Applications for entry into the AGPT Program open in April. A full list of key dates can be found on the AGPT website agpt.com.au

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racgp.org.au
acrrm.org.au

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Introduction

This handbook gives an overview of the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program. It aims to help you to decide about a career in general practice and provide information on how to apply for the AGPT Program. The handbook summarises how different organisations provide AGPT registrars with high quality, well-supported training.

We recommend that you supplement this handbook with further reading and discussions about general practice, and information from the general practice colleges and general practice regional training organisations.

PLEASE NOTE:
The information in this Handbook is correct at the time of publication. Prospective applicants should regularly check the AGPT website (agpt.com.au) and read the AGPT Eligibility Guide for updated information regarding eligibility requirements and regularly check the college websites for information regarding their respective selection processes.
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WHAT IS GENERAL PRACTICE?
The Medical Board of Australia recognises general practice as a medical specialty. The Australian Medical Council has accredited the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) to train for general practice. The RACGP says:

“General practice provides person centred, continuing, comprehensive and coordinated whole person health care to individuals and families in their communities. As a sector, general practice, its practice teams and their primary health care relationships comprise the foundations of an effective health care system.”


ACRRM added that “general practitioners can deliver services in the ambulatory care setting, the home, hospital, long-term residential care facilities or by electronic means—wherever and however services are needed by the patient.”


College websites provide further information on their perspectives of general practice in Australia. General practice registrars can apply to train with one or both colleges.

A career in general practice
The characteristics of general practice (Table 1) make it the first choice of specialty for many new graduates. The breadth and scope of practice treating patients of any age and gender creates enormous variety. Seeing patients through all stages of illness is intellectually challenging and being there through the highs and lows of someone’s life, can give immense job satisfaction. General practice suits doctors who want to practice holistically, in the community. Each day general practitioners investigate and analyse how culture, psychological and sociological circumstances affect people’s health and experience of disease, and then use that understanding to empower them to lead healthier lives.

In response to the needs of their community, and to complement the breadth of general practice, many general practitioners (GPs) develop areas of specific interest. For example, providing emergency, anaesthetic and/or obstetric services in rural hospitals, overseeing renal dialysis in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities or working with refugees or homeless people in urban areas. Other areas of interest include teaching and research, or medico-politics. GPs value their flexibility to develop new skills over their professional lifetime.

General practice, in comparison to other specialities, usually allows for balance between work and family life and also has flexible training options as much of the training program can be completed part-time.

As well as reading about general practice, we recommend you meet with current AGPT registrars and GPs to hear their personal stories and views on general practice as a career. If you have limited experience of the Australian healthcare system, we suggest that you ask an experienced GP if you can observe their practice. On average, training takes three to four years so it is worth the investment in time to make sure general practice is right for you.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1: TWELVE CHARACTERISTICS OF GENERAL PRACTICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. is normally the point of first medical contact within the health care system, providing open and unlimited access to its users, dealing with all health problems regardless of the age, sex, or any other characteristic of the person concerned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. makes efficient use of health care resources through co-ordinating care, working with other professionals in the primary care setting, and by managing the interface with other specialities taking an advocacy role for the patient when needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. develops a person-centred approach, orientated to the individual, his/her family, and their community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. promotes patient empowerment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. has a unique consultation process, which establishes a relationship over time, through effective communication between doctor and patient.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. is responsible for the provision of longitudinal continuity of care as determined by the needs of the patient.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. has a specific decision making process determined by the prevalence and incidence of illness in the community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. manages simultaneously both acute and chronic health problems of individual patients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. manages illness which presents in an undifferentiated way at an early stage in its development, which may require urgent intervention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. promotes health and well-being both by appropriate and effective intervention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. has a specific responsibility for the health of the community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. deals with health problems in their physical, psychological, social, cultural and existential dimensions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ref: The Key Features of the Discipline of General Practice The Role of the General Practitioner
DIAGRAM 1: THE AUSTRALIAN GENERAL PRACTICE TRAINING PROGRAM

Australian Government

Australian General Practice Training Program

Regional Training Organisations

Vocational Training

Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM)

Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP)

Fellowship in Advanced Rural Practice (FARGP)

Specialist (General Practitioner) Registration
**DIAGRAM 2: AUSTRALIAN GENERAL PRACTICE TRAINING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>FACRRM QUALIFICATION (ACRRM)</th>
<th>FRACGP QUALIFICATION (RACGP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Core Clinical Training Time</td>
<td>Hospital Training Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year Two**

- **Primary Rural & Remote Training**
  - 24 months

**Year Three**

- **Advanced Specialised Training**
  - 12 months

**Year Four**

- **Note:** Fourth year is for FACRRM & FARGP candidates

| FACRRM* | FRACGP* |

+ There may be flexibility in the order in which training terms may be undertaken.

