

# Belinda McGowan Foundation Scholarship 2026

## Form Preview

## Belinda McGowan Foundation Scholarship Program 2026

### Overview

The Australian College of Nursing Foundation (ACN Foundation), in partnership with The Belinda McGowan Foundation, is delighted to offer three scholarships supporting registered nurses **who live and work in rural and remote areas of Australia.**

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to strengthening the rural and remote nursing workforce and improving access to compassionate, high-quality health care. Inspired by his late wife Belinda's experience with cancer, Bruce McGowan established The Belinda McGowan Foundation to improve access to compassionate care in rural and regional communities.

Through this scholarship program, nurses will have the opportunity to strengthen their specialist palliative or critical care knowledge or develop the leadership capabilities needed to create positive and lasting change within their workplaces and communities.

Applications close **11:59pm AEDT, Sunday, 18 October 2026.**

Three scholarships for the following certificates and programs are available:

Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care

- **Number available:** One
- **Scholarship value:** \$16,500

Nurse Director Leadership Program

- **Number available:** Two
- **Program funding:** \$5,500 per scholarship
- **Travel and accommodation assistance:** Up to \$1,000 per recipient
- **Total value:** Up to \$6,500 per scholarship
- **Combined value of the two scholarships:** Up to \$13,000
- **Program:** ACN Institute of Leadership Nurse Director Leadership Program

If you require further information or require assistance to complete your application form, please contact the Scholarships Team.

Phone: 1800 061 660 (charges may apply)

Email: [scholarships@acn.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@acn.edu.au)

### Frequently asked questions

**How do I navigate through the application?**

Use the menu on the left to move through the questions.

**Do I have to complete the application in one sitting?**

No, you are able to save information entered in the application and return to it without submitting it. Just remember to keep a record of your username and password.

**How do I save the information I have already entered?**

Clicking on the menu or 'save and continue' button will save your information.

**What does the asterisk (\*) mean?**

Questions with an asterisk must be completed.

**Are late applications accepted?**

No, applications must be submitted before 11:59 pm 18 October 2026. After this time, applications will no longer be available.

**Am I able to make any changes once I have submitted my application?**

No, you cannot make any changes once an application is submitted. If your contact details change prior to notification, please email the new details to the Scholarships Team at [scholarships@acn.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@acn.edu.au).

**When will I be notified if I am successful?**

You will be advised the outcome of your application by end of November 2026.

**What documents do I need to supply?**

If your application is successful, you will be required to provide certain documents. Further information on what documents will be required is provided in the application guidelines.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Only the information you provide in this application will be considered.

You must answer all questions in the application as incomplete applications will not be considered for selection.

This application is to apply for a scholarship only. This is not an application for admission to an educational institution.

## Guidelines

### Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for the Belinda McGowan Foundation Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident in Australia.
- Hold a current registration as a Registered Nurse with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).
- Live and work in a rural or remote area of Australia.
- Meet the entry requirements and commit to completing their selected program.

### Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care

Applicants must:

- Have at least one year of postgraduate nursing experience and be currently employed in an appropriate palliative care setting.
- Be able to undertake approximately 12-15 hours of online study each week for one year.

### Nurse Director Leadership Program

Applicants must:

- Have more than six years of professional nursing experience, including experience in a health or aged-care leadership role.
- Be available to attend the complete four-day face-to-face workshop and participate in six months of mentoring and action learning.

### Selection criteria

The scholarship will be awarded to the applicant/s who can best demonstrate:

- The capacity to provide and enhance evidence-based, person -centric care specifically in Palliative Care (when applying for this) and Nurse Director Leadership Program (when applying for this).
- Proven track record of proactive, self-directed professional development and engagement within these specific clinical specialties.
- Strong aptitude for clinical leadership and a clear commitment to fostering a culture of continuous improvement and best practice among nursing peers.
- Clear ability to design, organise, and deliver structured, effective in-service training to facilitate ongoing staff learning.
- Capacity to effectively translate advanced academic knowledge into practical, everyday nursing practice to improve patient outcomes.

### Documents required

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- Proof of Australian citizenship or permanent resident of Australia (birth certificate, passport, VEVO or visa papers).
- Current CV.
- Current AHPRA nurse registration.
- Identification such as drivers license or passport.
- A letter of support from your supervisor outlining their ability to complete the program within the required timeframe.
- Name change evidence (if name appears different on documents).

### Successful recipient requirements

Each successful recipient will be required to:

- Undertake and complete the approved course or leadership program.
- Meet all attendance, participation and assessment requirements associated with the selected program.
- Provide a written report to the ACN Foundation at the conclusion of your certificate or program outlining how the scholarship has impacted on your professional development and how the program benefited your workplace or community.

