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**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER**

**PURPLE BUSH LEAVES MEDICINE BURSARY**

2024

The Australian Federation of Medical Women, as part of their commitment to reconciliation and the Makarrata Commission would like to encourage and empower female medical graduates who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, to further their medical career and/or leadership aspirations.

The **Purple Bush Medicine Leaves Bursary Program,** inaugurated in 2021 and now in its 4th year, is one component of a broader Project of the AFMW - to advance the parity of representation of First Nations Peoples in the Australian medical workforce, and in its leadership.

In 2024, the AFMW is offering **up to four (4) bursaries** for this purpose, each valued at **$1250,** with the awards to be announced in NAIDOC Week in **July 2024**.

The recipients will include women who identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, is a Medical Graduate or in their final year of medicine of an Australian medical degree or course.

The bursaries will provide the recipients with a financial contribution to assist their attendance and/or presentation at a national or international meeting that focuses on issues related to Indigenous Medicine and Education, Women in Medicine, Ethics, Leadership and/or Governance (see suggestions below).

Please apply by Monday 1 **July 2024** by submitting an electronic application or completing the attached application form and sending it to**: bursary@afmw.org.au**

**Important Dates for the AFMW Bursary Application:**

**Please note these dates:**

* **Sunday 26 May 2024** Applications open (National Sorry Day)
* **Monday 1 July 2024 –** Applications close
* **Monday 8 July 2024 –** Applicants are advised of the selection panel’s decision.
* **NAIDOC Week 7-14 July 2024 –Bursary Recipients formally announced**

The Presentation of the Bursary may be held at a dinner event of the relevant State Medical Women’s Society and/or at the AFMW Face to Face meeting in November (in compliance with any Coronavirus restrictions at that time), either in person or virtually.

**If you have any queries or concerns when completing this application, please do not hesitate to contact the bursary co-co-ordinator Dr Lydia Pitcher at bursary@afmw.org.au**

**There is a check-list to assist the process at the end of this document.**

**Background to the Bursary**

The Bursary is part of the AFMW’s Commitment to its Reconciliation Action Plan.

It has been made possible through contributions to the Purple Bush Leaves Medicine Project, initiated in 2019, on the occasion of the Centennial of the Medical Women’s International Association (MWIA), and in collaboration with Artist Louise Numina and designer Pia du Pradal. One goal of this project is to move towards parity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation within the medical profession in Australia.

see <https://afmw.org.au/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-medical-women/>

and <https://afmw.org.au/purplebushmedicineleaves/>

Each Bursary will provide the recipient with a financial contribution to attend an event to enable professional development, recognition, networking, academic advancement, and leadership opportunity. The AFMW would like to learn from the recipients’ experiences and as such, feedback after the event would be greatly appreciated but is not required. It is hoped that the recipients of the Bursaries will also receive other non-financial benefits through their connection with the Bursary Program, such as mentoring and engagement with the diversity of medical women and their interests within the AFMW.

Suggested meetings and conferences for which the Bursary may relevant are listed below,and include national and international meetings and events.

**Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible to apply you must meet each of the Eligibility Criteria:

You are:

* An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander medical woman
* A medical graduate, or medical student in the final year of an Australian medical degree or course
* Preferably, a member of their local (State) Medical Women’s Society and/or the Australian Indigenous Doctors’ Association (AIDA)
* Intending to register and/or present at a relevant meeting, conference or event

***(See examples of such events below)***

**Selection Criteria**

The following Selection Criteria, including the Personal Statement, will be used to assess your application (Providing your Curriculum Vitae is optional in addition to this).

You can:

* Explain your interest in the field of medicine and your career aspirations
* Detail how the bursary will assist you in participating in professional development activities (~~recognising that this may be subject to change due to the impact of COVID-19 on the professional development opportunities available)~~
* Accept the bursary in person or virtually at a State Medical Women’s Society dinner meeting (there are four of these annually) and/or at the AFMW (Face to Face Meeting, annually in November).

