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## MEDIA RELEASE

**17 November 2008**  
**For immediate release**

### **New Australian Government scholarships for nurse practitioners**

Nurse practitioners will get a much-needed funding boost this week with the opening of a new Australian Government scholarship scheme.

Administered by Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA), the Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Scheme is aimed at increasing numbers in the nurse practitioner workforce.

The Scheme is available to registered (Division 1 or Division 3) nurses who are undertaking study that will lead to nurse practitioner endorsement by a nurse registration body in an Australian state or territory. Successful applicants for the 2009 round will receive scholarship funding to assist with the costs associated with their course.

"With primary health care reforms on the way, nurse practitioners will play an even more vital role in helping to ease the pressure on an already stretched health care system," said RCNA's Acting Executive Director, Elizabeth Foley FRCNA. "We must support nurses to gain the qualifications required to undertake these roles."

Scholarships are worth up to \$7,500 per semester for full time study and \$3,750 per semester for part time study. Funding will be provided up to \$30,000 for two years full-time or four years part-time study.

This scheme, which opened on 15 November 2008, will close on 5 December 2008.

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