

Karen Orr Nurse Immunisation Education Scholarship 2023

The [National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance \(NCIRS\)](#) is pleased to announce the Karen Orr Nurse Immunisation Education Scholarship is once again available for eligible nurses in 2023. The scholarship is 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 \(NSWISS\)](#), which provides 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, which offers opportunistic immunisation for patients and visitors.

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

This scholarship, which is awarded annually, offers a nurse or midwife up to \$1,000 in funding to further their education by attending a conference or 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 on the NCIRS website, and potentially NCIRS newsletter, The Weekly Jab.

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 Monday 17 April 2023 and close on Friday 5 May 2023.
- All applicants will be notified within the week after the closing date to allow for registration.

Conditions of application

- 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 by a NCIRS staff member.
- 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 (<mailto:SCHN-NCIRS@health.nsw.gov.au>) if you require further information.

Karen Orr Nurse Education Scholarship application form

Please submit your completed application form to SCHN-NCIRS@health.nsw.gov.au by Friday 5 May 2023.

SECTION A: APPLICANT DETAILS		
First Name		Surname
Telephone	Mobile	Other
Email		
Current position		
Organisation		
Employment type	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time <input type="checkbox"/> Casual <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Total length of service as an RN		
Date of application		
Is this a new application	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
AHPRA registration supplied	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Registered Nurse Immuniser evidence supplied	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Conference/course registration documentation supplied	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Amount requested/receipt attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Applicant notified date	

Appendix 1. Karen Orr Nurse Immunisation Education Scholarship Process

