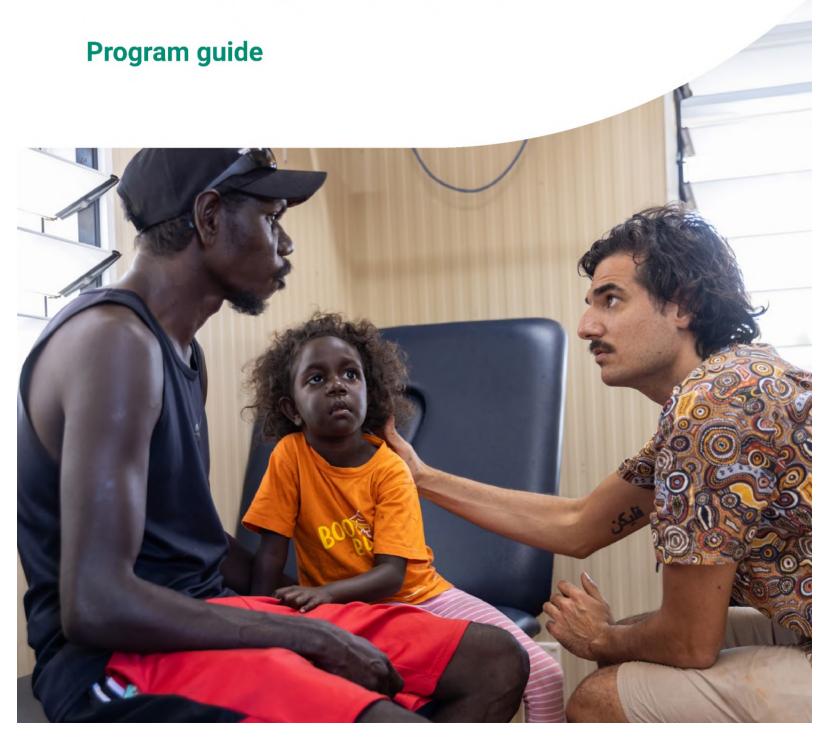


# Australian General Practice Training Program



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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and seas on which we work and live, and pay our respects to Elders, past, present and future.

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# We're here to help If you have any queries, don't hesitate to contact us on: T: 1800 472 247 E: becomeagp@racgp.org.au

# Welcome to a rewarding career in general practice

When you choose a career in general practice, you choose to become a specialist in your patients' lives. General practice is unique in its person-centred approach to healthcare. You will find that getting to know your patients and providing personalised care based on trust and understanding is very rewarding.

The relationships you form with your community will help you deliver effective healthcare for a huge variety of presentations and across all stages of life. A career in general practice is diverse and fulfilling – every consultation is different, and every consultation is an opportunity to help someone take the next step to better health.

The Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is the Commonwealth-funded training pathway for future general practitioners (GPs). This application guide answers your questions about specialising in general practice and takes you through the application and selection process.

During your time in the AGPT Program you will treat a range of patient populations, train under diverse supervisors and mentors, and learn about different general practice business models. The RACGP will support you throughout your training and equip you with all the knowledge, skills and experience you need to practise independently anywhere in Australia.

Big cities and small towns alike need skilled GPs, so a career in general practice will take you wherever you want to go. You can choose to train in a city environment or in a rural or remote area. Rural and remote practice is particularly community based and broad in its scope of practice. You will have the opportunity to address inequalities in healthcare and ensure all Australians have access to high-quality care regardless of their location.

You might decide to become a rural generalist and opt into the RACGP's Rural Generalist Fellowship. This will allow you to develop additional skills and provide access to a broader range of medical services in rural and remote communities.

The RACGP training model is profession led and community based, and it links with continuing professional development programs to support lifelong learning for our Fellows. We look forward to welcoming you to our exciting profession of general practice!





# Starting your general practice career with the leaders in general practice

When you choose a career in general practice, the RACGP is behind you all the way. You'll join a collegiate community of lifelong learning, and the RACGP will continue to support you after Fellowship with high-quality education recognised throughout the health sector.

#### **RACGP Fellowships**

Achieving Fellowship of the RACGP denotes you as a practitioner who provides safe, specialised and high-quality general practice care. It demonstrates to governments, the general practice profession and the community that you're competent to practise safely and unsupervised in any Australian general practice setting - metropolitan, rural, remote and very remote communities.

It also allows you access to specialist medical registration and A1 Medicare rebates.

The RACGP offers two Fellowship endpoints:

- Fellowship of the RACGP (FRACGP)
- RACGP Rural Generalist Fellowship (FRACGP-RG) – an additional qualification awarded to FRACGP registrars who successfully complete rural generalist training.

#### Why train with us?



#### Support

With more than 40,000 members, the RACGP supports nine out of every 10 Australian GPs, including 5500 registrars working towards Fellowship each year.



#### Flexibility

Enjoy access to flexible training arrangements, as well as the option to complete our Rural Generalist Fellowship to develop additional rural skills for your community.



#### Education prowess

As the leading provider of general practice education and training, you'll have access to an extensive range of well-developed clinical and education resources.



#### Rural training experience

As we support more than 22,000 rural members, you'll benefit from our significant experience supporting, educating and connecting rural GPs and rural generalists across Australia.



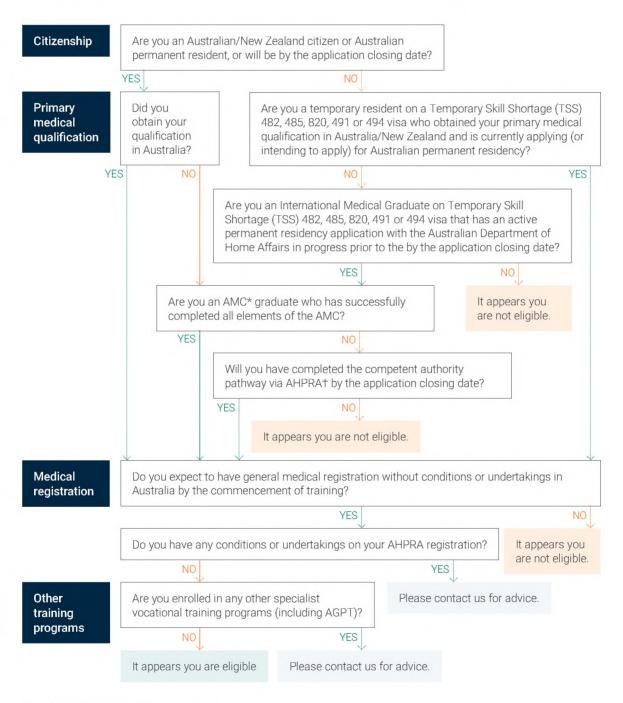
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

We're committed to building your skills to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health needs and advocating for culturally appropriate health delivery systems.

# Eligibility flowchart

To be considered to train on the AGPT Program, you'll need to meet some eligibility criteria. Check to see if you may be eligible using the flowchart below. More information about eligibility criteria can be found in our application and eligibility guidelines on **our website**.

If you're not eligible for the AGPT Program, you may be eligible for our Fellowship Support Program.



<sup>\*</sup>Australian Medical Council

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority

# The Australian General Practice Training Program

The AGPT Program is a three-year, full-time (or part-time equivalent) program, with an optional rural generalist training year.

It is comprised of hospital training, general practice placements and extended skills with optional, additional rural skills training. You will learn in a variety of supervised settings, including hospitals, general practice and other accredited facilities.

#### About Fellowship of the RACGP

Training towards Fellowship of the RACGP (FRACGP) is three years full-time (or part-time equivalent):

#### Year 1:

• 12-months accredited hospital training (postgraduate year 2 [PGY2] year or above)

#### Years 2-3:

- 18-months general practice training (3 x 6-month terms)
- six-months extended skills training in either a hospital, community general practice or community non-general practice setting.

#### Year 4 (optional):

 12 months additional rural skills training (ARST) Rural Generalist Fellowship

Throughout your training, you will be assigned an experienced medical educator and a training coordinator who will mentor, guide and support you in your training journey. Medical educators will also provide teaching and feedback through practice visits during community-based training terms.