### Selection questions

- 1.How will completing this Graduate Certificate enhance your ability to provide specialised care for people requiring Palliative Care (when applying for this)?
- 2.How do you plan to organise in-service training for your colleagues and demonstrate leadership in facilitating their learning and practice?
- 3.Can you provide examples of your commitment to professional development in nursing, particularly in areas related to Palliative Care (when applying for this) and Nurse Director Leadership Program (when applying for this)?

## Personal details

\* indicates a required field

### Applicant \*

| Title                | First Name           | Last Name            |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

### Applicant Middle name

### Applicant Previous Family name

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**Date of birth \***

Must be a date.

**Gender**

**If other:**

## Course selection

\* indicates a required field

### Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care

The [Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care](#) is designed for registered nurses working in an appropriate clinical setting who want to extend their palliative care capabilities and become future experts in the specialty.

The course prepares registered nurses for advanced practice by developing their capabilities in:

- The assessment and management of people receiving palliative care
- Critical decision-making and evidence-based practice
- Advanced therapeutic communication
- Ethical and culturally responsive end-of-life care
- Multidisciplinary collaboration
- Clinical leadership, education and mentorship.

Students undertake the following areas of study:

- Advancing Professional Practice
- Principles of Palliative Care Nursing
- Assessing and Managing Adult Pain or Wound Management
- Advanced Concepts in Palliative Care Nursing.

### Nurse Director Leadership Program

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The [Nurse Director Leadership Program](#) is a dynamic six-month program designed to empower experienced registered nurses to lead change in health and aged-care environments.

Participants receive support and guidance from experienced nurse leaders through personal development, mentoring and action learning sets. The program combines a four-day, face-to-face interactive workshop with six months of mentoring and action learning.

The program covers:

- Nursing leadership and strategy
- Developing and leading high-performing teams
- Managing quality-improvement activities
- Clinical governance
- Human resource management and communication
- Health economics and financial management
- Innovation, workplace redesign and organisational change
- Self-awareness and resilience in nursing leadership

On completion, participants will be better equipped to lead workplace cultures through innovation, redesign and change, apply management principles within their workplaces and develop high-performing teams with cultures of success and achievement.

The currently advertised face-to-face workshop will be held from **17-20 May 2027 in Melbourne**. Successful applicants must be available to attend the complete workshop and participate in the subsequent mentoring and action-learning components.

Select the course you wish to apply for: \*

## Eligibility check

\* indicates a required field

## Disclaimer

**If you answer no to the Citizenship / Residency and AHPRA questions on this page - you are NOT eligible for this scholarship. You will not be able to submit this form. Please note: If successful you will be required to provide evidence time of accepting.**

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### Citizenship / Residency

**Are you an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia \***

☐ Yes ☐ No

**Please upload your proof of Australian citizenship or permanent residency of Australia (birth certificate, passport, VEVO or visa papers). \***

Attach a file:

**Please upload a copy of your ID (drivers licence or passport). \***

Attach a file:

**Do you live and work in a rural or remote area of Australia? \***

☐ Yes ☐ No

### Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care

**Do you have at least one year of postgraduate nursing experience and be currently employed in an appropriate palliative care setting. \***

☐ Yes ☐ No

**Are you able to undertake approximately 12-15 hours of online study each week for one year? \***

☐ Yes ☐ No

**Are you currently enrolled in or studying the Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care? \***

☐ Yes ☐ No

### Nurse Director Leadership Program

**Do you have more than six years of professional nursing experience, including experience in a health or aged-care leadership role? \***

☐ Yes ☐ No

**Are you available to attend the complete four-day face-to-face workshop and participate in six months of mentoring and action learning? \***

☐ Yes ☐ No

### AHPRA

(Registration numbers can be accessed from the [AHPRA website](#))

**Are you currently registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) as a Registered Nurse? \***

☐ Yes ☐ No

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**AHPRA Registration Number: (Should start with NMW followed by 10 numbers) \***

Must be equal to 13 characters.

**Please upload your AHPRA Registration. \***

Attach a file:

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If you have passed the eligibility questions, the next page (Ineligibility page) will have (Not Applicable). Please click 'Next Page' at the bottom of the page and continue on.

### Ineligibility

\* indicates a required field

**Unfortunately your answer to the last question makes you ineligible for this scholarship. If you disagree or have any concerns please contact the Scholarships Team [scholarships@acn.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@acn.edu.au). \***

### Contact details

\* indicates a required field

**Address \***

Address

  

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

**Preferred Contact Phone Number \***

Must be an Australian phone number.

