



**The Rotary Club of Toowong Inc**  
(PO Box 1999, Toowong DC, QLD 4066)  
[www.toowongrotary.org](http://www.toowongrotary.org)

## **RCoTFMSG:** Rotary Club of Toowong Feros Medical Students' Grant Information

Rotary International is a non-political, non-religious organisation of business and professional leaders (united worldwide) who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

### **The Rotary Club of Toowong**

Our Club, is one of nearly 32,000 in 166 countries worldwide that service the parts of the Western region of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. The Toowong Club was chartered on 27 August 1965, and has provided resources (people, financial and technical) for a broad range of community service projects within our local area, as well as nationally and internationally. We are Rotary International club number 17791 and are situated in Rotary District 9600, Zone 7. The Rotary Club of Toowong is the lead partner in this program with assistance from the Rotary Clubs of Cairns and Kenmore. Rotary District 9600 incorporates part of southeast Queensland, Papua & New Guinea, Nauru and the Solomon Islands.

### **The History of RCoTFMSG**

In 2004, the Rotary Club of Toowong was approached by a final year medical student who requested financial assistance so he could do his elective in Papua New Guinea. From this request, the Rotary Club of Toowong Medical Students Grant evolved (RCoTFMSG). This evolved to what is now known as the Rotary Club of Toowong Feros Medical Students Grant (RCoTFMSG), in honour of club members John & Judy Feros whose dedication and input helped establish the program and set the foundation for its ongoing the success.

## **What is RCoTFMSG About?**

Our clubs now provide a bursary for partial funding of airfares and equipment and/or medical consumables for up to four 1st year medical students who spend their first year elective in a remote area of medical need. We usually favour those going to PNG, Nauru or the Solomon Islands as these areas are part of our Rotary District. We are not averse, however, to funding travel to remote areas of Australia and we have also assisted students to travel to south-east Asian destinations (e.g. West Timor, Timor L'Este, Vanuatu, Samoa and India).

## **RCoTFMSG Benefits?**

Medical students have the opportunity to experience medical conditions which they would rarely, if ever, see in equivalent Australian practice. The hope is that they will improve their diagnostic and treatment skills. Because of the lack of medical staff in the areas to which they travel, they are also asked by their supervising doctor to perform procedures which they would usually not get to do before graduating in Australia – delivering babies, providing anaesthetics, assisting with surgery, etc. Many students, having had exposure to third world medicine, are motivated later in their lives to assist with improving conditions for the people in the countries they have visited.

The hospitals and doctors in the hosting areas also benefit from having a willing enthusiastic training-doctor to help them out. A win-win situation!

Another result of the program has been the development of an Incoming RCoTFMSG where two medical students from PNG have been funded to come to Australia for their medical elective. This was suggested by one of our past recipients, Dr Jack Sloss, who saw the benefit of this for students who come from remote areas. He has helped arrange the elective for a number of PNG medical students to spend their elective time in Cairns with the James Cook University. The head of school at JCU was very impressed by the exchange and we plan to continue with this process. As a result, we have invited the head of the medical school at University of PNG to select two PNG students each year to be sent to Cairns. The local Rotarians in Cairns have become involved with hosting the students and have enjoyed their involvement very much.

The total amount of funding available to each medical student is \$1,500. This funding is constituted of \$750 towards airfares and a further \$750 to be spent on equipment and/or medical consumables for each student to take with them. To ensure that the consumable items are appropriate, students should consult with their university and RCoTFMSG supervisors and with the local doctor/hospital staff at the intended destination. Remember that there are a number of items that cannot be taken onboard aircraft or into certain countries. These may be confiscated and your welcome in a country may be put at risk.

## The RCoTFMSG Application & Selection Process

Application is open to first year students for their Observership. Applicants must demonstrate that they have the experience, maturity and skill levels to cope with the clinical and living conditions in the location that they choose to perform their elective. Selection of successful RCoTFMSG funding recipients is based on merit. We understand that a number of candidates may want to travel as companions, but there is no guarantee that travelling companions will each receive RCoTFMSG funding.

Each Candidate must complete an application form, together with a 'Letter of Motivation' (no more than two pages) about themselves and their intended elective work. Assessment of the candidate's written summary will be based on the following criteria:

- 1) Written communication skills (spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, layout, appropriate level of language and quality of information provided);
- 2) Knowledge of, past experience with and/or exposure to the culture/language/disease-mitigation requirements of their destination; and
- 3) Does the candidate have a vision (what do they expect to achieve in their elective role and how will they use/apply this into the future? How do they see themselves of benefit to the hosts?)

### **The deadline for applications is 25 August 2017**

The selection panel from the Toowong and Kenmore Rotary Clubs will then assess the written applications and select candidates for an interview. These interviews will be organized by the electives office and successful students will be notified. The Clubs will fund up to four first year students. Please be aware these interviews will take place on a Saturday morning and will be held at the Herston Campus.

Applications must include a CV and letter of Motivation. Please send all enquiries and application details to: [electives@som.uq.edu.au](mailto:electives@som.uq.edu.au).

**Please NOTE: Students will be required, as per University guidelines, to be in 'Good Standing' (A misconduct check will be conducted and students must hold a minimum of 4.5 GPA).**

## RCoTFMSG Expectations

Due to security and other risks in some of the intended destination countries, some intended elective obligations have not been able to be met and/or candidates have been prevented from travelling to their desired destination. Candidates should make sure, as far as possible, that travel to their intended destination and comfortable survival for the duration is actually achievable.

Once the successful applicants have been selected, with our help, they will endeavor to contact a Rotary Club in, or close to, the destination area. This is so that, if there is one, the destination Rotary Club is aware that a Rotary- sponsored student is in the area and, hopefully, the destination

Rotary Club may be able to provide assistance to that student. If a destination Rotary Club exists, we will provide the contact details of that Club to each successful student. Each student should try to make contact with their destination club before they depart to perform their elective role, and they should try to attend at least one of the destination club's meetings while they are there.

We like to find out what the students that we sponsor did during their elective visit. On the students' return to Australia, we ask that they be available to come to the both the Toowong and Kenmore Rotary Clubs and present their experience and to be available to speak at other clubs if requested.

We would also like some feedback about the RCoTFMSG program - please complete a feedback form when it is sent. When selections have been made, no correspondence will be entered into about appeals.

Post placement duties include:

- 15 minute presentation to Toowong Rotary Club
- 15 minute presentation to Kenmore Rotary Club
- 2 page (max) written report

Successful RCoTFMSG funding recipients must provide proof-of-purchase for airline tickets, equipment and/or medical consumables to Toowong Rotary Club before funding can be released. These receipts will be provided to [electives@som.uq.edu.au](mailto:electives@som.uq.edu.au) and collated and reconciled on your behalf.

I agree to the terms and conditions of the RCoTFMSG program;

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Print name

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Signature

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Date