* Leading to specialist (general practice) registration.

** The FARGP is a specialist twelve month program for registrars wishing to specialise in rural general practice.

There are instances where training time and experience for one fellowship may be recognised towards another or subsequent fellowship. Please refer to the relevant college or regional training organisation.
Training overview

General practice training requires hospital and community experience, and follows standards set by each college.

WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN GENERAL PRACTICE TRAINING PROGRAM?
The AGPT Program is the leading training program for medical graduates wishing to pursue a career in general practice in Australia. Entry to the program is becoming increasingly competitive. The Australian Government currently funds 1,500 training positions per year.

Depending on the fellowship program chosen, the program takes three or four years full-time and is summarised in Diagram 2.

During training, AGPT registrars work in different training locations, including teaching hospitals, and rural and urban practices. AGPT registrars are encouraged to undertake training in specialised medical centres that provide health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people from socially disadvantaged groups. AGPT registrars also acquire experience in extended skills/advanced specialised training and can pursue other areas of relevant interest such as procedural general practice and academic posts.

Training delivery

As an AGPT registrar you are responsible for fulfilling the training requirements for the college of your choice which the training program facilitates you to achieve.

GP training uses an apprenticeship model, you train as a GP under the supervision from an experienced and accredited colleague. Clinical experience is the best teacher and you are expected to glean as much as you can from the patients you see and those around you. This practice-based learning is supplemented and consolidated through discussion with your general practice supervisor, teaching visits from medical educators, workshops with your peers, and personal study.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
The Commonwealth Department of Health in Canberra manages the AGPT Program.

THE GENERAL PRACTICE COLLEGES
The RACGP and ACRRM set the curriculum and vocational training standards for AGPT registrars and AGPT registrars must be enrolled in one or both of these programs. For the 2018 cohort onwards, the RACGP and ACRRM will each run separate selection processes for entry into the AGPT Program.

Each college has an online learning platform and runs educational sessions for GP registrars. The colleges accredit and monitor the Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) to ensure that vocational training meets their curriculum, standards and delegation agreements.

Each college assesses and awards fellowship certification that qualifies registrars to apply for specialist registration as a general practitioner in Australia.

APPLICATION FEE FOR ENTRY INTO THE AGPT PROGRAM
Applicants seeking to apply for a placement on the AGPT Program in 2018 onwards will be required to pay an application fee. The fee will be collected by each college.
TRAINING REGIONS

A training region is the geographical area in which an AGPT registrar completes their AGPT training. There are eleven training regions (see the training regions map on page 22). Some RTOs divide regions into further sub-regions and AGPT registrars complete all their training within these sub-regions.

REGIONAL TRAINING ORGANISATIONS

The Department of Health contracts nine RTOs to deliver training across the 11 training regions according to standards set by the colleges. RTOs’ roles include:

- Supporting and advising AGPT registrars about the AGPT Program and its requirements
- Working with each AGPT registrar to plan their training and learning
- Supporting and accrediting general practice supervisors, general practices, Aboriginal medical services, and other medical facilities within their region to train AGPT registrars
- Managing the allocation and placement of AGPT registrars to undertake their training within these accredited facilities
- Engaging and supporting cultural educators and mentors to ensure each AGPT registrar can provide culturally appropriate care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Organising education and training events and activities, and providing resources for AGPT registrars and general practice supervisors
- Integrating general practice training with other educational and professional organisations, such as universities, Primary Health Networks and Rural Workforce Agencies to ensure future GPs have the skills to meet community needs.

When you apply for the AGPT Program you nominate where you wish to train. Consider how the experience available in each region matches your interests and learning needs. You are encouraged to contact the RTO, to assist you with your decision (see contact details on page 23).

You are required to remain in your selected training region for the whole training program. Transfers may be possible in exceptional circumstances. For further information please read the AGPT Transfer Policy at agpt.com.au.

TRAINING PATHWAYS

Candidates applying for the AGPT Program elect to train on either the Rural or General Pathway. Most RTOs offer both General and Rural Pathway places.

