

Karen Orr Nurse Immunisation Education Scholarship

The [National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance \(NCIRS\)](#) is pleased to announce the launch of the Karen Orr Nurse Immunisation Education Scholarship dedicated to late Karen Orr who was a highly valued staff member of NCIRS.

Throughout her career, Karen Orr was an exemplary role model for nurses and a passionate advocate for vaccination, who made significant contributions to the fields of paediatric nursing and immunisation.

In her role as a clinical nurse consultant at NCIRS, Karen was instrumental in establishing the [New South Wales Immunisation Specialist Service \(NSWISS\)](#), providing an expert phone advice line for clinicians and a specialist immunisation clinic for children and their families. She also led the development of the Drop-in Immunisation Clinic at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, providing opportunistic immunisation for patients and visitors.

Karen recognised the importance of research through her active role in a national NHMRC-funded research project on febrile seizures post vaccination and provided valuable input to the Australian Government Department of Health publication, '[Questions About Vaccination](#)'. She also contributed to NCIRS publications on vaccine coverage and evaluation of measles-mumps-rubella-varicella vaccines in Australia and shared her knowledge at public health and primary health conferences, where she was an inspiring speaker.

This annual scholarship is offered to a nurse or a midwife to the maximum value of \$1,000 in funding for further education by attending a conference or a course to enhance their immunisation practice.

Eligibility and conditions

To be eligible for the scholarship you must:

- be an Australian citizen or have permanent residency
- be a registered nurse or midwife (A List) with current registration with AHPRA
- have an appropriate post-registration qualification as an authorised nurse immuniser
- identify a specific course/conference to attend and describe how this will enhance clinical practice
- provide a brief report (1 to 3 pages) and a photo of the conference or the course you attended and its impact on your practice, which will be published in the NCIRS newsletter and on the website.

Application requirements

- Complete the application form, including providing a personal statement outlining your background, what motivates you, the reason why you are applying for the scholarship and how the scholarship will assist you in your studies.
- All documents must have your name clearly marked.
- Provided evidence of AHPRA registration and qualifications, and registration receipts.
- Provide a brief overview of what the scholarship funds will be used for, consistent with information below (e.g. conference registration fee, accommodation at conference).

Important dates

- Applications open on 28 February 2020 and close on 22 March 2020.
- All applicants will be notified approximately 4 weeks after the closing date.

Further information

- Each application is assessed on the relevancy and completion of the application.
- Applications will be reviewed by a panel of independent assessors appointed by NCIRS who have no direct relationship to any specific applicant.
- The successful applicant will be notified by email.
- The scholarship is a reimbursement and all fees must be paid upfront and receipt of purchase provided.
- The scholarship contributes only to the cost of the educational event. Only applications less than and up to \$1,000 will be considered.
- The scholarship does not cover travel or food expenses and may not cover the full cost of your chosen course/conference.
- You must notify us in writing if you wish to withdraw, defer or change the course being studied or conference attending.

Please contact NCIRS by email (SCHN-NCIRS@health.nsw.gov.au) or phone 02 9845 1414 if you require further information.

Karen Orr Nurse Education Scholarship application form

SECTION A: APPLICANT DETAILS		
First Name	Surname	
Telephone	Mobile	Other
Email		
Current position		
Organisation		
Employment type	Full-time	Part-time
	Casual	Other
Total length of service as an RN		
Date of application		
Is this a new application	Yes	No
AHPRA registration supplied	Yes	No
Registered Nurse Immuniser evidence supplied	Yes	No
Conference/course registration documentation supplied	Yes	No
Amount requested/receipt attached	Yes	No
SECTION B: EDUCATION DETAILS		
Title of conference/course		
Date attending		
Location		

Additional description of request (including how the funds will be used)

Describe how attendance will support and enhance your current practice and how you will put into practice what you have learned

PART C: Applicant statement

I have read and understand the terms and conditions provided in the Karen Orr Nurse Immunisation Education Scholarship Application document and have provided evidence of qualifications.

Name

Signature

Date

Office use only

Date reviewed		
Reviewed by	1. 2. 3.	
Approved	Yes	No
Applicant notified date		

Appendix 1. Karen Orr Nurse Immunisation Education Scholarship Process

