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MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Nursing scholarships target aged care

An Australian Government scholarship scheme to support students and nurses in aged care is now open for applications.

Under the Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Scheme, applicants can receive funding to support them in undertaking continuing education at undergraduate or postgraduate level.

The scholarship scheme, administered by Royal College of Nursing, *Australia* (RCNA), aims to address workforce shortages in the aged care sector. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a commitment to working in this particular nursing specialty.

"The Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Scheme is a timely response to the current challenges in the aged care sector," said Dr Marg McLeod FRCNA, Acting Chief Executive Officer of RCNA.

"It is a positive step to achieving the right skill mix in aged care and encouraging more nurses into the sector."

Undergraduate scholarships are available under the scheme for people who wish to undertake undergraduate nursing education at an Australian university and can demonstrate a commitment to aged care.

Postgraduate scholarships are available to registered nurse studying for their masters, and to both registered and enrolled nurses working in aged care facilities, to undertake further professional development including workshops, short courses and tertiary level study.

"Studying at university or undertaking postgraduate studies can be an expensive exercise. These scholarships offer nurses and nursing students the financial support that will allow them to excel in their profession," Dr McLeod said.

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact RCNA on 1800 116 696 or visit www.rcna.org.au.

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