The pathway system assists in ensuring at least fifty per cent of training on the AGPT Program is delivered in rural and remote areas, to meet community need. The Australian Standard Geographical Classification—Remoteness Areas (ASGC-RA) system determines what constitutes urban, regional, rural and remote areas. These pathways determine the area where registrars train, not the content of their general practice training or their college fellowship program.

AGPT registrars’ training pathway does not affect the duration of training or where you can work later as a GP with specialist GP registration. RTOs manage the distribution of training placements across their training region.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION—REMITENESS AREAS SYSTEM

The Australian Bureau of Statistics uses Census data to develop the Australian Standard Geographical Classification—Remoteness Area (ASGC-RA) system. The ASGC-RA divides regions that share remoteness characteristics into RA groups. RA 1 is major cities and can be defined as urban locations; RA 2–5 are grouped in progressively more remote locations, and can be defined as regional or remote.
Registrars on the General Pathway can train in RA 1–5 locations.
Registrars on the Rural Pathway must train in RA 2–5 locations.
For more information about how the ASGC-RA categories are calculated or to look up the RA classification of a location, please visit doctorconnect.gov.au > ‘Search the map’.

GENERAL PATHWAY
Registrars on the General Pathway must undertake twelve months of their training in a prescribed location. The location options available to registrars include:

- Twelve months training in a rural location classified ASGC-RA 2–5
- Twelve months in an outer metropolitan location
- Twelve months training in a non-capital city classified as ASGC-RA 1
- Twelve months training in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training post in an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service or other approved Aboriginal Medical Service; or
- Twelve months training comprising two of the following:
  - Six months training in an outer metropolitan location
  - Six months training in a rural location classified ASGC-RA 2–5
  - Six months training in a non-capital city classified ASGC-RA 1
  - Six months training in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training post in an Aboriginal community controlled health service or other approved Aboriginal medical service.

For further information see the AGPT Training Obligations Policy at agpt.com.au and search ‘Policies’.

RURAL PATHWAY
The Rural Pathway offers a range of benefits and opportunities commensurate with the work of rural general practice for example, access to procedural training. The Rural Pathway encompasses the majority of Australia, including towns just outside of major capital cities to the outback and coastal regions.

Doctors who apply for the Rural Pathway in the AGPT Program can enrol with either of the colleges or both.

Overseas-trained doctors (OTDs) and foreign graduates of an accredited medical school (FGAMS) who are subject to Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act 1973 (the 10-year moratorium) are ineligible for the General Pathway and must train on the Rural Pathway.

SECTION 19AB OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE ACT 1973
Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act 1973 prescribes a 10-year moratorium for some doctors seeking to practise in Australia. This Australian Government policy requires OTDs and FGAMS to work in a district of workforce shortage for ten years in order to access Medicare arrangements. Section 19AB applies for a period of ten years (or may be scaled back depending on remoteness) starting from the date a doctor first gains medical registration in Australia, which includes provisional or limited registration.

For more information visit doctorconnect.gov.au > ‘First steps’ > ‘Medicare provider number legislation’ or contact the Department of Health at 19AB@health.gov.au
Training qualifications

The AGPT Program prepares registrars to undertake Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM) and/or Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP). Both fellowships lead to specialist (GP) registration and the ability to work unsupervised as a GP anywhere in Australia.

The RACGP also offers advanced rural training through concurrent participation in the fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP). The FARGP cannot be undertaken as a stand-alone general practice qualification. For more information on the FARGP, please email fargp@racgp.org.au or call the RACGP—Rural on 1800 636 764.

Prerequisites for the FACRRM and FRACGP are:

- satisfactorily completing the required period of training, three years full-time training for the FRACGP and four years training for the FACRRM (see Diagram 1: Australian General Practice Training, page 6)
- satisfactorily meeting the education requirements of the AGPT Program
- passing the ACRRM and/or RACGP assessments.

For further information on the FRACGP and/or FACRRM visit the college websites:

RACGP: racgp.org.au > ‘Becoming a GP’ > ‘Vocational Training Pathway’
ACRRM: acrrm.org.au > ‘Training towards fellowship’

Dual fellowships

Registrars can undertake dual fellowships with both colleges in the same training region on the same pathway. Applicants wishing to pursue dual fellowship will be required to apply to both colleges, pay both colleges’ application fees and be successful in both colleges’ selection process for the AGPT Program in the same year. Dual fellowship training must also be concurrent and registrars will need to carefully plan their training and assessment requirements with their RTO. The full requirements of both ACRRM and RACGP programs, including all assessment requirements for both colleges, must be met in order to achieve both fellowships.
Training requirements in more detail

