses successfully applied to this postgraduate community aged care scholarship program and we hope to improve on that number this year," she said.

"These scholarships are an investment in our community aged care nurses and an investment into our aged care sector," she said.

Registered (Division1) nurses working in community aged care who have undertaken professional development activities in 2009 and/or those who are planning to undertake activities to further their career in 2010 are encouraged to apply.

For further information contact RCNA:

w [www.rcna.org.au](http://www.rcna.org.au)

e [scholarships@rcna.org.au](mailto:scholarships@rcna.org.au)

p 1800 551 201

**Media contact:**

Karen Warner  
Media & Communications Manager, RCNA  
Ph: (02) 6215 8315 M: 0409 129 634