Year 1	Hospital training – 12 months (or recognition of prior learning and experience)			
Year 2	General practice training  GPT1 - 6 months			
	GPT2 - 6 months			
Year 3	General practice training GPT3 – 6 months			
	Extended skills training - 6 months*			
FRACGP qualification				
Year 4 Optional	Optional: Rural Generalist Fellowship ARST – 12 months**			
FRACGP-RG qualification				

\*Extended skills terms may be undertaken at various points during training, dependant on the type of extended skills term (i.e. in hospital, general practice community or non-general practice community setting)

\*\*ARST training can be undertaken anytime after the first hospital year.

# Hospital training

## Australian General Practice Training Program Program quide

#### Hospital training (12 months)

The first year of the AGPT Program is hospital-based. This ensures you've met the necessary competencies to enter a general practice setting.

To start in a general practice community term, you'll need to have completed:

- four mandatory hospital rotations in the five years before starting your first general practice term (GPT1)
- worked at least 52 weeks (FTE) at a level above intern in accredited Australian or New Zealand hospitals. This experience needs to have been within ten years of starting your first general practice term (GPT1)
- completed a basic life support (BLS) course in the 12 months prior to starting your first general practice term (GPT1).

Each of these requirements are discussed in turn below.

#### Mandatory hospital rotations

You're required to have successfully completed the four mandatory hospital rotations below generally within the five years prior to starting in your community general practice terms:

- · general medicine
- surgery
- · emergency medicine
- paediatrics.

These rotations are typically required to be between 10 and 12 weeks (FTE) each in duration, with the exception of emergency medicine which may be 8 to 12 weeks (FTE). They can be completed at intern or post-intern level and must be undertaken in accredited Australian or New Zealand hospitals.

For each rotation, you'll be required to provide a statement of service from the Junior Medical Officer Manager (or equivalent) confirming:

- the dates of the rotation
- · any period of leave during the rotation
- · satisfactorily completion of the rotation.

Where the statement of service doesn't confirm satisfactory completion of the rotation, you'll need to provide an end-of-term assessment form for the rotation.

- ✓ If you're unable to complete a mandatory rotation, there are some alternative options to allow you to meet the requirements.
- ✓ We may consider experience within 10 years if you can demonstrate how you've maintained the skills and knowledge acquired during the terms.
- ✓ Visit the AGPT Registrar Training Handbook for more information or contact us on becomeagp@racgp.org.au

There are a number of ways that you can meet mandatory rotation requirements. For more information click here.

These requirements don't have

to be met before you apply

or commence on the AGPT Program as they can be met

during your hospital year.



#### Recognition of prior learning and experience

If you've gained broad hospital experience after your intern year, you may be able to get some of that experience counted towards your AGPT Program time. This is done by applying for recognition of prior learning and experience (RPLE).

The maximum amount of RPLE available is 52 calendar weeks (1 year) and it can only be applied to hospital training time, extended skills in hospital or a combination of both. RPLE is not available for community based general practice terms (GPT1, GPT2, or GPT3).

To be eligible to apply, you'll need to have completed at least 104 weeks (2 years) full-time equivalent of hospital-based work in Australia or New Zealand by the commencement of training, at least 52 weeks of which was worked at a level above intern level (usually post-general registration).

When assessing applications for RPLE, we will consider whether your hospital training and experience was relevant to general practice, showed variety and breadth across components of the RACGP Curriculum and syllabus and was completed successfully.

If you are interested in applying for RPLE, you are encouraged to start collecting the **relevant paperwork** as early as possible. You'll need this paperwork to be able to be assessed if you're eligible for RPLE shortly after accepting an offer onto the program. Your formal application for RPLE is required by the end of your first GP training term.

- ✓ Applying for RPLE is optional. Even if you have relevant experience, you can choose not to apply for RPLE and commence the AGPT Program in a hospital year.
- ✓ If you have relevant hospital experience and you haven't met all of your mandatory terms, you may still be eligible to apply for RPLE. You will however need to meet your mandatory term requirements before entering community based general practice training.
- ✓ Visit the AGPT Registrar Training Handbook for more information.

#### Basic life support training

You're required to complete a BLS course in the 12 months before starting your first general practice term, and the course must meet RACGP criteria. For more information refer to the **Basic life support and advanced life support guide**.

We recommend you keep your BLS certification current throughout your training and you'll need to complete BLS training in the 12 months prior to applying for Fellowship.

- ✓ Maximum 52 weeks.
- ✓ Available for hospital-based experience only.
- ✓ Need minimum 104 weeks (FTE) in Aust or NZ hospital, with at least 52 weeks above intern level.



#### General practice training (18 months)

General practice placements generally begin either in your second year of training after you have completed your 12 months hospital training, or in your first year of training if you have obtained RPLE.

You're required to complete three general practice training terms (18 months FTE) as part of your core vocational training requirements. To help ensure you have exposure to a diverse range of patient populations and presentations, most GP registrars will be expected to have at least two different supervisors and work under two different business models.

During your general practice training placements, you'll be supported by a team of individuals including an RACGP medical educator and training coordinator, an in-practice GP supervisor as well as other clinical and administrative practice staff.

#### General practice placements process

The RACGP manages the allocation into general practice training placements. The placement process is designed to enable flexibility and choice for both registrars and practices. It takes into consideration your preferences, personal circumstances, training needs and program commitments, as well as the primary healthcare needs of communities. Where you train will also depend on your training pathway and region, explained in further detail later in this guide.

#### In-practice employment and supervision

During a general practice term, you'll benefit from advice and support, one-on-one teaching, supervision, feedback and assessment from experienced general practice supervisors and medical educators.

Support, teaching and supervision are often provided by a team which includes your supervisor, other GPs and practice staff. You'll be provided with local information and, particularly in rural areas, an introduction to community groups. If required, there is support for your family.

While in the program, you'll be employed as an employee of the training site where you work, or be working under a government-supported single-employer model. Your employment contract will be required to meet the National Terms and Conditions for the Employment of Registrars (NTCER).

The NTCER outlines the minimum employment conditions that practices must meet, including pay rates and leave allowances.





#### Extended skills (six months)

The extended skills term gives you an opportunity to either extend your skills in community general practice or pursue an area of interest relevant to general practice in a hospital or non-GP community setting.

The breadth of extended skills options is extensive and could include for example, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, palliative care, sports medicine, sexual health, skin cancer medicine or one of many other special interest areas.

Being a GP offers the opportunity to extend your practice into areas of specific interest, adding to the satisfaction and flexibility of a career in general practice.

The RACGP has a dedicated Specific Interests Faculty with over 37 specialty areas where you can explore and connect with like-minded GPs.

If you are working towards the Rural Generalist Fellowship, you can complete the core emergency medicine component of your training as your extended skills training or consolidate your advanced skill.

You can also undertake an approved academic post in this term.

You'll receive a list of available extended skills posts after you join the training program. You can discuss with your medical educator what extended skills posts are available in your region and what would be most beneficial for your learning and training journey.

#### When can you undertake your extended skills term?

Extended skills training in a hospital setting can be undertaken at any stage of training.

In non-general practice settings (eg sexual health clinic), depending on the post, you'll be granted approval after successfully completing at least GPT1, and in some instances, GPT2 or 3.

In general practice settings, an extended skills training post can only be undertaken once you've successfully completed GPT1, 2 and 3.



#### Fellowship examinations

During your training you'll be required to sit RACGP Fellowship examinations. In the AGPT Program, eligibility for the exams includes meeting education and training requirements and a minimum of two years of training and completion of the second GP training term (GPT2).

#### Exams include:

- Applied Knowledge Test (written multiple choice)
- · Key Feature Problem (written case based)
- Clinical Competency Exam (practical)

For more information, see the AGPT Registrar Training Handbook.

#### Part-time training

Part-time training options are available as outlined in our AGPT Registrar Training Handbook.

#### Leave

Various forms of leave are also available to registrars in the AGPT Program. Normally, you cannot defer or start the AGPT Program on leave unless the leave is: maternity leave, sick leave and leave for Australian Defence Force (ADF) registrars on deployment. See the AGPT Registrar Training Handbook for more information.

