

DHS Scholarships for AOD Workers

Information

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre have been funded by DHS to offer twenty scholarships for alcohol and other drug (AOD) workers who are currently employed by DHS funded organisations. These students have to enrol and complete the Graduate Certificate in Alcohol and Other Drug Studies in 2008.

Scholarship aim

The aim of the scholarship is to assist the Victorian AOD clinical workers to access high quality accredited training at a postgraduate level. It is envisaged that the scholarship will be awarded evenly between metropolitan and rural applicants, with at least 4 places for applicants working primarily with members of the CALD or Aboriginal communities.

Scholarship scope

The scholarship will pay for 80% of all enrolment fees payable to enrol into the graduate certificate. Students are required to pay the remaining 20% fee directly to Turning Point. The 20% fee for 2008 is currently set at \$800 for the complete Graduate Certificate.

The scholarship does not cover textbook purchases, travel and accommodation expenses incurred by the student, nor does it cover backfill and study leave expenses incurred by the students workplace.

The Graduate Certificate in Alcohol and other Drug Studies

The Graduate Certificate in Alcohol and Other Drug Studies is a post-graduate course, fully accredited under the Tertiary Education Act 1993. Completion of the Graduate Certificate in Alcohol and Other Drug Studies will allow the student to articulate into other post graduate courses at Turning Point or other tertiary institutes.

The Graduate Certificate in Alcohol and Other Drug Studies is a part-time course that can be completed in 12 months.

The first subject in the Graduate Certificate for 2008 commences in March

The Graduate Certificate in Alcohol and Other Drug Studies consists of two compulsory subjects:

- Perspectives in Drug use (15 Credit Points) and
- AOD Treatment, Assessment and Planning (15 Credit Points)

Students then select subjects worth 30 credit points from the following electives:

- AOD Counselling (7.5)
- Young People Drugs and Society (15)
- Introduction to Counselling (7.5)
- Dual Diagnosis: Context and Responses (15)
- AOD Group Skills (7.5)
- Telephone Counselling (7.5)
- Introduction to Solution Focussed Brief Intervention (7.5)
- Prevention in Practice (15)

Students will need to complete subjects equivalent to 60 Credit Points to be awarded the Graduate Certificate in Alcohol and Other Drug Studies.

Graduate Certificate Entry Criteria

Normal entry will require the student to have an undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline. Special entry is available and will be considered by TPC on a case-by-case basis.

The criteria to grant admission under special entry is:

- Nurses who completed their RN nurse training prior to the introduction of degree courses; OR
- Other health professionals with training and experience in relevant areas, but without a degree and who possess appropriate professional experience and meet such other requirements as are perceived appropriate by Turning Point, may be considered. Applicants may be required to attend an interview and would need to demonstrate to an academic panel adequate preparation to undertake studies at a higher level by providing written work on a specific topic.

For full details about the Graduate Certificate in Alcohol and Other Drug Studies, please refer to the 2008 handbook (available via the link to Graduate Programs at www.turningpoint.org.au)

Scholarship Selection Criteria

The Scholarship will be awarded to applicants using the following criteria:

1. Meet the entry criteria for the Graduate Certificate in Alcohol and Other Drug Studies; (special entry may be available)
2. Work in a clinical capacity at a DHS funded AOD service;
3. Have worked in the AOD sector for at least 2 years

A panel comprising Turning Point staff and representatives from DHS will review all applications and award scholarships on the basis of merit. Based on quality of applications, awards will be made evenly across metro and rural locations with 4 scholarships ideally being awarded to AOD workers in the Aboriginal or CALD communities. Those in a non-clinical role may apply but priority will be given to those in clinical roles.

Closing date

Applications for scholarship must reach Turning Point by Friday 16th November 2007.

Process

1. Complete and sign the Scholarship Application form, ensuring your manager/supervisor has signed and you have attached any relevant documentation.
2. Post the application and documentation to:
DHS Scholarship for AOD Workers
Education and Training Services
Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre
54-62 Gertrude Street
Fitzroy Vic 3165

Or deliver to:

Turning Point Education and Training Services
142 Gertrude Street
Fitzroy

Applications for scholarship must reach Turning Point by Friday 16th November 2007.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by the end of December 2007. Successful applicants will then need to complete the Graduate Certificate in Alcohol and Other Drug Studies application for enrolment.

Further information.

Information on the Graduate Certificate is available online at www.turningpoint.org.au

If you have any questions in relation to this project please contact Kieran Connolly

P: (03) 8413-8704

E: kieranc@turningpoint.org.au