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2019 Gwen Scott Grant Program applications now open

Diabetes Victoria invests in ongoing learning for health professionals

Diabetes Victoria encourages Victorians to apply for the 2019 Gwen Scott Grant Program for diabetes professional development. This year, Diabetes Victoria will award a total of \$30,000 to health professionals to further their training and development in diabetes. Through this grant, recipients can also take advantage of valuable networking opportunities with other professionals in the field of diabetes.

“Past recipients have used their grants in a myriad of ways – such as further study for a Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education, attending an IDF Congress, or assistance with completing a Masters of Advanced Nursing,” says Diabetes Victoria CEO Craig Bennett.

Diabetes Victoria established the Gwen Scott Grant Program in 2006, as part of a commitment to Victorian health professionals who support those affected by, or at risk of, diabetes. Grants are open to health professional members of Diabetes Victoria at all levels of training and experience – including those new to the diabetes community.

“More than 333,000 Victorians are known to be living with diabetes and there is an increasing need to provide health professionals with opportunities to increase their knowledge and understanding of diabetes, management strategies and health promotion,” Mr Bennett adds. “Diabetes increases a person’s risk of heart attack, stroke, kidney failure, loss of vision and loss of a limb; so, the more we can encourage health professionals to further their learning in the field of diabetes, the better for all Victorians.”

“Diabetes is a complex and serious condition to manage. As information about diabetes changes quickly due to research findings and advances in technology, continuous learning is essential. Health professionals need to update their knowledge and reflect on their practice in order to constantly improve the education and care they provide. This is why Diabetes Victoria supports its health professional members through the Gwen Scott Grant Program,” Mr Bennett concluded.

2018 Gwen Scott Grant Program recipient, Eileen Collins used her grant to travel to the United Kingdom to observe a DAFNE pump education program that she hopes to assist in developing here in Victoria. Attending the program provided Eileen with an opportunity to network with international health professionals, which has enabled her, as a diabetes nurse educator, to keep up-to-date with what is happening worldwide in the field of diabetes research and technologies.

Applications for funding support under the 2019 Gwen Scott Grant Program close on Friday 26 April. Successful applicants will be announced during National Diabetes Week in July.

We **support, empower** and **campaign for** all Victorians affected by, or at risk of, diabetes.

Note to editors:

- Grant application details are available at: diabetesvic.org.au/gwenscott
- Gwen Scott was Australia's first nurse employed as a specialist in diabetes education and the first employee of the Diabetic Association of Victoria, which is Diabetes Victoria today. Ms Scott was influential in establishing the role of diabetes educators, both in Victoria and nationally.
- DAFNE is a group program for adults with type 1 diabetes. It is a way of managing type 1 diabetes by working out how much insulin is needed for the amount of carbohydrate eaten. More info: dafne.org.au
- A high-res picture of 2018 Gwen Scott Grant Program recipient Eileen Collins for reprint is available upon request.

For more information:

Jane Kneebone 0416 148 845

jkneebone@diabetesvic.org.au