#### Training time

Once in the AGPT Program, you'll have four years full-time equivalent (FTE) to complete the program or six years if you are undertaking the FRACGP-RG.

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors

Our vision is for quality and culturally safe primary healthcare that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to thrive and live long and healthy lives. If you're an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctor, please refer to page 13 of this document for more information about how we can support you in joining and training on the AGPT Program.

#### Australian Defence Force doctors

ADF doctors have additional needs for training mobility and flexibility. The RACGP ADF team will help you meet the RACGP's requirements for Fellowship. We encourage ADF doctors applying for the AGPT Program to contact us to discuss their training.

#### Rural priority region preferencing

The RACGP is committed to maintaining the rural training pipeline for doctors with a demonstrated connection to a rural community. During the application process, you can request to be considered for rural region priority preferencing. If you are deemed suitable for a training offer and your first preference is the rural pathway, you may be considered to receive region and/or subregion priority allocation if you can demonstrate a significant current or previous connection to the region (or where applicable, subregion) of your first preference. See our website for more information.

# Rural Generalist Fellowship

As part of your training on the AGPT program, you can choose to extend your scope of practice by pursuing the additional Rural Generalist Fellowship.

#### What is a rural generalist?

A rural generalist is a rural GP who is working to an extended scope of practice with skill sets informed by the needs of the community they serve. Their skills encompass comprehensive general practice and emergency care and required components of other non-GP specialist care in hospital and community settings.

The extra skills gained as part of the Rural Generalist Fellowship helps give patients more local options for accessing safe and comprehensive care in Australia's rural, remote and very remote communities.

#### Meet Rural Generalist, Dr Elyse Marx

Elyse first became aware of rural generalists and the important role they play in rural communities as a medical student. She's now a rural generalist specialising in anaesthesia in Murray Bridge, South Australia, a small community one hour east of Adelaide.



#### Eligibility

If you're eligible to apply for the AGPT Program, then you're eligible to apply for the RACGP's Rural Generalist Fellowship! Applications are open to all doctors on either the general or rural pathway and there is no fee to apply.

# **Disciplines**

As an RACGP rural generalist trainee you'll have access to more than 400 RACGP accredited additional rural skills training sites where you can



develop more advanced emergency medicine skills and additional non-GP specialist skills in the following areas:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- · academic post
- · adult internal medicine
- anaesthesia
- · child health

- · emergency medicine
- · mental health obstetrics
- · palliative care
- · small town rural general practice
- surgery.

You can also apply for other additional skills, which will be considered on application to the RACGP as part of an individually designed program. Some of the individualised curricula completed by previous RG trainees include remote medicine, aged care, public health, and more.

Interested in a career in rural generalism? Contact us for a one-on-one chat with our local rural training team.

#### Training requirements

Achieving the RACGP Rural Generalist Fellowship requires 12 months of additional rural skills training (ARST) in an accredited procedural or non-procedural training post in addition to the three-year FRACGP Fellowship program.

You can undertake your additional rural skills training any time after your first hospital year. However, we recommend completing some community general practice experience first to gain an understanding of the community context. We find the Rural Generalist Fellowship offers the greatest benefits when completed over the full period of the training program, well before you start preparing for your Fellowship examinations. In addition to the above, during the course of your FRACGP training you'll be required to complete:

- a minimum of 12 months FTE of the required 18 months of community-based general practice training in a rural Modified Monash Model (MMM) 3–7 location
- a minimum of six months of core-emergency medicine training in an accredited emergency medicine facility with appropriate supervision. This could be undertaken as your extended skills term.

The RACGP's FRACGP-RG is recognised as an appropriate endpoint for rural generalist training on state and territory rural generalist programs and as part of the AGPT Program.

Visit the AGPT Registrar Training Handbook for more information.

#### Fellowship exams

Assessments for your ARST will vary in format and cost depending on your chosen discipline. For more information, visit the Rural Generalist Fellowship webpage.

I chose RACGP training as it gave me flexibility over training locations for my special interest and a clear pathway of learning within each of the areas - general practice and hospital and advanced skills areas.

Dr Kieran Webb-Sawyer RACGP Rural Generalist



# Training opportunities and support

The AGPT Program offers a unique opportunity to develop your capabilities, expand your scope of practice and explore existing or new interests in a supervised and supported setting.

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

Training in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training post is an important opportunity to develop your skills as a holistic and community-minded practitioner.

Generally, you will undertake this training in an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS). These are primary healthcare services initiated and operated by the local Aboriginal community to deliver culturally and clinically appropriate comprehensive healthcare to the local community. The RACGP has more than 175 accredited Aboriginal health training sites across Australia.

In recognition that the medical profession has a key role to play in improving the quality of health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, during your training you will undertake cultural awareness education and cultural safety training.

#### Benefits of training in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

There are many benefits to undertaking part of your general practice training in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training post, including:

- gaining a better understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health that can then be applied
  in an ACCHS or a mainstream general practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients
- · being part of a team that delivers holistic health care
- understanding the disparities in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health status, and why it is important to close the gap.

#### Meet Dr Ben Bambery

Ben moved from Victoria to the Northern Territory to pursue his passion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. His desire to empower people to lead healthier lives and prevent illnesses is what drew Ben to general practice. Learn more about his Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training experience.



#### Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors

If you're a doctor of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent, our RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Faculty will support you in several ways during your general practice journey. This includes:

- support during the selection process for the AGPT Program
- · priority region and pathway preferencing
- connection with GP mentors, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registrars and peers
- · customised webinars, workshops, guidelines and resources
- participation in the Yagila Wadamba Support Program an annual support program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registrars featuring a two-day workshop concentrating on exam performance and
- · other key areas of general practice training
- · tailored Fellowship examination support
- engagement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander GPs in Training Support Working Group, which undertakes a range of activities to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registrars throughout their general practice training journey.

The RACGP has a dedicated RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Faculty, which is committed to raising awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health needs and advocating for improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The RACGP also partners with key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, including the Indigenous General Practice Registrars Network, Australian Indigenous Doctors Association and National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation..



#### Academic and research

During your training with the RACGP, you'll develop the research literacy and evidence-based decision-making skills that are essential skills for GPs. If you're interested in furthering your skills in academic general practice, there are several opportunities available to pursue this during your training.

#### Academic posts

An academic post is a training term where you learn academic skills in a placement with a university department.

There are 20 academic posts available every year. This includes two specialised posts, the AIDA Post offered to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander general practice registrar and the AJGP Post, which incorporates a standard academic post with additional editing work.

An academic post is a 12-month (0.5 FTE) training term undertaken within a Department of General Practice, or equivalent, at a university. Concurrent to an academic post you also undertake a clinical placement as part of your training on the AGPT Program.

In addition to building your skills in academia and research, in an academic post you can participate in teaching activities, enjoy RACGP-funded registration, flights and accommodation to selected national conferences, network with other GPs in training and GP researchers/academic GPs, access professional development and research funding and benefit from enhanced job opportunities.

For more information, visit the AGPT Academic Post Program webpage.

# Meet some of our academic post GP registrars

Hear first-hand what it's like undertaking an academic post including why they chose the post and how they've benefited from the experience.



#### Registrar Medical Educator posts

Registrar Medical Educator posts can be undertaken as your extended skills. This a half time post undertaken concurrently with a clinical term. As a Registrar Medical Educator, you're employed by RACGP to work with medical educator teams to contribute to the delivery of education to registrars.

#### Intercalated PhD pathways

The RACGP supports registrars to complete a doctorate alongside general practice training on a case-by-case basis. If you're currently enrolled in or intending to enrol in a PhD, contact <a href="mailto:gpedresearch@racgp.org.au">gpedresearch@racgp.org.au</a> for support and guidance.

#### Rural general practice training

Going rural for all or part of your training is an excellent way to build your scope of practice within a supported and supervised setting. In addition, you'll:

- make a real difference to a community, even if it is for a short time
- build and broaden your skills and expertise in key clinical areas
- benefit from being part of a collegiate team of doctors, nurses and other health professionals
- · enjoy being part of a smaller community and the perks of country living.

