

21 September 2026

MGA Statement on the Monash University RTP Stipend Increase Announcement

In good news for current recipients of RTP Scholarships, **Monash University has announced an increase to the stipend to \$41,100**. The increase will take effect on **1 January 2027**. This is a 10.6% increase from the current stipend rate of \$37,145, and lifts Monash well above many of its counterparts in the Group of Eight and in Victoria.

Throughout this year, MGA has been actively working and advocating for stipend increases within Monash. On 16th July 2026, we submitted our [stipend policy briefing](#) to Monash Graduate Research Office and on the 29th of July, 2026, we presented our report to the Graduate Research Council. In this briefing we argued that Monash should raise its stipend and commit to a living wage trajectory over four years, supported by a focused external advocacy strategy to shift Federal Government policy on RTP base rates and make RTP scholarships tax-free for part-time students.

MGA is pleased to see our feedback has been taken on board, and we thank Monash for prioritising the financial wellbeing of our important graduate research student cohort by raising the stipend above the current Go8 average.

While this increase is welcome news, the work does not stop here. We still need stipends to reach a liveable wage in the context of Australia's cost of living, and to recognise the significant role that graduate research students play in our higher education ecosystem and our society broadly. We also need better conditions for part-time scholarship holders.

It's not just Monash that controls the RTP Stipend rate. The federal government is the main decision maker, setting base and maximum rates, as well as controlling tax status for part-time students. Monash has done their part, now it's time for the federal government to act to eliminate PhD poverty.

MGA will continue to advocate at the federal level for better and fairer stipend conditions for all graduate students. We encourage and welcome Monash's partnership in that effort.

Stay up to date with all our stipend campaign activity [here](#).