**Alternate Phone Number**

Must be an Australian phone number.

**Preferred Contact Email \***

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Must be an email address.

### Alternate Email

Must be an email address.

### Please note:

It is the responsibility of all applicants to ensure that their contact details are correct, and that it is possible for ACN to contact them if required. If you change your postal address or preferred email address, please email the Scholarships Team at [scholarships@acn.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@acn.edu.au). ACN uses email as its main form of communication therefore all applicants are required to supply an email address that is checked on a regular basis. If there is a need to speak with you, this will be during standard business hours (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, Sydney/Canberra time). The contact details provided on this application will be used for notification. Notification of the outcome of your application is expected by end of June 2026. ACN will make all reasonable attempts to contact you.

## Current employment

\* indicates a required field

### Who is your current employer? \*

### What is your work area? \*

### What is your role? \*

### Workplace Phone Number \*

Must be an Australian phone number.

### Workplace Address \*

Address

  

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

### Workplace Email \*

Must be an email address.

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### Workplace Website

Must be a URL.

**Please upload a letter from your employer confirming their support to complete the program. \***

Attach a file:

## Selection criteria

\* indicates a required field

ACN recommends you:

- Prepare your response in another document and cut and paste into the boxes below.
- Double check that you have pasted the correct response to the relevant selection question before you submit your application.
- Save your responses at regular intervals as this page will refresh after 30 minutes and your responses may be lost. If this page refreshes and your responses have been lost, ACN **cannot** retrieve this information.

**1. How will completing this Graduate Certificate enhance your ability to provide specialised care for people requiring Palliative Care (when applying for this)? (Maximum 300 words) (If you have selected the Nurse Director Leadership Program, please enter "N/A") \***

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

**2. How do you plan to organise in-service training for your colleagues and demonstrate leadership in facilitating their learning and practice? (Maximum 300 words) \***

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

**3. Can you provide examples of your commitment to professional development in nursing, particularly in areas related to Palliative Care (when applying for this) and Nurse Director Leadership Program (when applying for this)? (Maximum 300 words) \***

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Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

**Please upload your CV. \***

Attach a file:

CV is your resume.

## Marketing information

**\* indicates a required field**

**How did you hear about this scholarship? \***

- |                                                        |                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACN eNewsletter               | <input type="checkbox"/> LinkedIn                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACN National Nurses Breakfast | <input type="checkbox"/> neo                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACN website                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Nurseclick blog                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CNnect                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing & Health Expo             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-flyer                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional network/organisation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education provider            | <input type="checkbox"/> School                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education institution         | <input type="checkbox"/> The Hive                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email from ACN                | <input type="checkbox"/> Tik-Tock                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employer                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook                      | <input type="checkbox"/> University                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Website                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend/relative               | <input type="checkbox"/> Workplace                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Workplace colleague               |

At least 1 choice and no more than 3 choices may be selected.

(Please select a maximum of three options)

## Declaration

**\* indicates a required field**

The Declaration is legally binding and indicates that you have, to the best of your knowledge, provided true and correct information. There are penalties for knowingly giving false or misleading information. This declaration **must** be completed. I, the applicant declare that:

**The information provided in this application form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. \***

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

**The responses to the selection questions have been completed by myself. \***

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

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I understand that:

**The information on this form is collected for the purpose of assessing eligibility and selection for this scholarship. \***

☐ Yes ☐ No

**The information on this form may be used for the purposes of obtaining aggregated information about the scholarship program and that any information gathered for this purpose will not identify me in any way. Personal Information may be disclosed to the Commonwealth or a subsequent Administrator for the purposes of administering the scholarship. \***

☐ Yes ☐ No

**I will be required to accept the Terms and Conditions of the scholarship if my application is successful. \***

☐ Yes ☐ No

**I have read and understood the ACN Privacy Collection Notice. \***

☐ Yes

Read the [ACN Privacy Collection Notice](#).

## Lodgement

Before you submit your application:

- Ensure you have entered your correct email address. A confirmation email will be sent to this address. Please check your junk or spam emails as it may be delivered there. If you do not receive an email confirmation within 24 hours contact the Scholarships Team on 1800 061 660 or [scholarships@acn.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@acn.edu.au).
- Review your application before you submit as **no changes** can be made once this button has been pressed.
- If you are using a Hotmail, Windows live or MSN email address, please add [scholarships@acn.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@acn.edu.au) to your safe senders list. This is to ensure you receive your submitted application email.

Once you have submitted your application you will be able to print a copy for your records. You can then review your application by going to 'Preview' on the top right-hand corner.