#### Meet Dr Corrine Fulford

Originally from a semi-rural area close to Sydney, Corinne works as a GP part-time in the medium sized town of Parkes and part-time as an RACGP medical educator. Find out more about what she enjoys about being a rural GP and the connections she's been able to make with the local community.



#### Rural registrar support

During your training, you'll be supported by a dedicated local program team that are highly skilled and well versed in the training pathways. This includes experienced rural medical educators who are rural GPs and rural generalists. They'll work with you to develop training plans to help you reach your career goals.

As our training is delivered by regional teams, you'll be supported by people who know your region and understand the environment in which you live, work and train.

As a team, they'll help you navigate the transition from hospital training to GP training, mentor you in procedural skills training and provide you with educational support to assist in making the most out of your assessments to gain Fellowship.



#### Financial supports

To support registrars training rurally, we offer a number of financial subsidies that can be used across a wide range of areas such as relocation expenses, rent, travel, education and other areas.

The Australian Government also provides incentive programs to support doctors working and training rurally.

Contact us on becomeagp@racgp.org.au if you require further information.

- ✓ All registrars training in rural areas can apply for financial support (including general pathway registrars training rurally).
- ✓ Typically, the further 'rural' you go, the higher the level of financial support.
- ✓ The amount of financial support can be significant.

Incentive	What is it?	Where to find out more
Registrar support payments	These payments are made to registrars for each six-month term that they are training in a GP term in an MMM 2-7 location.  Payments can be used for registrar relocation, rental assistance, travel and accommodation for non-mandatory education and training activities, self-directed learning support, wellbeing and psychological support, and learning materials.  Payments include: MMM 2: \$1800, MMM 3-4: \$3425, MMM 5: \$4810, MMM 6-7: \$9250	Click here.
Placement incentives	These are payments available to registrars who choose to train in a specific rural location/s for some or all of their training.  Payments range from \$5,000 to \$45,000 per 6-month term and can be used for relocation, rent, childcare/schooling, training, respite travel, internet connectivity.	Click here.
HELP debt reduction for rural doctors	Under this scheme, eligible doctors can have their HELP fees eliminated if they work in an MMM 3–5 location for the full length of their degree, or work in an MMM 6–7 location for half of the length of their degree.	Click here.
Workforce Incentive Program (WIP)	The WIP is accessible by AGPT registrars who provide a minimum amount of eligible primary care services in MMM 3-7 locations. Incentives are based on a sliding scale according to remoteness and how long you spend in a particular location based on its local classification (MMM).  Most payments commence from year two onwards and range from \$4500 up to \$60,000 depending on duration and MMM classification.	Click here.
Rural Procedural Grants Program (RPGP)	skills training with the RACGP and provide rural procedural services can apply for grants of up to \$32,000. This can contribute towards the cost of attending continuing professional development to maintain	
Region specific incentives	There may be additional incentives for doctors to train in a particular region. Contact us on becomeagp@racgp.org.au to find out more.	Click here.

For more information on financial supports visit our website.

"Being a general practitioner offers continuity of care. I think that's the most rewarding part of the role and feeling like I'm part of the community."

Dr Javed Badyari Rural Pathway Registrar, Northern Territory



**2024 AGPT Program Guide**Program guide

# National application and selection process

There are five key steps to applying and becoming accepted into the RACGP AGPT Program.

#### Stage 1

#### Check your eligibility

Before applying for the AGPT Program, you'll need to check your eligibility using the RACGP AGPT eligibility and application guide.

#### Stage 2

#### Apply and nominate preferences

To apply, you'll need to complete the online application form during the application period at www.racgp. org.au/agpt, providing the relevant supporting documentation and nominating your training pathway, region and, where applicable, subregion preferences.

#### Stage 3

# Pay selection fee, confirm preferences and sit assessments

If your application is deemed eligible, you'll be required to pay the selection fee, confirm preferences and book in for the two selection assessments – the Candidate Assessment and Applied Knowledge Test and the Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs).

#### Stage 4

#### Accept an offer

Whether you are made an offer, and for which training pathway and region and/or subregion, will depend on many factors including meeting eligibility criteria, performance in the assessments, your training region and pathway preferences and being able to meet the requirements of training.

#### Stage 5

#### Prepare for training

After accepting an offer, you'll be asked to complete a series of induction and orientation modules to help us start planning your GP training journey.

#### Step 1: Check your eligibility

Before applying for the AGPT Program, you'll need to check your eligibility, using the eligibility checklist and guidelines on our website. You'll also find information for doctors who completed their primary medical qualification overseas, are on a visa, or were not an Australian citizen or permanent resident at the time of starting their Australian medical degree.

- ✓ You can find key application and selection dates on our website.
- ✓ Use the eligibility checklist to check
  if you're eligible to apply on page 3.

There might be circumstances where although eligible, you might not be able to train with the AGPT Program. This might be because of a Medical Board of Australia requirement for supervision, lack of recent hospital experience, or some conditions on your medical registration. Please contact us for more information.

If you don't meet the eligibility criteria for the AGPT Program, you may be eligible for the RACGP Fellowship Support Program.

#### Step 2: Apply

To apply, you'll need to complete the online application form at www.racgp.org.au/agpt during the application intake period.

In your application, you will be asked to:

- nominate up to four training region and pathway combinations. If your preferred region has subregions, you'll be asked to preference these at the same time.
- provide two referees
- provide supporting documentation
- indicate if you would like to apply for the Rural Generalist Fellowship.

#### Step 3: Pay selection fee, confirm preferences and sit assessments

If you're deemed eligible for the AGPT Program, you'll be invited to participate in the selection process. You'll be asked to pay the \$744 application fee, confirm your training preferences and book in to sit the two assessments – the Candidate Assessment and Applied Knowledge Test and the Multiple Mini Interviews.

#### Confirming your preferences

After the eligibility process is complete and prior to sitting assessments, you'll be able to access a list of training places for each pathway and region, and see the number of eligible applicants who have nominated a preference for these pathways and regions. You can then choose, if you'd like to, to change your preferences.

#### Candidate Applied Knowledge Test

The Candidate Assessment and Applied Knowledge Test (CAAKT) is a computer-based test and features a mixture of knowledge test questions and situational judgement test questions. It's based on the RACGP domains of general practice in the Curriculum and syllabus for Australian General Practice and focuses on the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary to become a GP.

The CAAKT will be held in a test centre in a number of locations, including capital cities as well as major centres outside of capital cities. In some instances, the CAAKT may also be able to be attended overseas. Dates and locations will be available on our **website** prior to each application intake. Please contact us on **becomeagp@racgp.org.au** if you have any difficulties attending the CAAKT.

Further information about the CAAKT, including resources to help you prepare, are available on our website.

#### Online Multiple Mini Interviews

As part of the assessment process, you'll also be required to participate in an online interview.

The interview consist of five common questions delivered in a multi-mini interview (MMI) format. You'll move between stations, answering one question at each station; you'll have several different interviewers and the same amount of time at each station.

Interview questions relate to the **five domains of general practice**, so they cover areas such as communication, ethics, legalities, cultural awareness and professionalism.

Further information about the MMIs, including resources to help you prepare, are available on our website.

#### Step 4: Accept your offer

On conclusion of the selection process, you'll be notified of the outcome by email. You must respond to any training offer in writing within the deadline specified.

The determination of offers will depend on many factors including:

- · meeting eligibility criteria
- your performance in the CAAKT and MMIs
- · your training region and pathway preferences
- · being able to meet the requirements of training.

If you don't receive a training offer after interviewing during this intake, we'll provide you with information about next steps. This will include whether you're eligible to express your interest in any remaining training positions and any future intakes.

#### Step 5: Getting started on GP training

If you're successful in being offered a training place and you accept the offer, you'll be asked to complete a series of activities designed to help us get your GP training journey started.

