



More Doctors

FOR OUTER METROPOLITAN AREAS

OUTER METROPOLITAN REGISTRARS PROGRAM

The Outer Metropolitan Registrars Program is part of the More Doctors for Outer Metropolitan Areas Measure. The objective of the Measure is to improve the supply of doctors in outer metropolitan areas where there are doctor shortages.

What is the Outer Metropolitan Registrars Program?

Under this program, general practice registrars commencing training on the General Training Pathway of the Australian General Practice Training Program will be required to undertake a six-month training placement in an outer metropolitan area.

For the purposes of the Outer Metropolitan Registrars Program, the General Training Pathway will be defined as applying to registrars undertaking training with metropolitan regional training providers that cover the designated outer metropolitan areas.

What is the General Training Pathway?

Applicants for the Australian General Practice Training Program administered by General Practice Education and Training Limited (GPET), elect to train in either the Rural Training Pathway or the General Training Pathway. Registrars on the General Training Pathway usually undertake the majority of their training in areas ranging from metropolitan through to large rural centres.

Who will determine where the registrars are placed?

GPET is responsible for placing registrars with regional training providers. It is expected that regional training providers will discuss an outer metropolitan placement with registrars and agree on the timing of their placement with a suitable practice as part of the overall package of training available in the General Practice Vocational Training Program.

Will there be financial assistance for registrars?

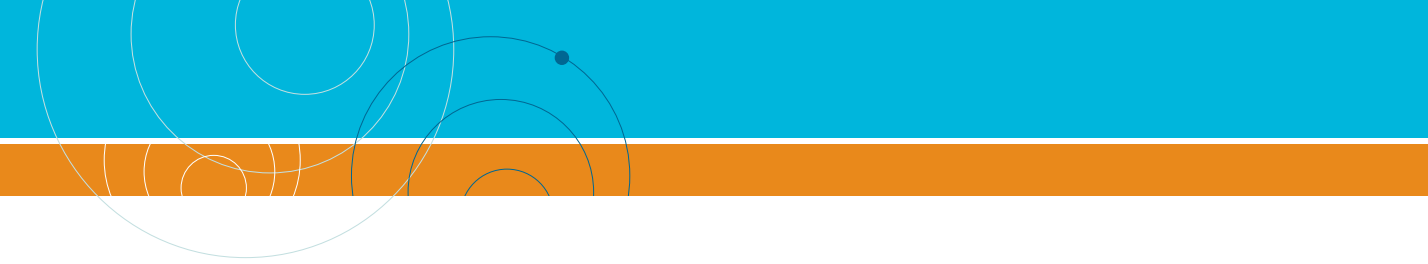
Yes. Financial assistance will be available to registrars participating in the program. Registrars will be provided with an incentive payment to undertake a placement in an outer metropolitan area.

Will this program take registrars away from rural areas where they are needed?

No. Registrars undertaking their training in regional and rural areas will not be required to undertake a placement in an outer metropolitan area.

Will the program only apply to Australia's capital cities?

Yes. The program targets outer metropolitan areas that have a doctor shortage in the six State capital cities. Parts of Canberra are also eligible.



Will registrars undertaking the outer metropolitan placement be required to also undertake the six-month rural placement?

Yes. Current arrangements require registrars in the General Training Pathway to undertake a six-month rural placement.

Will the requirement to undertake an outer metropolitan placement hold up a registrar's eligibility to sit for the FRACGP exam?

No. If a GP registrar is unable to complete an outer metropolitan placement due to insufficient availability of accredited training practices, the registrar will not be impeded in their progress towards completion of general practice training. The GP registrar will remain eligible to sit the examination for Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

How will high quality training be ensured?

Outer metropolitan placements will only be available in RACGP accredited training practices that are able to provide appropriate supervision. Registrars will not be required to undertake placements in practices that are not accredited against the RACGP standards for training.

What is the minimum time to be spent by registrars in an outer metropolitan area?

Registrars on the General Training Pathway will be required to undertake a six-month placement as part of their general practice training. This placement can occur at any time during the course of their training.

When will the outer metropolitan training places be available?

Placements have been available from January 2003 in RACGP accredited training practices.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the program, contact the General Practice Helpline on 1800 667 677 or email GP.Education@health.gov.au

For information regarding designation of outer metropolitan areas and eligibility for the program, contact the Workforce Helpline on 1800 727 899, or email health.workforce@health.gov.au