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## What is RHCE?

**Rural Health Continuing Education (RHCE)** is an initiative of the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Each Specialist College contributes to the operation and management of the scheme.

## RHCE Stream One - continuing to help meet the CPD needs of medical specialists in rural and remote Australia

### RHCE Stream One extended to December 2014

Additional funds totalling \$1.3m have been made available by the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) to extend the RHCE Stream One Program to December 2014.

Managed by the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC), the RHCE Program will continue to fund the development of new and the enhancement of existing CPD projects, as well as individual grants for rural and remote specialists to access CPD activities.

The 14 eligible Specialist Medical Colleges (SMCs) have been asked to notify their rural Fellows of the new funding round and to canvass for ideas for projects that could be developed to assist them meet their CPD needs.

A forum is to be held in Melbourne at the end of August for representatives of each SMC to discuss project ideas and to explore opportunities for collaboration between the Colleges.

**Closing date for project applications is 20 September 2013.**

### Funding for Individual CPD grants

RHCE individual CPD grants of up to \$10,000 are available to rural and remote medical specialists to support up to five days of CPD activities.

## Forward to a Friend

Do you know someone who may like to hear from RHCE?

Forward to a Friend Right Now!

## Subscribe Now

## Contact RHCE

Contact Rural Health Continuing Education (RHCE)

Email RHCE  
Phone 02 9256 5419  
Visit the RHCE Web Site

The closing date for individual grant applications is **Friday 13 September 2013**.

All applications must be endorsed and submitted by the relevant Specialist Medical College, which has a dedicated RHCE Liaison officer to assist with the application process for individuals. Contact details can be found on the last page of the guidelines.

Application forms and guidelines are available on the [RHCE website](#).

## Network for Cultural and Health Education Portal - nichelearning portal

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes continue to be at levels far below those achieved by non-Indigenous Australians.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons acknowledges the real challenges of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and is working to improve outcomes. The College is doing this in many ways, including through its efforts to promote surgery as a career to Indigenous doctors, its work on the Medical Specialist Curriculum Framework (in concert with the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges) and other Indigenous specific initiatives.

Through the Rural Health Continuing Education program, the Commonwealth Government is funding the creation of a series of Indigenous Health eLearning modules and an Indigenous Health Portal in an effort to improve indigenous health outcomes.

The Network for Cultural and Health Education Portal (nichelearning portal), currently in development, will further help support the self-education process. The portal will be open for public access and provide links to professional development activities and resources relevant to health care professionals working with Indigenous patients and communities. Fellows of all Colleges will be able to register for a My Page tailored to their specialty and interests.

Through these initiatives this network seeks to promote a series of outcomes including:

- Acknowledging the disparity in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians
- Acknowledging the need for professional equality
- Advocating awareness, facilitating outcomes and encouraging specialists to participate in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and patients.
- Building and developing health workforce skills and services by providing and sharing access to resources and specialist knowledge
- Focusing on addressing specific health issues that have a disproportional impact of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and individuals.



- Promoting inclusion by encouraging collaboration between specialists, Aboriginal health workers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, patients and carers.
- Encouraging inter-professional forums and discussions sharing experiences, knowledge and insights
- Promoting professional development education within the health sector
- Improved collaboration to achieve goals.

For more information about the contact the project officer [Martina Mackay](#).

*Courtesy: Surgical News article*

*A/Prof. Kelvin Kong*

*Chair Indigenous Health Committee*

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## Rural Procedural Audit

This project provides support for rural centres in Australia, as well as individual clinicians, to collect and analyse audit data on designated procedures using an electronic data collection tool.

This tool meets a specific need of the rural and remote surgical community that is not being met by other professional development opportunities. Reports summarise a clinician's performance, as well as provide an opportunity to compare results to that of their peers.

Participation in this project is a recognised professional development activity by all of the participating colleges and contributes towards CPD points.

The RPA is a partnership between the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP), the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG).

Data entry support funding is available. Alternatively, upload from your current database.

Plans are underway to make the system available in an ongoing capacity once Commonwealth funding ends.

For further information, please contact the [RPA Helpdesk](#) or email [rpa@surgeons.org](mailto:rpa@surgeons.org)

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## Heart of the Centre - an educational symposium. Save the date 3- 4 October 2013 Title

This educational symposium is being held in Alice Springs.

It is designed for health professionals who are working with the impact of chronic diseases in



Indigenous communities, in particular cardiovascular disease and its complications

Local and national experts will discuss the latest evidence and relevance to Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and remote health.

The Symposium is aimed at all health professionals, including GPs, clinical specialists, hospital staff, remote health and allied health staff. Aboriginal Health Practitioners and AHWs are encouraged to attend this educational event.

**Registration is free but essential.**

**Venue: DoubleTree by Hilton, Alice Springs** [formerly Crowne Plaza]

Further information and registration details visit the [website](#), or contact the symposium coordinator on **1300 728 900**.

## What's your rural experience?

Share your experience of working and in the regional and remote areas of Australia.

Send an article or a photo  
[admin@ruralspecialist.org.au](mailto:admin@ruralspecialist.org.au)



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health and Ageing**

**Committee of Presidents  
of Medical Colleges**

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