#### Orientation and induction modules

You'll need to set aside two to three hours to complete the orientation and induction modules and be required to complete information about your previous hospital experience, training intentions and registration details. You'll be asked to submit a current CV, clinical supervisor junior doctor assessments completed during hospital terms and if available, a letter from the hospital confirming the terms you have completed since commencing internship.

#### Induction Training Advisory meeting

Shortly after accepting a training offer, you'll be asked to book in to attend a 30-minute induction meeting to start discussing your training plans.

#### Placement confirmation

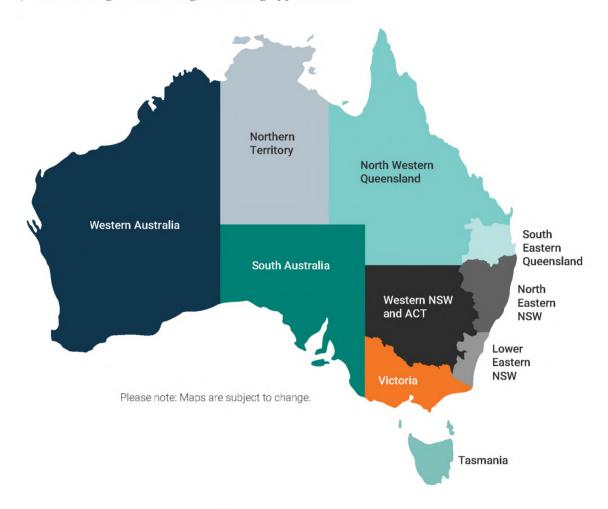
You'll also be asked to participate in a placement confirmation process to advise what type of term you plan to go into, such as a hospital or general practice term.

- If you're planning to enter a hospital term, you'll need to secure this placement separately through the hospital employment process in time for the start of the training year.
- If you're planning to enter a general practice term, you'll need to have met the RACGP's general practice term eligibility requirements.

You'll receive further details about the placement confirmation process after acceptance of an offer.

# Training locations

Across Australia there are 10 different training regions to choose from, each offering a diverse range of training opportunities.



## Training location requirements

As part of the Australian Government and our commitment to ensuring all communities receive the same access to quality primary healthcare, during your training there are certain training location requirements you'll need to meet.

These are determined by:

- ✓ your training pathway (rural or general pathway)
- ✓ your training region and/or subregion

#### General and rural pathways

Within the AGPT Program, there are two pathways – general or rural. The difference between the two is where you can train.

#### General pathway

On the general pathway, you can undertake your training in metropolitan areas and are required to undertake at least 12 months of your training time in:

- ✓ an outer metropolitan location or
- ✓ a rural location or
- ✓ a non-capital city location or
- ✓ in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training post.

It is possible to do two six-month periods in these locations.

If you're offered a general pathway composite position, you'll be required to spend 6 to 12 months in a rural area as part of your training as specified for that region. See our training region pages further in the guide for more information.

#### Rural pathway

On the rural pathway, you'll train in rural areas designated as Modified Monash Model (MMM) 2–7, which range from larger regional towns to more remote areas of Australia.

You can find more information on MMM areas on the **Doctor Connect website**.

Generally, doctors training in rural areas are expected to live in the rural community where they work.

#### 10-year moratorium (Section 19AB of the Act)

Doctors affected by the 10-year moratorium can only train with the rural pathway, unless they have a rural pathway exemption. For more information about the moratorium and pathway eligibility, see our **website**.

#### Training region and/or subregion training location commitments

Within some training regions (and subregions), there may be specific training location commitments that you'll need to meet. These training location commitments will apply for the duration of your training.

If there are any future changes to these commitments, you'll have the choice to either stay with the training location commitments that were in place when you accepted your offer or opt into the changed commitments.

It's important to note that not all regions and subregions offer both general and rural pathway positions.

You can find out more about these requirements on the following pages and on our website.

## Training regions and pathways

Details of training places available within each pathway, region (and where applicable, subregion), will be available on our **website** prior to application intake/s.

You can find maps and details of training location commitments for each region located on the following pages.

Region	Subregions	Rural pathway	General pathway	General pathway - composite
Northern Territory	-	✓	-	-
South Australia	-	✓	✓	✓
Western Australia	-	✓	✓	-
Tasmania	=	✓	-	-
Victoria	Metro East Victoria	-	✓	-
	Metro West Victoria		✓	-
	Metro and Rural South West Victoria	✓	✓	<u>-</u>
	Rural South East Victoria	✓	-	-
	Rural North West Victoria	✓	-	-
	Rural North East Victoria	✓	-	-
South Eastern Queensland	-	✓	✓	-
North Western Queensland	Far North Queensland	. ✓	<b>√</b>	
	North Queensland			<del>2</del> >
	Central Queensland			
	South Queensland			
Lower Eastern NSW	Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney	-	✓	✓
	South Eastern NSW	✓	✓	
North Eastern NSW	Hunter, Manning and Central Coast	✓	✓	✓
	Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney	-	✓	✓
	New England/Northwest	✓	-	-
	North Coast	✓	✓	-
Western NSW and ACT	Murrumbidgee and ACT	✓	✓	✓
	Western NSW	✓	-	-

Places are subject to change

#### Transferring between training regions and pathways

It is possible to transfer between regions and pathways; however, an application must be supported by evidence of extenuating and unforeseen circumstances that justify a transfer. The RACGP will provide individual case management support to the registrar who requests a transfer to optimise the outcome for the registrar, whether the request to transfer is granted or denied.

For more information about transfers, refer to the AGPT Registrar Training Handbook.

# Explore our training regions

#### Northern Territory training region

General practice training in the Northern Territory is highly rewarding, adventurous and unlike anywhere else in Australia. Home to natural wonders, such as Uluru, Kata Tjuta, and the Kakadu National Park, you will be able to use your rural GP skillset to make a real difference to the health of local communities.



#### **Training location commitment**

• **Rural pathway:** In the rural pathway in this region, you will undertake all of your general practice community training in rural MMM2-7 Northern Territory locations, with at least six months in an MMM6-7 location.

Visit our website for more information about training in the Northern Territory.



#### Tasmania training region

Tasmania is a captivating and diverse region of awe-inspiring scenery, exotic wildlife and rich history, combining adventure with tranquillity. One of the world's largest islands, it is also known for having the cleanest air on the planet.

The entire state of Tasmania is classified as rural for GP training purposes. This means you can enjoy the benefits of a rural pathway while also having access to bustling cultural centres, such as Hobart, Launceston and Devonport.



#### **Training location commitment**

• **Rural pathway:** In the rural pathway in this region, you will undertake all of your general practice community training in rural MMM2-7 Tasmanian locations.

Visit our website for more information about training in Tasmania.



#### South Australia training region

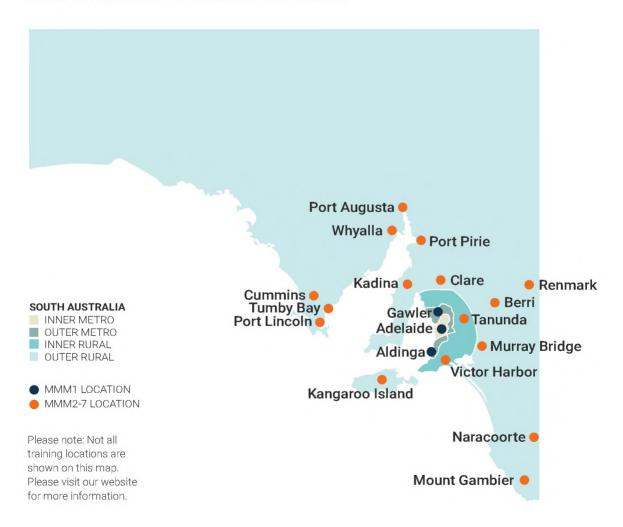
Home to 1.8 million people, South Australia is well known for its vineyards and for having the most accessible outback in Australia, the Flinders Ranges. In addition to the capital city, Adelaide, large regional areas include Mount Gambier in the state's southeast and Whyalla, Port Lincoln and Port Augusta on the Eyre Peninsula.



