

7 December 2020

Dear Colleague

### **Voluntary Bonding Scheme 2021 Intake – New Graduate Dentists**

The Voluntary Bonding Scheme (VBS) is a practical initiative run by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) to encourage newly qualified health professionals to work in the communities and specialties that need them most, and to retain essential health professionals throughout New Zealand. Those on the scheme receive payments to help repay their student loan (or as top-up income for those without a loan).

For new-graduate dentists who register for and are accepted to the Scheme and meet the terms and conditions, **bond payments of \$30,000 (after tax) are available** after the completion of a minimum of three years' service, and up to two **additional payments of \$10,000** after a fourth year and fifth year.

The six-week Registration of Interest period for the Voluntary Bonding Scheme (the Scheme) 2021 Intake **is anticipated to open in mid-February 2021**. Registration will be via an online web-form available [on the Ministry of Health's website](#).

If you are a new-graduate dentist:

- whose final year of undergraduate study was 2020, **and**
- you intend to work for eligible hard-to-staff providers/practices for at least three and up to five years,  
you will be eligible to register for the 2021 Intake of the Scheme.

#### **The eligible 2021 hard-to-staff communities for dentists are:**

Any of the eight Māori Oral Health Providers listed below:

- Te Hiku Hauora - Kaitia
  - Ngāti Hine Health Trust - Kawakawa
  - Raukura Hauora o Tainui - Hamilton
  - Te Manu Toroa - Tauranga
  - Tipu Ora - Rotorua
  - Ngati Porou Hauora - Te Puia Springs
  - Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga - Hastings
  - Ora Toa PHO - Porirua
- OR**
- practices located in rural or remote areas (to be assessed on a case by case basis prior to confirmation on the Scheme.)

For more information, and to register, please visit our website:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/health-workforce/voluntary-bonding-scheme/voluntary-bonding-scheme-2021-intake>

**Please note that registrations for the 2021 Intake must be received** within the 6-week Registration of Interest period – late registrations cannot be considered.

Yours sincerely,

Voluntary Bonding Scheme Administrator  
**Health Workforce**  
**Ministry of Health**  
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