John Flynn Dental Assistant Scholarship

The RFDS John Flynn Dental Assistant Scholarship, was established by Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Tasmania in 2006 for dental assistants who are studying a Certificate III with TasTAFE. The scholarship aims to further their workplace skills by providing an experience of living in remote Australia and working there with the RFDS.

The scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Reverend John Flynn who recognised the desperate need to provide skilled medical care to remote areas of Australia. In 1928, Flynn’s vision became a reality when he pioneered Australia’s first medical flying service. Today, over ninety plus years later the iconic Australian organisation is known as the Royal Flying Doctor Service and delivers 24-hour emergency aeromedical and primary health care services to those who live, work and travel throughout Australia. Its founder, John Flynn is honoured on our $20 note.

The Scholarship comprises:

* Two weeks with RFDS Tasmania Dental Team (dates to be confirmed as our dental team schedule is set every three months) but between September- December.
* One of these weeks we endeavour to make a clinical work experience on King or Flinders Island as an assistant to the RFDS Dentist
* Othe other week gaining clinical experience in Tasmania in our Mobile Dental Vehicle, as an assistant to the RFDS Oral Health Therapist. *(Location may change pending availability)*
* Accommodation as required.
* Return flights where applicable
* A living allowance of $100 per day for living expenses

No previous RFDS experience is required.

Tasmanian candidates may apply for the scholarship within 18 months of commencing Certificate III in Dental Assisting training. Or within their first year of full-time training if a school-based trainee.

Applications open on June 20, 2025 and close on July 21, 2025.

The application form is available on the TasTAFE and RFDS websites from June 20, 2025

Please ensure you read all the terms carefully.

If you have any questions, please contact your TasTAFE Dental Teacher or Linda Thomas on phone: 0459724872 or by email: dental@tafe.tas.edu.au



Eligibility of candidates

Applications are open to Tasmanian candidates who may apply within 18 months of commencing Certificate III in Dental Assisting training or in their first year of full-time training if completing a school-based traineeship.

Selection criteria

Scholarships are awarded based on:

* Interpersonal and communication skills that will enable the applicant to act as an ambassador for RFDS Tasmania
* Interest in rural oral health
* Dental assisting experience or other relevant experience
* Referee’s report
* Understanding of the work of the RFDS
* Applicable Qualifications

To apply

Applications should be submitted via email or post by Friday 26 July, 2025 to the following address:

Megs Culhane

Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania

Level 118-20 Paterson Street, Launceston 7250

E: meg.culhane@rfdstas.org.au

Please include all the following documents:

* A covering letter of no more than one page, illustrating your suitability for the position and your knowledge of the RFDS and Rev. John Flynn.
* An application form completed by the applicant. Please type your responses into the form provided, print and sign.
* Referee statement in support of your application. Please use the referee statement form attached. **References are privileged information and must be forwarded directly to the RFDS by the referee.**
* Work release form completed and signed by your employer.
* Evidence of completion of Certificate III in Dental Assisting if completed.

Please only supply the requested documentation.

Applications should be typed and must be on the

specified application form.

It is suggested that you keep a copy of your application for future reference.

Incomplete, late or emailed applications will not be considered**.**

Receipt of applications will be confirmed via email.

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed in Launceston in early August 2025

Terms and conditions

The Scholarship comprises:

1. One-week clinical work experience on King or Flinders Island as an assistant to the RFDS Dentist.
2. One-week in Tasmania in our Mobile Dental Vehicle, as an assistant to the RFDS Oral Health Therapist. *(Location may change pending availability)*
3. Accommodation as required.
4. Return flights as required
5. A living allowance of $100 per day

Under the RFDS Tasmania insurance policy, the recipient, whilst engaged in the scholarship placement, is covered by the Insurer’s Group Personal Accident and Sickness Insurance.

The RFDS may terminate a scholarship if:

1. At any point, the candidate is found to have provided the RFDS with false or fraudulent information.
2. Whilst representing the RFDS the candidate does not conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner or a way that is befitting an ambassador of the RFDS.

If the scholarship is terminated, for whatever reason, any monies already paid to the successful candidate or duly expended will need to be reimbursed to RFDS Tasmania by the candidate.

The scholarship holder is required to provide evidence of a current WWVP card and agree to attend a scholarship presentation (usually early February) to give a 10-minute report on their experience during the scholarship and participate in mutually agreed engagements as an ambassador of the RFDS in the year of tenure.

Applications are available at the RFDS website - <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/tas/what-we-do/scholarships-tas/> or TasTAFE website or by contacting the TasTAFE Dental Team.

Application form, to be completed by the applicant

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| **Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms)** | | |
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| **Full name of applicant** | | |
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| **Full date of birth** | | |
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| **Address for correspondence** | | |
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| **Email address** | | |
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| Correspondence and advice regarding the outcome of your application will be sent to this address. Please ensure that your email address details are correct. | | |
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| **Telephone number** | | |
| Home | |  |
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| Work | |  |
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| Mobile | |  |
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| **Certificate III commencement date** | | |
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| **Motivation for applying (150 words)** | | |
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| **Interest in RFDS and rural oral health (150 words)** | | |
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| **Relevant work or other experience (150 words)** | | |
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| I hereby declare that all information I have provided in this application is true and complete.  If successful, I agree to abide by all Terms and Conditions of the scholarship.  **Signed (applicant)** | | |
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| **Date** |  | |

Statement in support of application, to be completed by referee (preferably in Dentistry)

**This reference is privileged information and must be forwarded directly to the RFDS by the referee**. Its purpose is to guide the selection panel in their deliberations relating to the personal and professional standing of the applicant. It will not be shared with the applicant.

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| **Your full name** | |
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| **Dental Surgery (if you work in dentistry)** | |
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| **Position held** | |
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| **Email** | |
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| **Telephone number** | |
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| **Name of applicant** | |
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| **Relationship to applicant** | |
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| **Length of time known to applicant** | |
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| **Comment** | |
| **Applicant’s experience as a Dental Assistant** | |
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| **Applicant’s ability to represent RFDS as an ambassador** | |
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| **Applicant’s interest in rural oral health and other comments** | |
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| **Signed (referee)** | |
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|  | |
| **Date** |  |

Work Release Form: to be completed by scholarship applicant’s employer

Your Dental Assistant staff member wishes to apply for the John Flynn Dental Assistant Scholarship offered by RFDS Tasmania. Should this applicant be successful, she/he will be required to spend two weeks working with the RFDS Tasmania Dental Team.

Please indicate your support in releasing your staff member for two weeks should she/he be the successful applicant (TBC dates between September- December 2025) have been pencilled in but are to be confirmed as our dental team visits to King or Flinders Island and mobile clinics are still to be confirmed for this time of the year)

For further information on the John Flynn Dental Assistant Scholarship, please contact Megs Culhane at the Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania at [meg.culhane@rfdstas.org.au](mailto:meg.culhane@rfdstas.org.au)

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| **Your full name** |
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| **Dental Surgery** |
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| **Address** |
|  |
| **Email** |
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| **Telephone number** |
|  |
| **Name of applicant** |
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| I, the employer, support this application and agree to the release of the applicant from his or her work to enable them to undertake this placement if successful.  **Signed** |
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