MANDATORY HOSPITAL ROTATIONS

Certain hospital rotations must be completed by doctors in their postgraduate years. These mandatory hospital rotations do not have to be completed before application and entry into the AGPT Program. Where possible all rotations should be completed prior to the second year of the AGPT Program. The following is a guide to the rotations required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate Year (PGY 1)—Rotations required to achieve general registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Medicine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate Year (PGY 2) or later—fellowship requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RACGP:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACRRM:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refer to the relevant college documents below and ask the RTO in your preferred training region for more detailed information:


**PLEASE NOTE:**
If a rotation is not completed, please contact the regional training organisation in your preferred training region or the relevant college for further information on alternatives approaches to gain these skills.

**ACRRM**
- Phone: 1800 223 226 (Int: +61 7 3105 8200)
- Email: training@acrrm.org.au
- Website: [acrrm.org.au](http://acrrm.org.au)

**RACGP**
- Phone: 1800 626 901 (Int: +61 3 8699 0454)
- Email: racgpeducation@racgp.org.au
- Website: [racgp.org.au](http://racgp.org.au)
DR REBEKAH WEBB

General practice appeals to me as it allows me to provide continuity of care and health promotion to patients from ‘cradle to grave’. I like that general practice offers me the opportunity to practice ‘good news’ medicine, such as providing preventative care, immunisations and antenatal care.

In my registrar training, I have enjoyed making small, but also very important differences for my patients and their families’ health and wellbeing. I have felt very well supported by my registrar training with Sturt Fleurieu/GPEx, by my medical educator and supervisors.

I’ve always been attracted to general practice as my specialty and RACGP fellowship offered me the resources, education and social support I needed to achieve this.
Australian Defence Force doctors

Both colleges and all training regions can accommodate Australian Defence Force (ADF) doctors. ADF doctors apply for the AGPT Program and have the same educational requirements as non-ADF AGPT registrars. ADF registrars are required to undertake a period of full-time civilian general practice training in conjunction with their military training. This training can be undertaken as a composite term of civilian and military posts.

ADF doctors applying for the AGPT Program are encouraged to speak to the RTO in their preferred training region to discuss training options. Because of the service demands on ADF registrars, it is recommended that where possible they undertake a full-time, civilian core general practice or primary rural and remote training term (see Diagram 2: Australian General Practice Training page 7) during their PGY 2 year. Ideally, to meet the general service requirements placed on ADF registrars, this unit would be undertaken in a rural setting to provide the registrar with more exposure to the differing responsibilities rural general practice and/or rural and remote medicine entails, including:

- Decision-making
- Leadership
- Autonomy
- Teamwork
- Coordination skills
- Procedural skills.

For more information regarding general practice in the ADF see AGPT Training Obligations Policy at agpt.com.au or contact:

Medical Officer Career and Professional Development Committee (MOPCDC) Secretariat
Joint Health Command
CP3-6-160, Campbell Park Offices
PO Box 7912
CANBERRA BC, ACT 2610
E: mopcdc.secretariat@defence.gov.au

Rural generalist doctors

Doctors enrolled in a state or territory rural generalist program are required to apply for the AGPT Program in the same way as non-rural generalist doctors.

AGPT training positions are not guaranteed for rural generalist doctors.

If successful in obtaining a place in the AGPT Program rural generalist doctors are required to meet the same education and training requirements as non-rural generalist AGPT registrars.

For information about the rural generalist program in your state or territory please contact your relevant state health department or employer.
Advanced specialised training or extended skills

The RACGP and ACRRM require AGPT registrars to choose specific areas as an extended skill and/or advanced specialised training term. Depending on the registrar’s preferred fellowship pathway/s, the following options available include:

• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
• Academic general practice
• Anaesthetics
• Palliative care
• Mental health
• Skin cancer medicine
• Sports medicine.

For a full list of skills training options contact the RTO in your preferred training region. For details of requirements for each college fellowship, visit the ACRRM and RACGP websites (acrrm.org.au and racgp.org.au).
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH TRAINING

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is an important aspect of general practice training. The Department of Health, together with both colleges and RTOs, work in consultation with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to contribute to the Government’s commitment ‘Closing the Gap’. It aims to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders’ access to appropriate and holistic health care.

All AGPT registrars must meet the requirements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Statement (contained in the RACGP and ACRRM curricula) to complete training.

Registrars are encouraged and supported to undertake further training in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health settings in urban, rural and remote areas.

