

Commonwealth Prac Payment (CPP)

Health Profession Education Standing Group (HPESG) Roundtable 2025.

27 March, 2:00pm – 2:30pm (AEDT)



Overview

The Australian Government is investing \$427.7 million over four years from 2024–25 to establish the Commonwealth Prac Payment (CPP).

The CPP offers **nursing, midwifery, teaching and social work** students support while they're undertaking mandatory placements.

CPP will assist students manage the costs associated with undertaking mandatory practicum placements.



68,000 eligible higher education students and 5,000 vocational education students



HEPs to deliver CPP to students enrolled in Bachelor's or Master's degree in relevant disciplines.



\$331.65 Benchmarked against the single Austudy rate.



Commencing 1 July 2025



VET students to apply directly to Department of Employment & Workplace Relations (DEWR)



CPP payment is taxable income for students



Proposed Student Eligibility – Bachelor's and Master's students

Proposed eligibility criteria for the CPP are outlined below:

Students must be:

- ✓ a domestic student
- ✓ enrolled in a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP)
- ✓ completing a Bachelor's or Master's degree in a course of study that leads to entry-to-practice in teaching, social work, nursing or midwifery
- ✓ undertaking mandatory placements that are either:
 - ✓ on average 30 hours or more per week for the duration of the placement

OR

- ✓ known as a continuity of care placement, as part of a course of study in midwifery, which prevents the student from being able to maintain paid work due to the need to ensure their availability during the placement

AND EITHER

- ✓ Be on a Commonwealth income support payment (for example ABSTUDY, Austudy, Youth Allowance or DVA Education Allowance)

OR

- ✓ Meet means-testing criteria based on:
 - ✓ a 'need to work test' where students show that they need to work during their normal studies by demonstrating they worked on average more than 15 hours a week either in the four weeks prior to applying for CPP or the four weeks prior to the student commencing their placement, whichever is earlier, and
 - ✓ an individual income threshold set at earning no more than \$1,500 per week on average (pre-tax), during the same period.

***Students may also be able to access the CPP if there are exceptional circumstances.**



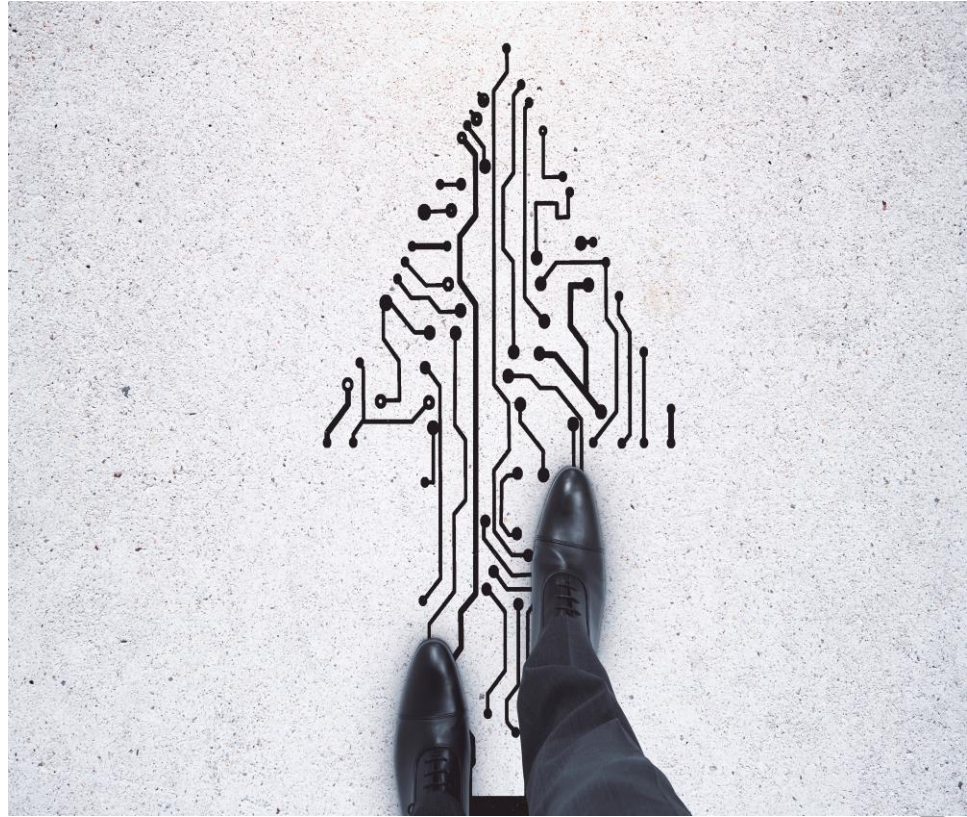
Other key points

- **Number of weeks supported**
 - **Bachelor's and Master's** - Nursing 20 weeks, Midwifery 26 weeks (includes 6 weeks continuity of care), Social work 26 weeks, Teaching - Masters 12 weeks , Bachelor's 16 weeks
 - Students apply through their higher education provider
 - **Diploma of Nursing** – 14 weeks.
 - Students apply through the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations directly
- **State and Territory scholarships/bursary/grants to be declared as part of student's income**



Consultation with sector

- The Department established an Operational Working Group to consult on implementation and development of detailed Program Guidelines. As at March, the Group have met eight times.
- Select consultation on Amendments to Higher Education Support (Other Grants) Guidelines (OGGs) 2022 will occur during March/ April.
- The department is committed to continue to work with the sector to ensure a 1 July 2025 commencement.



Further questions or feedback

CommonwealthPracPayment@education.gov.au

