1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy governs the awarding of the Rural Surgery Fellowship for Provincial Surgeons. It covers the application and selection criteria as well as the duration, value, frequency and conditions of the Fellowship.

2. KEYWORDS

Scholarship, Fellowship, Rural Surgery, Provincial Surgeons

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Eligibility Criteria

Applications for the Fellowship are open to provincial Fellows in Australia or New Zealand who wish to spend time away from their provincial practice to travel and develop existing skills or acquire new skills in a field to benefit the surgeon, the College and the community.

All scholarships, fellowships and grants are conditional upon the applicant being a permanent resident or citizen of Australia or New Zealand, or an international medical graduate accepted into the College as a trainee.

3.2. Selection Criteria

Selection will be made based upon the abilities and experience of the candidate, the extent to which the proposed activity will enhance surgical or clinical skills, the merit of the proposed travel plan and the potential benefits to the individual and/or other surgeons from the travel. This will be evaluated from the candidate’s application, supporting references and any relevant background comments provided by the Chair of the Rural Surgery Section.

3.3. Selection Panel

Applications will be assessed by a selection panel comprising the Chair Rural Surgery Section (RSS) Committee and two (2) RSS Committee members. The panel will make recommendations on award recipients to the Fellowship Services Committee for endorsement.

3.4. Value of the Fellowship

The fellowship consists of a stipend. The fellowship is to contribute substantially to return airfares to the city, and daily living (travel, meals, accommodation, ongoing practice costs), but not for family, locum tenens costs, insurance, or other unspecified costs.

Up to three Fellowships, each valued to a maximum of AUD$10,000 (incl GST), may be awarded each year.

3.5. Duration of the Fellowship

Fellowships can be taken for a period of between one and eight weeks.

3.6. Frequency of the Fellowship

Fellowships may be awarded annually, subject to funding and provided there are worthy applicants.
3.7. Conditions of the Fellowship

3.7.1. Travel Program

a) The fellowship recipient must spend a major part of each week at the appropriate institution and give a guarantee to continue practice in their local area on completion of the fellowship.

b) The recipient may have already commenced travel providing it is within the current year of offer.

3.7.2. Financial Arrangements

a) The scholar should refer to his/her financial or taxation advisor to ascertain the taxability of the stipend

b) Payment of the scholarship will be made in one instalment

c) Award funds will only be paid on receipt of a valid tax invoice, and when the award recipient has submitted a written report on their experience as required under 3.7.4 a) of this policy.

d) Scholars may not hold two College scholarships or awards simultaneously.

3.7.4. Reporting requirements

a) Provide a written report on their experience to the Rural Surgery Section Committee within six weeks of completion of the Fellowship.

b) Recipients are encouraged to submit an abstract for presentation at the annual conference of the Provincial Surgeons of Australia or an appropriate forum in New Zealand, where appropriate.

c) Prepare an article for inclusion in Surgical News.

d) Before accepting the Fellowship, recipients must agree to these conditions in writing.

3.8. Arranging a Locum

The fellowship does not incorporate payment for or arrangement of a locum.

3.9. Acknowledgements

The Fellowship is to be acknowledged in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising, publication or other material relating to the award.

3.10. Administering Committee

The Rural Surgery Section Committee administers the fellowship and will provide an annual report on the fellowship’s performance to the Fellowship Services Committee.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Rural Surgery Fellowship for Provincial Surgeons Procedure

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