



ANZCA
FPM

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Richard Griffiths
Executive Director, Workforce Planning and Talent Development
NSW Ministry of Health
Via email richard.griffiths@health.nsw.gov.au

Dear Richard,

Expansion of NSW JMO Living Away From Home Reimbursement Grant

The JMO Living Away From Home Reimbursement Grant (Grant) is a step in the right direction, however only covers part of the parity of pay for this cohort. We request that the scope of the Grant is expanded to cover identified gaps to ensure there is true coverage and parity. These gaps are identified below.

Parking access and associated on-call requirements

Some rotations have trainees on-call from home but impose a requirement for proximity to the hospital (depending on the hospital and specialised study unit (SSU)), limiting accommodation choice further and compounding fatigue.

For example, a trainee completing their cardiac SSU at a hospital which does major open-heart surgery may have to be within 30 minutes of the hospital when on-call. This timeframe of 30 minutes using public transport gives an even smaller search radius for accommodation than 30 minutes by private car with on-site parking. This means the trainee either has to fund accommodation near to the hospital (if there are available options), pay for hotel accommodation on nights they're on-call (in addition to their Sydney-based accommodation and their rural rent/mortgage commitments), or pay for a ride-share/taxi cost. Rarely is there on-site car parking available to rotating trainees in Metro hospitals.

The Grant should be expanded to cover parking access/funding for relevant on-call requirements.

None of these considerations are true for metro trainees moving rurally as accommodation is typically provided, parking is available and the training experiences they are seeking are not comparable.

Interstate and hospital list coverage

In addition, the Grant lacks support for trainees whose rotations are across state and territory borders. For example, trainees at the new Albury scheme have rotations covering Canberra within the ACT. The Albury scheme is aware of this Grant and is helping their trainees access it however as The Canberra Hospital is in ACT, it is not on identified lists and therefore their trainees are unable to access the Grant for this rotation.

The Grant should be updated to include this scenario, with the ability to make the hospital list easily modifiable or updatable upon agreement. It may be more prudent to remove the associated hospital lists and include wording such as "NSW Public Hospitals and interstate Public Hospitals to which trainees from NSW Health rotations are seconded".

In the long term, an Award which is written with the whole of the state in mind is needed, not just metro Sydney, or even an Award that perhaps advantages rural sites over metro.

We're happy to discuss any of these issues further.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Frances Page
Co-Chair
NSW Regional Committee, ANZCA

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