#### **Training location commitment**

- **General pathway non-composite:** If you're training in the general pathway, you will undertake a minimum of 12 calendar months in an outer metropolitan or rural (MMM2-7) South Australian location, or an approved Aboriginal health post, during your extended skills or general practice community training.
- **General pathway composite**: As a general pathway composite registrar, you will undertake a minimum six months of your general practice community training in a rural MMM2-7 South Australian location within your first 12 months of general practice community training. You must also meet the AGPT training location commitments (see page 22).
- Rural pathway: If you're training in the rural pathway, you will undertake all of your general practice community training in rural MMM2-7 South Australian locations. A minimum 12 calendar months of this time must be spent in an outer rural location.

Visit our website for more information about South Australia.



#### Western Australia training region

The largest state in Australia, Western Australia, has a unique and varied landscape of farmlands, woodlands, white sand beaches and outback plains. Western Australia provides endless opportunities for you to develop your career and skills in diverse environments and communities.

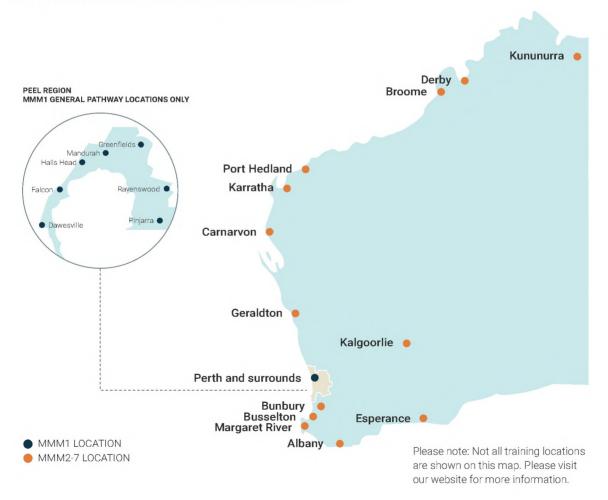


#### **Training location commitment**

- General pathway: If you're training in the general pathway, you will undertake a minimum of 12
  calendar months in an outer metropolitan or rural (MMM2-7) Western Australian location, or an
  approved Aboriginal health post, during your extended skills or general practice community training.
- **Rural pathway:** If you're training in the rural pathway, you will undertake all of your general practice community GP training in rural MMM2-7 Western Australian locations.

In Western Australia, if you are a PGY3 or below in the year that you enter the AGPT Program, you are expected to start in your hospital training time year and enter community general practice in your second year of the AGPT Program. Exceptions to this are available on application. If you are PGY4 or above, and you meet the hospital experience required for recognition of prior learning and experience (RPLE), you can apply for RPLE to start your first year of the AGPT Program in community general practice in a recognised area of need.

Visit our website for more information about Western Australia.



#### Victoria training region

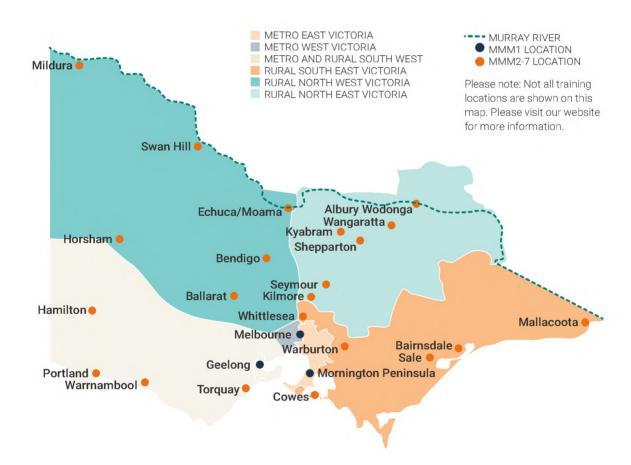
Victoria is marked by mountains, national parks, wineries and stunning beaches. In addition to its natural wonders, such as the Great Ocean Road, you will enjoy training in a state that is renowned for its vibrant, culturally diverse food and entertainment scene.

#### **Training location commitment**

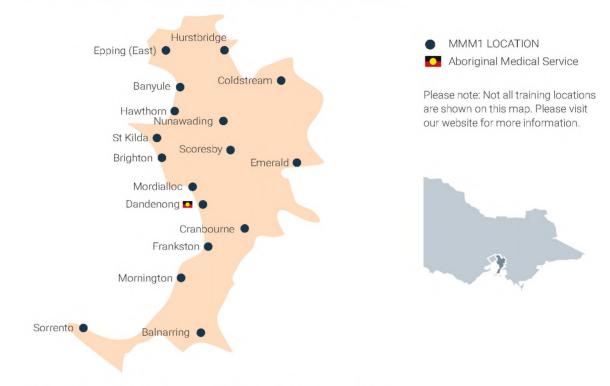
- **General pathway:** If you're training in the general pathway, you will undertake a minimum of 12 calendar months in an outer metropolitan or rural (MMM2-7) location, or an approved Aboriginal health post, during your extended skills or general practice community training within your allocated subregion or a rural Victorian location.
- **Rural pathway:** If you're training in the rural pathway, you will undertake all of your general practice community training in rural MMM2-7 locations within your allocated subregion.

During the application process, you'll be able to nominate your subregion preferences which will be considered as part of the offer determination process (see page 20).

You can explore the Victorian subregions in more detail in the following pages.



#### Metro East Victoria subregion | Victoria training region



#### Metro West Victoria subregion | Victoria training region



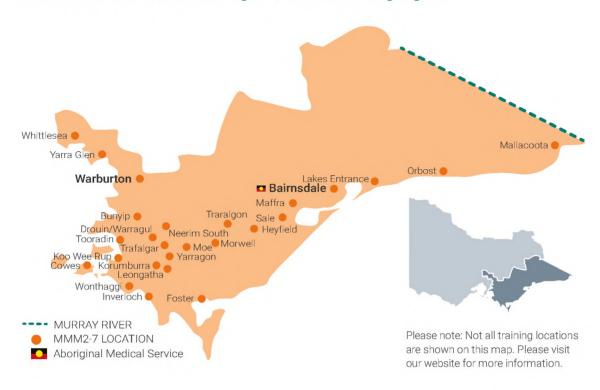
#### Rural North East Victoria subregion | Victoria training region



#### Metro and Rural South West subregion | Victoria training region



#### Rural South East Victoria subregion | Victoria training region



#### Rural North West Victoria subregion | Victoria training region



#### Queensland

Queensland offers an inspiring array of landscapes and opportunities to further your GP career. With renowned beaches, mountains and the Australian outback, this colourful state offers stunning natural beauty and unforgettable potential training posts.

In Queensland you can choose to apply to train in two training regions:

- South Eastern Queensland general and rural pathway
- North Western Queensland general and rural pathway



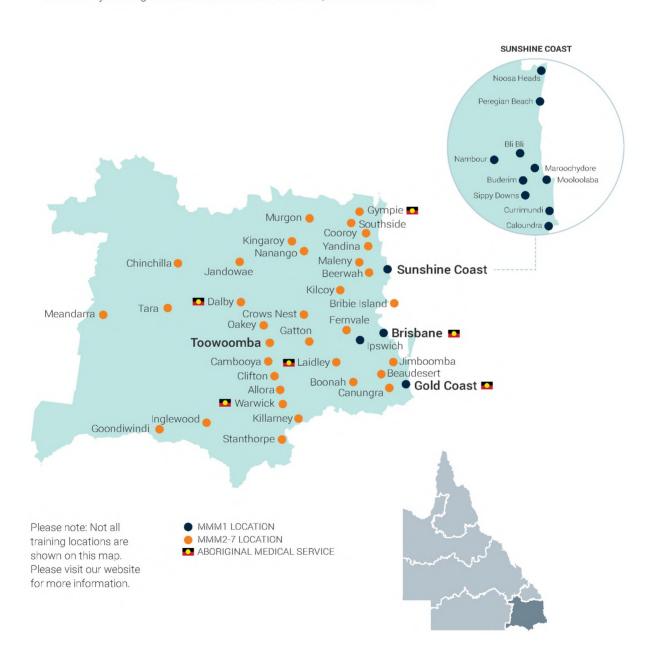


#### South Eastern Queensland training region

The South Eastern Queensland training region stretches from the QLD-NSW border in the North, to Gympie in the South, and Glenmorgan and Taroom in the west, offering a breadth of medical experience.

