

PSA Faye McMillan Conference Grant

"Creating spaces of belonging is a critical component for reconciliation in this country. Grant opportunities such as this allow us to hold this space for others to come into."

Faye McMillan



Background

Professor Faye McMillan AM is a Wiradjuri yinaa (woman) originally from Trangie, NSW. She is a dedicated community pharmacist and is recognised as the first Indigenous Australian to hold a western degree in pharmacy in this country.

Faye is a founding member of Indigenous Allied Health Australia and has received numerous accolades for her leadership and contribution to population health, education, equity and the community. These include, but are not limited to –

- PSA 2022 Pharmacist of the Year
- 2021 Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her work in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health care and tertiary education
- 2019 NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year

Faye is a strong advocate for improving Indigenous health care across professions and is driven to help promote the participation and inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within pharmacy.

Grant opportunity

The PSA Faye McMillan Grant will be awarded each year to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander pharmacist or pharmacy student for the purposes of attending the PSA National Conference.

The grant may be used to cover the following expenses –

- Full conference registration.
- Travel* to the conference.
- Accommodation at or near the conference venue for the duration of the conference.

* Travel includes economy class flights via the shortest practical route, plus ground transport to the conference venue



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Benefits to the successful applicant

It is anticipated that the successful applicant may benefit from attendance at the conference in many ways, including –

- learning from specialist and expert speakers across diverse topics
- connecting with pharmacist colleagues and students from across Australia
- an opportunity (with no obligation) to contribute to an article in PSA's flagship journal Australian Pharmacist and/or relevant presentations.

Benefits to the pharmacy profession

Cultural safety in health care requires that individuals are able to 'see themselves' in the care they receive. While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples comprise 3.2% of Australia's total population, the current proportion of registered pharmacists who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people is much lower at just 0.3%.¹

PSA acknowledges the need to increase participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in pharmacy. This grant represents a genuine commitment by PSA to support the existing pharmacist workforce who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as well as the pipeline of future pharmacists.

Grant eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, each applicant must –

- identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, and
- hold current general registration as a pharmacist with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority (Ahpra) or
- be currently studying pharmacy at an Australian university

Provided these criteria are met, the grant opportunity is available to both PSA members and non-members.

Expression of Interest

In the leadup to the annual conference, PSA will undertake an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to invite eligible pharmacists/students to apply for the grant.

The EOI will be disseminated as an online survey, promoted via PSA's usual marketing channels and also circulated via relevant stakeholders such as –

- the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
- the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA)

Selection process

A selection panel consisting of Professor Faye McMillan, Dr Fei Sim (PSA National President) and nominated representatives from PSA (+/- sponsoring bodies) will assess grant applications based on the EOI responses.

PSA will notify the successful applicant(s) in advance of the conference, allowing sufficient time to plan for their attendance.

Key dates

For the 2025 grant, key dates will include –

Activity	Date
Release of EOI survey	20 March 2025
Closing date for EOI	14 May 2025
Selection panel meeting to review EOI responses	20 May 2025
Notification of successful applicant	27 May 2025

