

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!



The number of people choosing to study midwifery is not the problem. The problem is the number of students dropping out due to the enormous workload and the subsequent financial difficulties it creates. Let's put this in perspective. Over a three year degree, midwifery students must complete 28 weeks (more than 6 months) of clinical hospital placement on an un-paid, full-time, shift-work basis; attend 40 births; and complete 30 case studies, each requiring at least 20 hours to track the progress of a women through pre-natal, birth and post-natal stages (that is 600 hours). These necessarily rigorous requirements make it very difficult for students to keep part-time work in order to meet ongoing study and living costs. Life is particularly difficult for already financially disadvantaged students.

To directly address this problem, we are proposing scholarships valued at \$5,000 per year to support financially disadvantaged midwifery students and to reduce the burden of part-time work.

We know through our own research that the best way to encourage graduating teachers to take up positions in rural and remote Australia is to ensure more of them experience teaching practicums in rural and remote schools. The problem is, not many students choose rural placements because of the additional costs associated, including travel and accommodation and the loss of part-time income. It is particularly difficult for already financially disadvantaged students to take up such placements.

To directly address this problem, we are proposing \$3,000 practicum grants to support financially disadvantaged final year education students to undertake their final six-week placement in a rural or remote school in South Australia.

We need to better support the students who will be delivering our babies, supporting our mothers and teaching our children into the future. We especially need to support the students who are unable to fulfil their dreams simply because they can't afford them. But we need your help.

This is where you come in. We are asking you to make "the support of health and education for a thriving community" one of your Personal Priorities for this year.

Your donation to UniSA will help ensure our hospitals have enough midwives to deliver the next generation of Australians and that our rural and remote schools have enough teachers to keep students inspired and towns thriving.

If you would like to give to this worthy appeal, simply fill out the attached slip and mail in the envelope enclosed.

Please, help us make a difference in your community.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ian Gould
Chancellor

Midwifery Scholarships



For first year Midwifery student Melinda, a scholarship from a generous donor has made all the difference.

"I love the placements and believe they are one of the best parts of the course. It really puts theory into practice and perspective and helps me feel like I can make a difference to these women's and babies lives. Unfortunately though the placements, along with the follow through births, create a lot of pressure and take time away from my family. If I had to worry about part-time work on top of that I don't know how I could do it all".

Education Rural Experience Grants



In 2008 Nicole was one of twenty-six first year student teachers who undertook a pilot two-week professional experience placement in Whyalla.

"I really enjoyed my experience in Whyalla, I was given the opportunity to observe and teach a variety of subjects. The Whyalla professional experience reaffirmed my intentions of one day teaching in a regional area and has prepared me for my final placement. "



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