#### **Training location commitment**

- **General pathway:** If you're training in the general pathway, you will undertake a minimum of 12 calendar months in an outer metropolitan or rural (MMM2-7) South Eastern Queensland location, or an approved Aboriginal health post, during your extended skills or general practice community training.
- **Rural pathway:** If you're training in the rural pathway, you will undertake all of your general practice community training in rural MMM2-7 South Eastern Queensland locations.



#### North Western Queensland training region

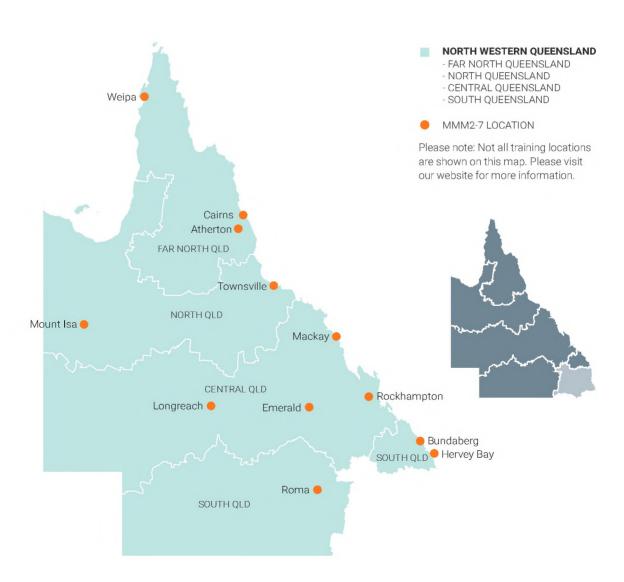
There are four subregions in the North Western Queensland training region:

- · Far North Queensland
- North Queensland
- · Central Oueensland
- · South Queensland

You will be asked to nominate your training region preferences after offer acceptance.

#### **Training location commitment**

- **General pathway:** You'll undertake all of your general practice community training in rural MMM2-7 locations within your allocated subregion.
- **Rural pathway:** You'll undertake all of your general practice community training in rural MMM2-7 locations within your allocated subregion.



# New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory

New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory is distinguished by the major cities -Sydney and Canberra, surfing beaches, national parks and rich farmland. Among its natural wonders are the Blue Mountains, rainforests, rock formations and caves. It is home to heritage-listed mining villages, opal mining fields and many wineries.



In New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory you can choose to apply to train in three training regions:

- North Eastern NSW general and rural pathway
- Lower Eastern NSW general and rural pathway
- Western NSW and ACT general and rural pathway



### North Eastern NSW training region

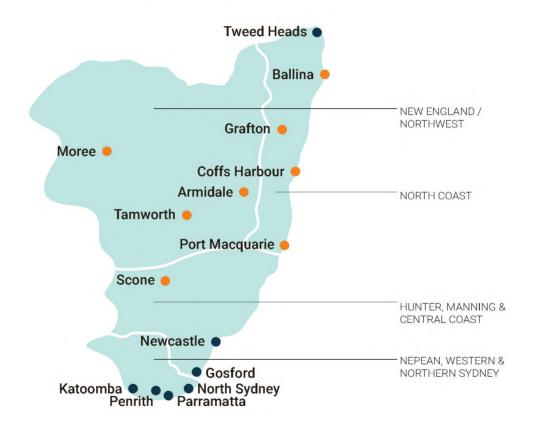
The North Eastern training region extends from the NSW-QLD border to Sydney Harbour and the Parramatta River and encompasses the spectacular North Coast and scenic New England/Northwest.

Within the North Eastern NSW training region there are four subregions offering a variety of pathways:

- Hunter, Manning and Central Coast general, general composite and rural pathways
- Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney general and general composite pathways
- New England/Northwest rural pathway
- North Coast general and rural pathways

During the application process, you'll be able to nominate your subregion preferences which will be considered as part of the offer determination process (see page 20).

Maps and details of training location commitments for each subregion are provided in the following pages.



#### NORTH EASTERN NSW

- New England/Northwest
- North Coast
- Hunter, Manning and Central Coast
- Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney

Please note: Not all training locations are shown on this map. Please visit our website for more information.





### New England/Northwest subregion | North Eastern NSW training region

#### Training location commitment:

• **Rural pathway:** If you're training in the rural pathway, you will undertake all of your general practice community GP training in rural MMM2-7 locations within this subregion, including a minimum six months FTE GP term training in Group A.

You can train in a group longer than the minimum time specified as long as you meet your training location commitment and RACGP requirements.



### North Coast subregion | North Eastern NSW training region

#### **Training location commitment:**

- **General pathway:** If you're training in a general pathway position, you will complete all your general practice community GP training in this subregion including a minimum six months FTE GP term training in Group A.
- Rural pathway: You will undertake all of your general practice community GP training in rural MMM2-7 locations within this subregion, including a minimum six months FTE GP term training in Group A. Note: some locations in this subregion are MMM1.

You can train in a group longer than the minimum time specified as long as you meet your training location commitment and RACGP requirements.

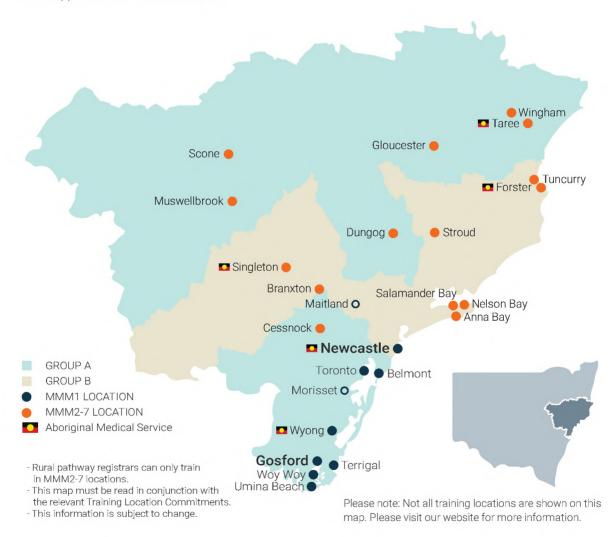


#### Hunter, Manning and Central Coast subregion | North Eastern NSW training region

#### **Training location commitment:**

- **General pathway Non-composite:** If you're training in a general pathway non-composite position, you will complete all your general practice community GP training in this subregion including a minimum six months FTE GP term training in Group A.
- General pathway composite: If you're training in a general pathway composite position, you will undertake six months FTE of your general practice community training in the New England/Northwest subregion during your general practice community training. Remaining terms can be undertaken in any grouping in the Hunter, Manning and Central Coast subregion.
- Rural pathway: If you're training in the rural pathway, you will complete all your general practice community GP training in this subregion including a minimum six months FTE general practice community training in Group A. Rural pathway registrars can only undertake their GP term training in rural (MMM2-7) locations. Note: some locations in this subregion are MMM1.

You can train in a group longer than the minimum time specified as long as you meet your training location commitment and RACGP requirements.



# Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney subregion | North Eastern NSW training region

#### Training location commitment:

- General pathway Non-composite: If you're training a general pathway non-composite position, you will complete all your general practice community GP training in this subregion including a minimum six months FTE general practice community GP training in groups A, B and C OR 12 months FTE GP term training in Group A and six months FTE GP term training in Group B. You must also meet the AGPT Training Location Commitments (see page 22).
- General pathway Composite: If you're training in a general pathway composite position, you will
  undertake a minimum six-months FTE general practice community GP training in Western NSW,
  Murrumbidgee or New England/Northwest subregions during your general practice community GP
  training. Remaining GP terms can be undertaken in any grouping in the Nepean, Western and Northern
  Sydney subregion, however you must also meet the AGPT Training Location Commitments (see page 23).

