Why is the Student Teacher Practicum Scheme being offered?

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (the Department) is committed to attracting quality teachers to Victorian government rural and outer-metropolitan schools. Teachers continue to be in high demand in rural areas. This financial incentive aims to attract future qualified teachers to these areas to ensure that students in regional locations have continued access to a quality education.

What is the Student Teacher Practicum Scheme?

The Student Teacher Practicum Scheme provides financial incentives to student teachers to undertake practicum placements in Victorian government rural and outer-metropolitan schools.

There are three allowances which you can apply for if you meet the eligible criteria they are: living away from home allowance $1,000, living away from home allowance $1,600 and travel allowance.

Am I eligible to apply for the Student Teacher Practicum Scheme?

You are eligible to apply for the scheme if:

- you are a student teacher in the final or penultimate year of a pre-service teacher education course;
- your placement is 15 days or longer; and
- your placement is at a designated Victorian government school.

What is the living away from home allowance?

The living away from home allowance is offered to eligible student teachers who are required to live away from their current place of residence to complete a practicum at a designated:

- Victorian government priority school; or
- Victorian government rural school where at least one supervised method is one of the ‘hard to staff subjects’.

You can apply for:

- $1,000, provided you complete a cumulative total of 15 days at the same school; or
- $1,600, provided you complete a cumulative total of 25 days at the same school.

What is the travel allowance?

The allowance of $300 is available to students if they undertake significant travel for their placement. Significant travel is one way travel of 50 minutes or more on a daily basis from your current place of residence.

To qualify you must be undertaking a placement of at least 15 days in a designated priority school, rural school or outer metropolitan growth area (for a list of these schools see the documents section on the webpage).

How does the scheme work?

Student teachers must arrange their placement with their university coordinator. Allowances are available to students that satisfy the eligibility criteria. Once funding has been exhausted, no further applications are considered and all unsuccessful applicants are notified in writing.
It is important to note that you can only claim the living away from home allowance once and the travel allowance once. Each claim must be for a separate placement in a different school.

**How do I apply for the scheme?**

As soon as the practicum placement has been organised, student teachers should complete the first four sections of the application form and submit it via fax or email.

Once the placement has commenced you will need to complete the principal confirmation section and re-submit the application. This will need to be completed as soon as possible after commencing the placement as payment will not be made until this is received.

**What happens after my application is received?**

The date of receipt for each application is recorded, assessed for eligibility and accorded a scheme priority.

Priority will be based on the practicum location and subject area. Priority 1 placements are those in a:

a) designated priority school; or

b) designated rural school where at least one supervised method is one of the Department’s designated hard to staff subject areas

Priority 2 placements are those in a designated rural school where the supervised method is not a designated hard to staff subject.

You will be advised by mail of the outcome of your application.

**What is the Reserve List?**

Applications that have not been approved because the application form was sent in late or there were not enough funds for the current term to fund additional applications will be put on the reserve list. Mid way through Term 4, 2010 (mid-November) and then Term 2, 2011 (mid-May) and any uncommitted scheme funds are assigned to the Reserve List. Funds are assigned to participants on the reserve list in the following order:

1. Any priority 1 applications not already approved (in application received date order)

2. Any Priority 2 applications not already approved (in application received date order)

3. Any applications for travel allowances not already approved (in application received date order)

4. Any new applications for term 3 or 4 practicums (in application received in date order) received after mid-November or after mid-May for term 1 and 2 practicums

5. Any application where principal confirmation has not been received within two weeks of a placement ending

**Further information**

For advice or assistance on any matters related to the Student Teacher Practicum Scheme please contact the Schools Recruitment Unit on 1800 641 943 select option 1.