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## MEDIA RELEASE

**27 June 2009**  
**For immediate release**

### **Health scholarships to support Indigenous students**

Royal College of Nursing, *Australia* (RCNA) today announced the opening of the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme, one of Australia's most lucrative scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the field of Indigenous health.

The scheme, funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and administered by RCNA, will create a raft of opportunities for Indigenous students who are currently studying or intending to study health at an undergraduate university or TAFE level.

"These scholarships are particularly significant in 2009 as our country seeks to close the gap in health and education for Indigenous Australians," says RCNA's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Marg McLeod FRCNA.

"This funding is an acknowledgement that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are under-represented in the health care profession, and seeks to build those numbers by assisting people to obtain professional qualifications."

There are at least 70 scholarships available, offering up to \$15 000 per year for full time students, and up to \$7500 per year for students studying part time.

"We certainly hope that these scholarships will assist students in completing their studies and, for many, taking their skills and knowledge back to Indigenous communities in need of quality health care," Dr McLeod said.

Interested applicants are advised to visit [www.rcna.org.au](http://www.rcna.org.au) for further information or call 1800 688 628.

Applications close on Friday 7 August 2009.

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