**Examples of Conferences and Meetings that may be relevant**

**(but not exclusive) to this Bursary:**

* Australian Indigenous Doctors’ Association (AIDA) Conference, annually

or PRIDoc (Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress)

* Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) Biannual Connection events
* Australian Federation of Medical Women Face to Face meeting, annually, November
* Rural Medicine Australia Conference
* Commission on the Status of Women, New York as AFMW Delegate and/or presenter at the AFMW Parallel event (annually in February)
* Professional development workshops, on topics for example, including Doctor Wellbeing, Ethics, Leadership and Governance in the Medical Workforce
* Medical Women’s International Association Meetings:
  + MWIA Triennial Conference
  + MWIA Regional Conference e.g. Western Pacific
  + WHO World Health Assembly, Geneva, annually in May
* Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA) National Convention, annually

**Australian Federation of Medical Women’s**

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander**

**Purple Bush Leaves Medicine Bursary**

**2024**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**We prefer that you type your application into the spaces provided.**

**If this is not possible, please print clearly in black pen.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PERSONAL DETAILS** | |
| **Title:** **Given Names:** | |
| **Family Name:** | |
| **Residential Address:**  **Postcode**: . | |
| **Postal Address:**  *(If different)* | |
| **Telephone: (H)** **Mobile:** | |
| **Email Address:** | |
| **Date of Birth:** / / | **Identity-please advise your Country, and/or your Nation and People:** |
| **EDUCATION** | |
| **1: SECONDARY STUDIES:**  **Name of School:** | |
| **Year Completed School:** | |
| **2: TERTIARY STUDIES:**  **Degrees/Medical Course:** | |
| **Institution:** | |
| **Campus:** | |
| **Commencement Date: Year of (expected) completion:** | |
| **3. ADDITIONAL WORK AND TRAINING:**  **(If Applicable) –Previous work/current Hospital position/Specialist training** | |
| **4. OTHER COMMENTS:** | |

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

**This section forms a critical part of your application. Please address all criteria.**

**In 500 words or less, (dot point form is acceptable) please address the:**

* Eligibility criteria
* Selection criteria.

**Note: Information beyond the limit of 500 words may not be considered**

We would also like to know a little about you:

* The reason for your application, including the event you plan to attend and why
* Your achievements in your previous studies
* Your main interests and activities
* Your aspirations for the future in your medical career

**Word Count:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about the Australian Federation of Medical Women’s Bursary?**

|  |
| --- |
| **REFEREES**  Please provide the name and contact details of two referees.  **It is important to let the referees know that they may be contacted as part of the selection process.**  These referees should know you in a personal or a professional capacity or both– e.g. Dean of the Medical School, a tutor, teacher, colleague or community representative |
| **1). Name** |
| **Organisation** |
| **Position** |
| **Telephone Email Adress** |
| **2). Name** |
| **Organisation** |
| **Position** |
| **Telephone Email Address** |

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

**This Checklist helps you to confirm that you have all the information needed for your Application. The Checklist does not suffice on its own as an Application.**

**Please complete the following Checklist, then sign and submit it along with the additional information needed to support your application for the Bursary.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Please check the following:** | C:\Users\Kathy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DK171RWT\MC900434665[1].wmf |
| I identify as a female, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander |  |
| I am medical student or medical graduate from an Australian medical degree |  |
| I am a member of the Australian Federation of Medical Women and/or the relevant State Medical Women’s Group (see [www.afmw.org.au](http://www.afmw.org.au)) (optional)  I am a member of the Australian Indigenous Doctor’s Association (optional) | Yes/No  Yes/No |
| I have shown how I expect the bursary to assist me in attending an appropriate meeting or conference |  |
| I have completed the Personal Statement (500 words) |  |
| I would like to provide feedback if a bursary recipient, as a written or personal report for the AFMW (optional) |  |
| I have attached a copy of my Curriculum Vitae (optional) | Yes/No |
| I have completed the Application Form and saved it as a .pdf file |  |

**Confidentiality and Transparency:**

The details which you have provided in this application are held in strict confidence and areaccessed only by the Bursary Selection Panel members of the Australian Federation of Medical Women. Members of this Panel will be encouraged to have training in unconscious bias.

**Signed;**  **Date:**  / /

(Type your name when you are sending your application by email or sign and scan)

**Submitting Your Application:**

* **Email** your completed application in PDF form to **bursary@afmw.org.au**

If you need assistance with this please contact

Dr Lydia Pitcher at **bursary@afmw.org.au**

* **Please Note:** Applications can be typed into this form and saved in pdf format or printed and completed by hand, then scanned before sending as a .pdf attachment for submission.

**All applications will be acknowledged – please contact us if you do not hear from us within 7 days for emailed or 14 days for posted applications.**

**Feedback/Comments Regarding This Application Process:**

Please provide any constructive comments that you feel may help us make this application process better into the future:

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