



THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S BONDED MEDICAL PLACES (BMP) SCHEME

What is the Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme?

The Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme aims to help all Australians access quality medical services, wherever they live.

The Australian Government funds an additional 246 medical school places each year under the scheme. Students who accept one of these additional places are given an opportunity to study medicine and can take pride in performing a vital service for communities that most need their help.

How do I apply for a Bonded Medical Place?

You are eligible to apply for a bonded medical place if you are an Australian citizen or a permanent resident. Universities manage the application and selection process for the BMP Scheme. Therefore, to receive a bonded medical place, you first need to apply to study medicine through the normal admissions process. If a university offers you a bonded medical place and you accept, this arrangement will be formalised in a written agreement between you and the Commonwealth.

What will it mean for me?

All Australian medical schools providing publicly-funded medical degrees are required to enrol a certain number of BMP students each year. As a BMP student, you are no different from non-BMP students; you study the same courses and pass the same exams. When you finish your degree it is your choice which specialty you wish to pursue.

What is different about BMP students is that they have agreed to work for six years in a district of workforce shortage. A district of workforce shortage is an area where there are fewer doctors than the average for Australia. However, this does not mean that the government will tell you where to work within a district of workforce shortage.

For general practitioners, most rural and regional areas are districts of workforce shortage, as are many outer metropolitan areas in the capital cities. If you decide to work as a general practitioner, you choose where to work within these areas. If you decide to take up a specialty, then you may work anywhere outside the capital cities. If you wish to work in a capital city, you will need to work in that part of the capital city that has a shortage of the specialty you choose.

Once you decide on where you want to work and commence practising there, you can stay as long as you like. Although the area may no longer have a shortage of doctors, you will have helped to achieve this and you will not be asked to move. The BMP scheme also includes flexibility for you to change practices. Provided you choose areas that have fewer doctors than the national average, you can move as often as you like during the bonded period.

Other features of the scheme

Reducing the length of the bond

In some specialties, particularly general practice, periods of specialist training (also called 'vocational training') are undertaken in rural areas. Up to three years of vocational training undertaken in a rural area can be counted towards the bond and will reduce the length of time you need to work in a district of workforce shortage when you finish your training.

Deferring the bond

Generally, you are required to commence work in a district of workforce shortage as soon as you finish your training. However, you can defer this if you need to take time to have a family or undertake postgraduate study overseas or in other special circumstances.

What about part-time work?

The BMP scheme allows part-time work. During the bonding period you are required to work a minimum of only 20 hours per week for at least nine months of each year.

Key facts

The Bonded Medical Places Scheme involves:

- 246 bonded medical places per year, spread across all existing medical schools.
- signing a contract agreeing to work for six years in an area where there is a medical workforce shortage.
- up to three years of vocational training undertaken in rural areas can be subtracted from the bonded period.

Contact details for the Bonded Medical Places Scheme

Phone (freecall) **1 800 987 104**

Email **{ HYPERLINK
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Website **www.health.gov.au/workforce/bmp/what.htm**