

**26 April 2017*****Gwen Scott Grants – Diabetes Victoria invests in ongoing learning for health professionals***

Diabetes Victoria encourages Victorian health professionals to apply for the *2017 Gwen Scott Grant Program*. This year, Diabetes Victoria will award a total of \$25,000 to health professionals to further their training and development in diabetes. Grant recipients can also take advantage of valuable networking opportunities with other professionals with an interest 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 World Diabetes Congress meetings and completing 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 living with, 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.

“With more than 310,000 Victorians known to be living with diabetes, 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 continues.

“Diabetes is a complex and serious condition to manage. Because information about diabetes changes quickly due to research findings and advances in technology, continuous learning is essential. Health professionals have a responsibility 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 says.

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. She was influential in establishing the role of diabetes educators, both in Victoria and nationally.

“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,” Mr Bennett concludes.

Applications for funding support under the *2017 Gwen Scott Grant Program* close on Friday 30 June.

***We support, empower and campaign for all Victorians affected by diabetes.***

**For more information:**

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