



**RURAL
HEALTH
WEST**

Rural Health Outreach Fund

Aim

The aim of Rural Health Outreach Fund (RHOF) is to improve health outcomes for people living in regional, rural and remote locations (RA2-RA5) by supporting the delivery of outreach health activities.

Objectives

The objectives of RHOF are to:

- provide both public and private outreach health services that address prioritised community needs;
- broaden the range and choice of health services available in regional, rural and remote locations; and
- remove the financial disincentives that create barriers to service provision.

Support offered

Funding is able to provide reimbursement for the following: travel, accommodation, meals, administration support, and facility fees.

In exceptional circumstances private health professionals can apply for an absence from practice allowance and/or workforce support payment. Public health professionals are able to apply for backfill.

Priority areas

Services in RHOF must focus on the following health priorities:

- maternity and paediatric health;
- eye health;
- mental health; and
- support for chronic disease management.

Eligible services

Services eligible for funding through RHOF:

- Medical specialist services
- Allied health services
- Midwife and nursing services
- Multidisciplinary teams
- Outreach GP services
- Administration and coordination of outreach services

Ineligible services

Services ineligible for funding through RHOF:

- Elective cosmetic surgery
- Stand-alone training
- Research activities
- Purchase of medical equipment or vehicles
- Salaries for health professionals

The Outreach programs are delivered by Rural Health West on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health.