



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research

Adrian Piccoli MP

Minister for Education

MEDIA RELEASE

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350 ENROLLED NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NSW

The NSW Government is offering 350 fully-funded scholarships for the Diploma of Enrolled Nursing program, with a guaranteed job offer at a NSW public hospital upon completion of the course.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Education Minister Adrian Piccoli today announced \$4.5 million for the partnership between NSW Health, State Training Services and TAFE NSW.

Mrs Skinner said there are now 3000 more nurses working in our public health system since the Government was elected and this year we will welcome 2,000 nurses who have just graduated from university as they begin their first year as Registered Nurses in our hospital system.

"But despite these extra nurses, we are experiencing a shortage of enrolled nurses," Mrs Skinner said.

"I predicted that there would be a shortage of enrolled nurses when the former Labor Government ended the combined TAFE-hospital based courses several years ago.

"So I'm delighted that we have been able to establish these scholarships to encourage more people to enter the nursing workforce as ENs.

"Enrolled Nurses are a vital part of the health system and we need to invest now so that we can continue to provide the level of staffing needed to care for patients across the state well into the future.

"Applicants who successfully complete the course will embark on a rewarding career within the NSW health system and scholarships will cover full payment of course fees and will guarantee a position in a NSW public hospital."

Mr Piccoli said improving frontline service delivery right across the state is a priority for the NSW Government.

"This Government understands how difficult it can be to find nurses in rural and regional NSW so it's great that almost 150 of these scholarships will assist nurses working in hospitals outside Sydney," Mr Piccoli said.

State Training Services, in partnership with NSW Health, is funding the scholarships for training at 15 TAFE campuses across metropolitan and regional NSW, and at the Health Registered Training campus at Rozelle

Scholarship applications are now open and close March 22, 2013. Successful scholarship applicants will commence the TAFE course from May 2013. The course duration is 12-18 months.

The application process includes a written application, a basic literacy and numeracy test and interview. To find out more and for an application package, visit:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/nursing.