

Specialist Training Program (STP) Rural Support Loading (RSL) Funding 2017

Introduction

Rural Support Loading (RSL) is an additional \$20,000 (GST exclusive) in funding from the Department of Health for STP posts in regional and remote Australia. This is determined by the Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Area (ASCG-RA) status of the facility/ies where training takes place, which can be checked by visiting the Department's [DoctorConnect website](#). STP posts with a training component in a RA2-5 setting are eligible for RSL.

How RSL can be used

The purpose of RSL is to supplement trainee-incurred expenses, including:

- Resources (e.g. books, computers)
- Attendance at training courses, meetings and conferences (within Australia only)
- Videoconferencing facilities
- Broadband access/IT upgrades
- Research projects (e.g. access to online library, laboratory equipment)
- Relocation costs
- Travel expenses
- Accommodation costs

RSL cannot be used to fund trainee salaries or College fees.

How to apply for RSL

There is no formal application process for RSL. The STP Unit will contact supervisors of eligible posts early in the year to:

- inform how much funding each post is eligible for; and
- invite requests for RSL funding, including a brief outline of how it will be used.

How RSL is paid

Once requests have been received and it has been confirmed in a site Progress Report that a trainee is in place, the STP Unit will invite posts to submit an invoice for RSL funding. When this is received, payment will be processed. Posts may choose to pay or reimburse their trainees from RSL funding.

Payment is made:

- on a pro rata basis for the proportion of training that takes place in a RA2-5 setting;
- to posts via their site (the entity incorporating the post that holds a Funding and Administration Agreement with the College) and not to individual trainees; and

- as a single annual payment made by the College, for most posts, between approximately April and June. For eligible posts that only report a recruited trainee later in the year, payment will be made towards the end of the year.

RSL reporting requirements

All posts that receive RSL funding will be required to submit an Annual Report in December detailing expenditure. The STP Unit does not require receipts to be submitted, but advises sites to retain such supporting documentation in the instance that they are audited.

For more information

For any enquiries regarding RSL funding, please contact the STP Unit at the College on STP@racp.edu.au or (02) 9256 9665.