You can train in a group longer than the minimum time specified as long as you meet your training location commitment and RACGP requirements.



### Lower Eastern NSW training region

The Lower Eastern NSW training region encompasses Sydney's CBD in the north, stretching down to the Victorian border in the south. Extending into South Western Sydney, the South Coast and Snowy Mountains, the region offers a diverse range of clinical training opportunities.

Within the Lower Eastern NSW training region there are two subregions offering a variety of pathways:

- Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney general, general composite and rural pathways
- South Eastern NSW general and rural pathways

During the application process, you'll be able to nominate your subregion preferences which will be considered as part of the offer determination process (see page 20).

Maps and details of training location commitments for each subregion are provided in the following pages.

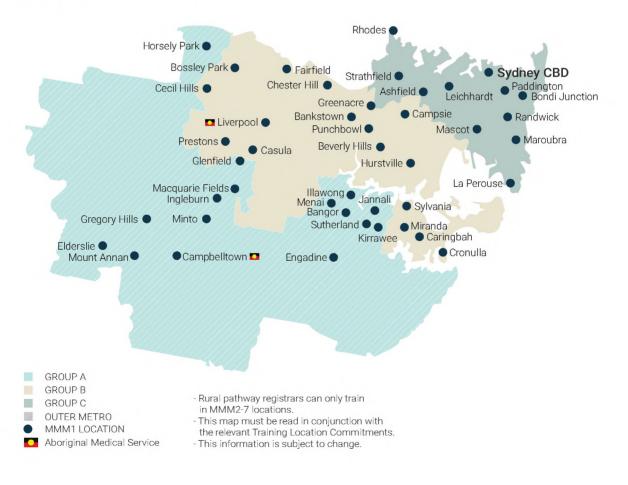


# Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney subregion | Lower Eastern NSW training region

#### Training location commitment:

- General pathway Non-composite: If you're training a general pathway non-composite position, you will complete all your general practice community GP training in this subregion including a minimum six months FTE general practice community GP training in groups A and B. You must also meet the AGPT Training Location Commitments (see page 22).
- General pathway Composite: If you're training in a general pathway composite position, you will undertake a minimum six-months FTE general practice community GP training in Western NSW, Murrumbidgee or New England/Northwest subregions during your general practice community GP training. Remaining general practice community GP training can be undertaken in any grouping in the Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney subregion, however you must also meet the AGPT Training Location Commitments (see page 22).

You can train in a group longer than the minimum time specified as long as you meet your training location commitment and RACGP requirements.



#### South Eastern NSW subregion | Lower Eastern NSW training region

#### **Training location commitment:**

- **General pathway:** If you're training a general pathway position, you will complete all your general practice community GP training in this subregion including a minimum six months FTE general practice community GP training in Group B or C.
- Rural pathway: If you're training in the rural pathway, you will complete all your general practice community GP training in this subregion in group B and/or C. Rural pathway registrars can only undertake their general practice community training in rural (MMM2-7) locations. Note: some locations in this subregion are MMM1.

You can train in a group longer than the minimum time specified as long as you meet your training location commitment and RACGP requirements.



### Western NSW and ACT training region

The Western NSW and ACT training region is known for its diversity, encompassing our nation's capital, Canberra, as well as large regional centres such as Wagga Wagga, Dubbo, Orange, Broken Hill and smaller rural communities.

Within the Western NSW and ACT training region there are two subregions offering a variety of pathways:

- Murrumbidgee and ACT general, general composite and rural pathways
- Western NSW rural pathway

During the application process, you'll be able to nominate your subregion preferences which will be considered as part of the offer determination process (see page 20).

Maps and details of training location commitments for each subregion are provided in the following pages.



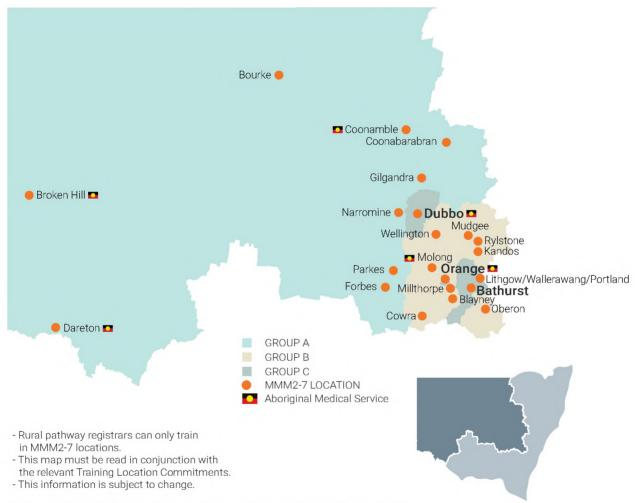
### Western NSW subregion | Western NSW and ACT training region

#### **Training location commitment**

• Rural pathway: If you're training in the rural pathway, you will complete all your general practice community training in this subregion including a minimum six months FTE general practice community training in Group A, OR 12 months FTE GP term training in Group B.

You can train in a group longer than the minimum time specified as long as you meet your training location commitment and RACGP requirements.

You may also be able to substitute groups with terms in accredited Aboriginal Medical Services and research based approved AGPT academic terms.



Please note: Not all training locations are shown on this map. Please visit our website for more information.

#### Murrumbidgee and ACT subregion | Western NSW and ACT training region

#### **Training location commitment:**

- **General pathway**: If you're training a general pathway non-composite position, you will complete all your general practice community GP training in this subregion including a minimum six months FTE GP term training in Group A OR 12 months FTE GP term training in Group B.
- General pathway composite: If you're training in a general pathway composite position, you will undertake six months FTE of your general practice community training in a rural MMM2-7 South Eastern NSW location. Remaining terms can be undertaken in any grouping in the Murrumbidgee and ACT subregion. You must also meet the AGPT Training Location Commitments (see page 22).
- Rural pathway: If you're training in the rural pathway, you will complete all your general practice community training in this subregion including a minimum six months FTE general practice community training in Group A. Rural pathway registrars can only undertake their GP term training in rural (MMM2-7) locations. Note: some locations in this subregion, such as the ACT, are MMM1.



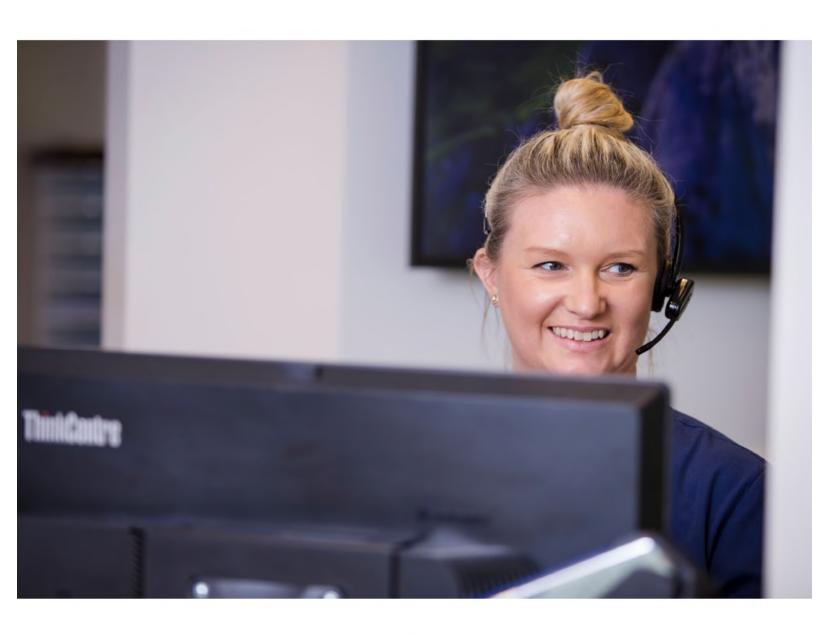
Please note: Not all training locations are shown on this map. Please visit our website for more information.

# Do you have a question? We can help

If you have any queries about the AGPT Program, eligibility or how to apply, please do not hesitate to contact us on:

Phone: 1800 472 247

Email: becomeagp@racgp.org.au







Healthy Profession. Healthy Australia.