

## Statement on equity for rural HELP debt subsidies

This position statement is designed to serve as a statement of equity on rural Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debt subsidies.

### What is Osteopathy Australia advocating for?

Osteopaths, along with many other allied health students, struggle with the cost of living. Nursing and medicine colleagues have received HELP write-offs for rural or remote practitioners. Government must recognise and support students from all health disciplines during a cost-of-living crisis.

### Why this benefits Australians

- Assist future healthcare practitioners to complete studies, regardless of financial status or geography.
- Increases the supply of allied healthcare professionals, particularly those in rural, regional and remote areas.
- Reduces the impact of current workforce shortages acknowledged across Australia.
- Improve access and equity for Australians to healthcare.

### Policy issues and barriers

- Lack of equity in government funding to subsidise allied health student debt for those working in rural and remote locations.
- No incentives for osteopaths to work in rural and remote locations like other professions such as medicine and nursing.

### Review

This position statement will be reviewed as often as required to align with legislative, regulatory, policy and/or practice change. Last review: January 2026.

### Need more information or help?

For further information, a suggestion or to discuss this topic, please:

- Email your enquiry to [info@osteopathy.org.au](mailto:info@osteopathy.org.au)
- Call Osteopathy Australia on 1800 467 836
- Access further information via [www.osteopathy.org.au](http://www.osteopathy.org.au)