



**RAINE**  
MEDICAL RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **Raine Visiting Professorship Program**

### **Overview**

The Raine Visiting Professorship Program has become widely acknowledged by the academic community as an important resource that facilitates the visits of top, international scientists to the University.

There are two important issues relating to the Program that I would like to draw to your attention. The first relates to a recent review by the Research Committee about the purpose and expected outcomes of the Program; and the second issue concerns changes to the financial payments in order to meet the Australian Taxation Office regulations.

### **(1) Review of RVP Program**

The RVP Program is regularly reviewed by the Research Committee to ensure that it continues to meet the changing needs and academic structure of the University while maintaining a focus on global advances in health medicine and the importance of international collaborations and networking.

In November 2014 a ten-year review of the Program was conducted (2003-2013) that included details of co-authored publications between the UWA host and their respective Raine Visiting Professor. During this ten-year timeframe, the Raine Foundation facilitated the visit of 124 distinguished scholars under the Program with a funding contribution in excess of \$750,000 or approximately \$75,000 per year. A literary search of various databases, including Medline, Web of Science and PubMed revealed that there were a total of 193 co-authored scientific papers published: 120 (62%) by researchers in Clinical Schools and the remaining 73 (38%) by researchers in Biomedical Science Schools.

In acknowledging that co-authored publications represent only one predictor of achievement, the Research Committee agreed that it required more detailed information to make an informed assessment of the achievements of the Program. It recommended that a Report Form be prepared that would provide detailed feedback about the long-term benefits and anticipated outcome of visiting professors. A copy of the Report Form is available to download from the Raine website with the Nomination Form. Heads of Schools, Centres and Institutes are asked to complete this form at the conclusion of the visit of their Raine Visiting Professor.

## (2) Revised Financial Arrangements

The second issue relates to an update of the Conditions governing the financial arrangements of the Program.

Under the Australian Taxation Office regulations, all payments made to employees (including visitors) are treated as taxable income [or subject to FBT under FBTAA 1986], and governed by the length of stay of a visitor to the University. While all Schools and Centres have been informed of the ATO rules and staff will be familiar with the procedure, an overview of the main points relevant to the RVP Program is provided below.

### (a) Length of Stay

- Visitors staying in Australia for **less than 90 days** are subject to the ATO Travel Allowance daily rates, available via [TD2014/19](#).
- Visitors staying in Australia for **90 days or more** are subject to the weekly Living Allowance rate set by the Department of Immigration (currently \$511 per week).

In the main, Raine Visiting Professors tend to spend less than 90 days in Australia and therefore their visit would not be affected by the ATO Living Allowance (per diem) of approximately \$354, nor by the Immigration Department weekly Living Allowance. Notwithstanding, the UWA Taxation Accountant recommends that the host School provide their Faculty with a financial statement to ensure that “top-up” funding does not exceed the maximum ATO limit.

### (b) Payments

There are two issues relevant to the RVP budget process that have changed. These represent payments for:

- Airline Tickets
- Per diem or daily allowance

#### Airfare Tickets

Under the ATO regulations, airfare costs are not regarded as “income” and therefore not included in the total amount payable to a University visitor, although this cost forms part of the RVP Budget expenditure. It is further noted that under the ATO regulations, a copy of the airline ticket is required by Financial Services to show proof of purchase for auditing requirements.

In summary, under the RVP Conditions, a Business Class airline ticket may not be converted to bring a spouse or dependent children and a copy of the ticket shall be provided to the Raine Foundation.

#### Per diem or daily allowance

The RVP per diem or daily allowance is \$120 for long-term visits; and \$200 for short-term visits. After the airline costs have been deducted from the RVP budget, payment for living expenses, e.g. accommodation, may be made in two ways:

- The host School may pay the vendor directly for accommodation with the remaining balance for living costs etc., paid to the visiting professor in cash or by electronic transfer of funds to a bank account.
- The visiting professor may elect to arrange their accommodation and living costs independently and receive the balance of funds (after airfare payment) in cash or EFT.

**Note:** Where the visiting professor receives an amount in cash, the onus is on them to meet the taxation requirements of their home country.

Should you require additional information on the modifications to the procedures and RVP Conditions, please contact Lyn Ellis via email: [lyn.ellis@uwa.edu.au](mailto:lyn.ellis@uwa.edu.au)

The Raine Visiting Professor program has been an extremely successful research initiative. It provides many benefits to the University and has enriched our research knowledge and culture enormously. We look forward to maintaining this important Program for the long-term benefit of the individual scientist, the visiting scholar, and the University, and we look forward to your co-operation in meeting these new procedural requirements.

Kind regards

Robyn Owens  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)  
Chair, Raine Medical Research Foundation

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