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## Australian General Practice Training

# RECORD APPLICATIONS FOR GP TRAINING IN 2009

A record number of doctors has applied for the 2009 intake of the Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPT), making it highly likely all 600 available places will be filled next year.

The AGPT Program first round selection process, conducted from 22 May to 23 June 2008, also resulted in a pleasing increase in the number of doctors applying for the rural training pathway, up from 262 in 2008 to 316 for 2009.

The number of first round AGPT applications from eligible doctors - 733 for 2009 – is 20% higher than the number for 2008 (609) and 9% higher than the previous record number of first round applications (671) in 2007.

Associate Professor Simon Willcock, Chair of General Practice Education and Training Limited (GPET), which manages the AGPT Program, said GPET had put additional strategies in place aimed at increasing applications for 2009 given recent increases in medical school graduates.

“A 20% increase in applicants over last year is very pleasing and suggests general practice is increasing in popularity as a vocational choice among medical graduates,” Prof Willcock said.

“It is also gratifying to see a vote of confidence in rural practice from this year’s applicants.”

“The increased interest in general practice training indicates that more than the 600 available places could be filled in 2009.”

**For more information please contact Lauren Kennelly on  
(02) 6263 6782 or 0438 515 843**