BENEFITS OF AN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POST

A post offers AGPT registrars the opportunity to develop a range of clinical and professional skills that includes:

- Working as part of a multidisciplinary health care team to manage clinical, social and emotional issues and provide holistic primary health care;
- Chronic disease management;
- Understanding cultural protocols and communicating complex health issues;
- Focusing on population and public health; and
- Health promotion within a culturally safe context.

For further information please contact the Department of Health, GP Training Policy section at agpteducation@health.gov.au

DR KUDNARTO WATSON—ABORIGINAL HEALTH TRAINING POST

General practice offers a career that can be moulded to be what you want it to be. I don’t believe that anyone could not enjoy general practice because it can take you in so many different directions.

As an Aboriginal person, it is so rewarding for me to be able to work within my community. I have always felt so passionately about improving the health of my people.

I am able to practice a more holistic style of medicine working in Aboriginal health. My role not only involves treating medical conditions but often involves a degree of social work to solve difficult problems to try and give patients the best access to health care.

I would recommend to every registrar to do an Aboriginal health post no matter what their background is and what their interests are because the reality is, if you are working in general practice you will be treating Aboriginal people in small or large numbers.

Doctors working in Aboriginal health services are welcomed by the service and the community. Although the work can be challenging, you really have the opportunity to make a significant difference to the lives of your patients and the community in general.
Academic posts

Evidence is the foundation of everyday general practice. GPs and registrars need to be able to filter, critically appraise, interpret and apply the information available to them. The AGPT Program offers the opportunity to undertake part-time training in an academic post in conjunction with part-time clinical training. This comprises an approved general practice placement and salaried research and teaching in an academic institution.

During an academic post, registrars develop skills in research, teaching, project work and critical evaluation of research relevant to the discipline of general practice.

Some examples of previous academic post projects:

- What are the challenges and opportunities for learning in General Practices situated within culturally and linguistically diverse communities?
- Electronic Activity Monitoring Systems (EAMS) as a primary healthcare intervention for promoting weight loss in overweight or obese patients
- Access to and experiences of health care by young people of refugee background in NSW
- Association between psychosocial and lifestyle factors and primary melanoma metastasis
- Sharing with care in the digital arena: exploring clinicians’ perspectives of e-Health’s impact on closing the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Academic posts offer the opportunity to:

- Contribute to the evidence on which general practice is based
- Acquire quality, supported experience in research and teaching
- Attend funded workshops, seminars or conferences
- Publish work in professional journals and present at conferences
- Help build the foundation to become a GP academic supervising university research, become a medical educator, or undertake a PhD.


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**DR AKIL ISLAM—ACADEMIC POST**

*My ACRRM training, in particular the Academic Advanced Specialist Training has enabled me to really expand my horizons. As part of this training, I was able to undertake research in rural generalism and how this may improve the ongoing problem of rural medical workforce shortage.*

*I’ve also had the opportunity to meet and share experiences with other academic registrars from around the country and have been greatly supported by established academics.*

*One of my training highlights has been the opportunity to network and discuss my research project with international experts at an international symposium in Trosmo, Norway—such a great opportunity!*  

*I encourage all new registrars to consider academic medicine if you are passionate about a particular issue, would like to become involved in policy development, are interested in medical education or want to undertake a higher degree.*
Training time frames and options

The AGPT Program generally takes three to four years full time to complete, depending on which fellowship you choose. Training time may be reduced through a successful application of recognition of prior learning.

- FRACGP requires a three-year full-time equivalent training commitment
- FARGP requires a one-year full-time equivalent commitment additional to the three-year training requirement for FRACGP.
- FACRRM requires a four-year full-time equivalent training commitment

The limit to the total length of time a registrar can train is explained in the AGPT Training Obligations Policy. All policies below are available on the AGPT website [agpt.com.au](http://agpt.com.au) > ‘Policies’.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) can reduce your overall time in the AGPT Program and is granted to you individually through the relevant college.

Medical education staff from the RTOs can assist in preparing RPL applications.

The Department of Health is unable to advise or assist applicants with their RPL enquiries. Registrars are responsible for applying to the relevant college censors for RPL assessment.

For queries regarding FACRRM related RPL please contact training@acrrm.org.au or call 1800 223 226 (Int: +61 7 3105 8200).

For queries regarding FRACGP related RPL please contact racgpeducation@racgp.org.au or call 1800 626 901 (Int: +61 3 8699 0454).

COMMENCEMENT OF TRAINING

The AGPT Program begins in January or February each year; with commencement dates determined by the individual RTO.

