

Patricia Blackley Postgraduate Education Scholarships 2026

Coloplast Australia and New Zealand, in collaboration with the Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN) and the New Zealand Nurses Organisation College of Stomal Therapy Nursing (NZNOCSTN) are pleased to announce the Patricia Blackley Postgraduate Educational Scholarships.

This educational initiative is being conducted in collaboration with the Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN) and the New Zealand Nurses Organisation College of Stomal Therapy Nursing (NZNOCSTN).

Could you be the next scholarship recipient?



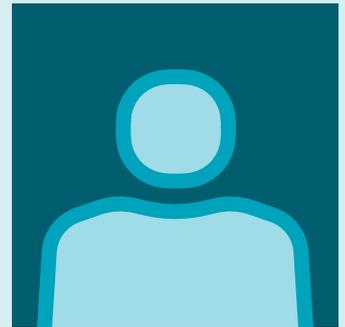
Brooklyn Binns
(Port Lincoln, SA)
2025 Recipient



Kirsty Gault
(Brisbane, QLD)
2025 Recipient



Claire Quinn
(Hamilton, VIC)
2025 Recipient



Could this be you?
2026 Recipient

"I feel extremely grateful to Coloplast to be a recipient of the 2025 Patricia Blackley Postgraduate Scholarship. This scholarship will support my professional development in Stomal Therapy Nursing by enabling me to develop advanced skills in wound, ostomy and continence care. This opportunity enables me to better support people in regional South Australian communities who often have limited access to specialist care."

- Brooklyn Binns (Port Lincoln, SA)

"I am feeling very grateful and excited for the future after the news I have received the scholarship! I aim to become a Clinical Leader in Stomal Therapy. I am particularly focused on enhancing patient education and empowerment, ensuring individuals with stomas feel confident and supported throughout their healthcare journey!"

- Kirsty Gault (Brisbane, QLD)

"Receiving this scholarship is a great honour and will support my professional growth in stomal therapy. It will enable education, strengthen clinical skills, and improve patient outcomes. Professional education is essential to advancing healthcare by promoting evidence-based, compassionate care and enhancing quality of life for patients with ostomies."

- Claire Quinn (Hamilton, VIC)

What is the purpose of the scholarships?

- To enable Registered Nurses working in ostomy care to undertake postgraduate education in Stomal Therapy Nursing or a related area of practice.
- To improve the quality of ostomy care for people in Australia and New Zealand by advancing postgraduate nursing education.

What is the value of the scholarships?

- Three scholarships are available. The value of each scholarship is \$5000 Australian Dollars.
- If there are no applicants who successfully meet the selection criteria, the scholarships will not be awarded.

What courses are eligible for the scholarships?

These scholarships may be used to support:

- Course fees for the Graduate Certificate of Stomal Therapy Nursing through the Australian College of Nursing or the Graduate Certificate in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Practice through Curtin University, OR
- Course fees for another post graduate course relevant to Stomal Therapy Nursing practice. For example; Master of Nursing, Master of Advanced Nursing Practice, Master of Counselling, Master of Business Administration, or Master/Graduate Certificate in another relevant skill set.

What is the selection criteria?

Applicants must:

- Be a Registered Nurse with the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) OR the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ).
- Be able to provide evidence of being employed in an appropriate clinical setting.
- Have the support of their manager or head of department.
- Be a member of the AASTN or NZNOCSTN or be willing to become a member or associate student member once the scholarship has been awarded and remain a member for the duration of the study program.
- If awarded the scholarship, agree to the public promotion of their success.
- If awarded the scholarship, agree to deliver an education session at an AASTN/NZNOCSTN meeting/conference OR prepare a journal article for the Journal of Stomal Therapy Australia/The Outlet (NZ).

How do I apply?

Please include separate pages in your application for each of the following:

- The completed application form (photocopy last page or visit: www.stomalthrapy.au/scholarships for electronic copy).
- Resume: include your full work history and details of membership/participation in professional organisations.
- A letter of support from line manager including how the furthered education will help the organisation
- Proof of current AHPRA or NCNZ registration as a Registered Nurse.
- Cover letter: include an outline of how you plan to utilise and disseminate the knowledge gained from the course and your anticipated commitment to Stomal Therapy Nursing (up to 300 words).
- Other funding sources: Please give details in your cover letter if you have received funding from any other source.

What are the important dates?

Applications open
2 March 2026



Applications close
30 September 2026



Application outcome
November 2026



Applications must be lodged with the chairperson AASTN Education and Professional Development Subcommittee before the closing date of 30th Sept 2026. Late applications will not be considered. The email address for lodgement is: education@stomalthrapy.au

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the selection process?

Applications will be reviewed by a selection panel comprised of at least two AASTN Education and Professional Development Subcommittee members and at least one member from the NZNOCSTN.

If the selection criteria and guidelines have been met, a short-list of finalists will be agreed by the selection panel, and if necessary, a brief video conference interview will be arranged with each of the short-listed applicants.

The interview will explore the applicant's commitment to the specialty of Stomal Therapy Nursing and how they will use the knowledge gained from the course.

This interview will occur within 6 weeks of the applications closing and will assist the final decision on the scholarship award.

If the existing panel members have a conflict of interest, a maximum of two proxies may be selected from the AASTN Education and Professional Development Subcommittee membership or one proxy from the NZNOCSTN membership.

The decision of the interview panel will be final and applicants will be notified of the result.

When will the scholarships be awarded?

The successful scholarship recipients will be announced by the AASTN and the NZNOCSTN in November 2026.

If awarded the scholarship, the successful applicant must provide to the AASTN Education and Professional Development Subcommittee:

- Confirmation of enrolment in the nominated postgraduate course as soon as possible after enrolment.
- Proof of AASTN or NZNOCSTN membership.
- A copy of the Degree Certificate (testamur) or Statement of Completion of the nominated postgraduate course as soon as is reasonably possible after completion of the course.

Documents should be emailed to: education@stomaltherapy.au

What happens if I am awarded the scholarship, but do not complete the course?

Withdrawal from course or failure to successfully complete the course within a two-year period, unless agreed as below, will require all scholarship funds to be returned to the AASTN or the NZNOCSTN.

Unexpected program interruptions which delay completion will be considered for retaining the financial assistance after written application to the Chairperson of the AASTN Education and Professional Development Subcommittee, outlining the reasons for delay. This should be sent via the email address:

education@stomaltherapy.au

Return of scholarship funds must be made within 30 days of enrolment cancellation or notification of unsuccessful results.

Application form

Patricia Blackley Postgraduate Education Scholarships 2026

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____ Work: _____

Email: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Name of Course and Education Institution: _____

Course Commencement Date: _____ Anticipated Completion Date: _____

Applicant Agreement:

- Payment of the scholarship is subject to the successful completion of the nominated course.
- I understand and accept that if I withdraw from the above course for any reason or do not successfully complete the course within a two-year period (unless otherwise agreed), all scholarship funds must be returned to the AASTN/NZNOCASTN within 30 days.
- I understand that I must provide proof of completion to the AASTN Education and Professional Development Subcommittee as soon as is reasonably possible after course completion.
- If awarded the scholarship, I agree to public promotion of my success.
- I agree to deliver an education session at an AASTN/NZNOCASTN meeting/conference OR prepare a journal article for the Journal of Stomal Therapy Australia/The Outlet (NZ).

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Manager/Head of Department Endorsement:

I _____, fully endorse the application of _____
_____ for the Patricia Blackley Postgraduate Education Scholarship.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Position: _____

Facility: _____

This application for together with accompanying documents must be lodged before the closing date of 30th Sept 2026 to education@stomalthrapy.au