A registrar can only defer commencement of training in exceptional or unforeseen circumstances. These circumstances are detailed in the AGPT Program Leave Policy.

PART-TIME TRAINING

Doctors are accepted into the AGPT Program full-time. All components of AGPT may be undertaken part-time, subject to approval by registrars’ RTO and their employer. A minimum part-time arrangement is specified in the AGPT policies. For further information see the AGPT Training Obligations Policy.

LEAVE FROM TRAINING

Leave from the program is restricted and subject to prior approval. Potential applicants are encouraged to read the AGPT Program Leave Policy.
Terms and conditions of employment during training

During the first year(s) of hospital-based training within the AGPT Program, registrars are paid through the relevant state or territory health department according to the appropriate awards for junior medical officers.

During community-based training, AGPT registrars are employed by accredited training practices. The terms and conditions of employment are outlined in the National Terms and Conditions for the Employment of Registrars (NTCER). The NTCER is agreed between General Practice Registrars Australia (GPRA) and General Practice Supervisors Australia (GPSA).

Prospective registrars are encouraged to access and download the document on either the GPRA website at gpra.org.au > ‘NTCER’ or the GPSA website at gpsupervisorsaustralia.org.au > ‘Employing registrars’ > ‘NTCER’.

Registrars seeking assistance regarding employment arrangements can ask registrar liaison officers, their RTO or the GPRA registrar services team before approaching practices. Registrars are also encouraged to discuss with their RTO the opportunities available to work in a range of organisation and business types, including in regional, rural and remote Australia, during their two years of community-based training.

The Department of Health cannot provide further advice on training remuneration, terms and conditions. Registrars should direct further questions to the RTO in their preferred training regions and/or GPRA.

Incentives

The Australian Government provides incentives to promote medical careers in outer metropolitan, rural and remote areas.

AGPT registrars may be eligible for payments under the General Practice Rural Incentives Program (GPRIP). For more information about the GPRIP call the Medicare Australia Helpline: 1800 010 550 or visit the Rural and Regional Health Australia website at ruralhealthaustralia.gov.au > ‘RHWS Incentives’ > ‘General Practice Rural Incentives Program’.

Other grants or incentive programs may be available to registrars via the colleges, for more information visit acrrm.org.au and racgp.org.au.
DR KATE KLOZA—ADVANCED SPECIALIST TERM IN ANTARCTICA

With AGPT through ACRRM or RACGP, you can work anywhere in Australia—in a variety of medical settings.

You can have clinic days that focus on your interest, be it Aboriginal health, women’s health or skin cancer surgery or, you can work entirely in a practice dedicated to your area or provide comprehensive cradle to grave care for all segments of the community.

General practice is the last of the true generalists in medicine, giving you a unique perspective on individual and community health care needs. It’s allowed me to be the kind of doctor that I want to be where I can pursue and develop my special interests.

For me, this meant heading to Antarctica for Advanced Specialist Training in remote health. This experience allowed me to combine the challenge of learning medicine in an extreme environment with travelling to one of the most remarkable places on earth.

In my time there I was able to learn search and rescue and retrieval medicine, telemedicine, radiology, managing a walking blood bank, medical facility management, logistics and pharmacy supplies management, basic dental examination and treatment, physiotherapy assessment and treatment, simulation and medical teaching of lay people, polar medicine conditions and their management, counselling skills, men’s health, musculoskeletal medicine, managing a variety of medical conditions in the austere environment, and OH&S medicine. I also learnt how to drive a Hagglands (tracked snow vehicle) and a quad bike as well as honed my polar survival skills.

The skill and resilience that I developed there translates even now to my work in rural and remote communities across Australia. It has given me confidence to work in a solo doctor environment, knowing I have the clinical ability and resilience to do so. I have also developed wonderful professional and social networks with people who have become my role models and mentors.

The AGPT Program is awesome—where else do you get these kinds of opportunities!

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DR JEANETTE WIMBUS

I was attracted to general practice because of my love for people. General practice allows me to care for my patients holistically. I believe that unlike many other areas of medicine, general practice is a shared journey with patients; I love people, I love their stories, backgrounds, cultures and journeys. With general practice, I am able to learn about my patients, and share in their pain, joy, achievements and milestones of their lives. There is something truly joyful and rewarding about caring for a person’s health on a holistic level.

It is hard to say what I have enjoyed the most about registrar training as it has been so great. As an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctor, this has been such a rewarding and blessed experience. My other joy would be caring for my community and my mob.

I chose RACGP fellowship because I heard great things about it and the great curriculum. The RACGP has such great support, resources, reputation and an overall great training program.
Training regions

Individual general practice training experiences vary across training locations and regions and each training region incorporates a wide variety and a mix of extended skills or procedural training. RTOs can provide further information regarding academic posts and training available in their area.

**PLEASE NOTE:**
The three training regions covering the ACT and NSW are managed by one RTO. However, each training region is run independently of the others. If the location in which an applicant would like to train appears to straddle two or more regions, applicants should contact the relevant RTOs to determine the exact region in which the location falls.
REGIONAL TRAINING ORGANISATION CONTACTS

**Australian Capital Territory/New South Wales**

Western New South Wales

GP Synergy


T: 1300 477 963

(International: +61 2 8321 4000)

E: applicant@gpsynergy.com.au

**New South Wales**

Lower Eastern New South Wales

GP Synergy


T: 1300 477 963

(International: +61 2 8321 4000)

E: applicant@gpsynergy.com.au

North Eastern New South Wales

GP Synergy


T: 1300 477 963

(International: +61 2 8321 4000)

E: applicant@gpsynergy.com.au

**Victoria**

Eastern Victoria

Eastern Victoria GP Training


T: 1300 851 753

E: enquiry@evgptraining.com.au

Western Victoria

Murray City Country Coast GP Training


T: 1300 622 247

E: info@mccc.com.au

**Queensland**

North Western Queensland

Generalist Medical Training

W: [gmt.edu.au](mailto:gmt.edu.au)

T: 1300 823 874

E: gmt.admin@jcu.edu.au

South Eastern Queensland

General Practice Training Queensland

W: [gptq.qld.edu.au](mailto:gptq.qld.edu.au)

T: (07) 3552 8100

E: gptq@gptq.qld.edu.au

**South Australia**

GPEx


T: 1300 473 972 or (08) 8490 0400

E: admin@gpex.com.au

**Northern Territory**

Northern Territory General Practice Education

W: [ntgpe.org](mailto:ntgpe.org)

T: (08) 8946 7079

E: registrar@ntgpe.org

**Tasmania**

General Practice Training Tasmania


T: (03) 6215 5000

E: enquiries@gptt.com.au

**Western Australia**

Western Australian General Practice Education and Training


T: (08) 9473 8200

E: gpcareers@wagpet.com.au
Applying for AGPT

HOW DO I APPLY TO JOIN THE AGPT PROGRAM?
You apply for the AGPT Program through the college/s that you wish to achieve fellowship with. Your application information will be used to assess your eligibility for the AGPT Program. This eligibility check will be undertaken by the Department of Health. If eligible, you will then be able to undertake your chosen college/s entrance assessments.

WHICH COLLEGE SHOULD I CHOOSE?
Each college fellowship leads to vocational registration as a specialist general practitioner. This qualification enables you to work as a general practitioner anywhere in Australia.
Deciding which fellowship to undertake is a personal decision. The Department of Health recommends that doctors who consider applying for the AGPT Program contact both colleges, as well as the regional training organisation in their preferred training region, to discuss options and determine the best fit for their career.

WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR THE AGPT PROGRAM?
You can apply for the AGPT Program as early as your intern year (also called postgraduate year one or PGY1), to begin training the following year.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?
To assess your eligibility to join the AGPT Program, check the Eligibility Guide available on the AGPT website (agpt.com.au).
The AGPT Program welcomes applicants who trained overseas, or were born overseas and trained at an Australian medical school. You will need to check if you are subject to Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act 1973.
Medicare Provider Numbers

Once accepted into the AGPT Program you require a Medicare provider number to:

- claim Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) rebates for your services or have rebates claimed on your behalf by your employer or patients
- refer patients to other specialists through the Medicare system
- request services on behalf of your patients.

Medicare provider numbers are location specific and you require one for each training practice. There are restrictions on backdating claims for MBS rebates therefore **you must confirm that you have a valid Medicare provider number before** attempting to provide a service that attracts an MBS rebate or you are likely to be in breach of the Medicare legislation. You **must**:

- take note of the start and end date of all Medicare provider numbers that are issued to them
- ensure you do not work outside of the start and end dates of any Medicare provider numbers

You will need a separate prescriber number to prescribe medicines.

**THE MEDICARE PROVIDER NUMBER APPLICATION PROCESS**

The AGPT website provides detailed guidance on the Medicare provider numbers application process. You are expected to have read and understood this information when you are accepted into the AGPT Program.

Your RTO will submit Medicare provider number applications if you have previously held a Medicare provider number (either as an intern, hospital medical officer or temporary resident working in general practice). The Medicare provider numbers application will be made once you complete your RTO AGPT placement form.

If you have not had a Medicare provider number you will need to complete your AGPT placement form and submit it to your RTO. You then need to complete an Application for an Initial Medicare Provider Number and submit it to the Department of Human Services (DHS). Visit [humanservices.gov.au](http://humanservices.gov.au) and search the form code ‘HW019’.

All AGPT placement forms should correctly identify:

- any Section 19AB restrictions
- pathway selection (general or rural)
- whether the placement is an extended skills/advanced specialised training term.

Without this information the form will not be processed electronically which will delay all processing and delay your ability to claim MBS rebates. For further information, please visit [agpt.com.au](http://agpt.com.au) > ‘GP Registrars’ > ‘Application Forms’.

For further information please contact:

- The Department of Health for information about submission of placement forms: agptmpnapplications@health.gov.au
- The Department of Health for queries about Section 19AB: 19AB@health.gov.au
- The Department of Human Services for queries about Medicare eligibility: 132 150
DR JACQUELINE BOYD

I didn’t always want to become a GP, but I did always do humanitarian work in some capacity. After some years of this, it became clear that the ACRRM pathway through the AGPT was the most appropriate pathway for me given the generalist nature and the remote settings that I could work in.

I further developed my interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health while practising in Darwin, Katherine and at remote communities on the Tiwi Islands. The varied nature of this work, and the mix of fly-in and in-community work really helped me develop my skills in Indigenous health.

Since I fellowed, I’ve worked in remote area of the Northern Territory, rural New Zealand and also completed a third mission with Médecin Sans Frontières, this time in Afghanistan.

I’m now based in Cairns and work with Apunipima, an Aboriginal Medical Service that provides primary health care to Cape York communities. I really enjoy the variety that every day brings, from primary health care to home visits for my elderly or palliative care patients.

I’m also working with the James Cook University and Generalist Medical Training, teaching both undergraduate medical students and registrars—which I love!
The diversity of patients and medical presentations is one of the first things that attracted me to general practice. You never know what might be coming in the door and consequently get to apply all of the knowledge you learnt in medical school, rather than just a small part of it. You can be managing someone’s chronic disease one minute and a toddler with anaphylaxis the next.

There are also many opportunities to develop special skills in areas of general practice that interest you. As well as the intellectual challenge, I have found general practice really rewarding. As a GP, you have the opportunity to develop long-term relationships with patients as you treat them and their families over their lifespan.

Registrar training has been really enjoyable. It has provided a supportive environment where I can manage my own patients and problem solve independently, [and also] easily access advice from more senior GPs. I have especially liked working in a large practice as it is also very social.

There has been a great deal of education throughout the training program, both in the form of formal sessions put on by the regional training organisation and informal teaching in my practice. I feel that this has prepared me well for the remainder of my career.
In summary

To apply to the AGPT Program you need to:

• Decide which college fellowship/s to undertake
• Check if you meet the eligibility criteria and assemble all the required documents
• Choose where you want to train
• Apply online for the AGPT Program through your preferred college/s selection process
• Pay the relevant college/s application fee. If you are applying to both colleges, you will need to pay each college’s application fee
• Participate in the testing and assessment methods specified by your preferred college/s as part of the AGPT selection process.

If accepted into the AGPT Program you need to:

• Discuss where you would like to train with your RTO
• Set a personalised learning plan, with your RTO, outlining your interests, learning and career goals
• Apply for a Medicare provider number
• Apply for a prescriber number
• Arrange for your own medical indemnity insurance
• Undertake training and college assessments to achieve fellowship and specialist general practitioner recognition

FOR MORE INFORMATION

• About entry into the AGPT Program, including the key dates of the application period/time frames and eligibility requirements, please contact the Department of Health
• For more detailed information about selection into the AGPT Program, please visit each college’s website for their selection requirements.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Department of Health
Telephone: 1800 DR AGPT (1800 37 2478) or for international callers: +61 2 6289 2666
Website: agpt.com.au
Email: AGPTeligibility@health.gov.au

Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)
Telephone: 1800 223 226
Website: acrrm.org.au
Email: training@acrrm.org.au

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)
Telephone: 1800 331 626
Website: racgp.org.au
Email: racgp@racgp.org.au