General practice. Some days are smooth sailing, some are ‘organised chaos’. Underlying each day, though, is the steadying force of continuity. With continuity of care comes productive doctor–patient relationships and better health outcomes ... I enjoy the challenge of making sense of undifferentiated complaints. General practice requires the capacity of the doctor to manage uncertainty—an important skill is being able to safely and unashamedly say, ‘I am not certain what is going on, but here is how we are going to respond.’

Dr Jeremy Jones, AGPT Registrar
Applications for entry into the AGPT programme open Monday 11 April 2016. A full list of key dates can be found on the AGPT website agpt.com.au

Acknowledgements: The AGPT programme is an Australian Government initiative

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A Career in General Practice

There are many benefits when considering a career in general practice:

• Varied clinical work
• Continuity of patient care
• Dynamic, team-based medicine
• Flexible working hours.

More doctors are choosing general practice as a career for the many advantages it brings. General practice demands extensive medical knowledge and offers the opportunity to subspecialise and undertake procedural medicine. General practice allows for balance between work and family life, and the opportunity to be an integral part of a community.

GETTING STARTED

This Handbook provides an overview of the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) programme, the opportunities available and the important role each organisation plays in providing every AGPT registrar with quality, well-supported training.

To begin a career in general practice doctors need to:

☐ Check they meet the eligibility criteria and assemble all required documents
☐ Choose where they want to train
☐ Apply online at agpt.com.au (applications open 10am AEST* Monday 11 April 2016)
☐ Undertake national testing and assessment as part of the AGPT selection process.

If accepted into the AGPT programme doctors need to:

☐ Decide which college fellowship to undertake (there are two colleges: the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners [RACGP] and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine [ACRRM])
☐ Discuss with the regional training organisation (RTO) in their training region which practice they would like to train in
☐ Set a personalised learning plan, with the help of their RTO, outlining interests and career goals
☐ Undertake training and college assessments to achieve fellowship and specialist (general practitioner) registration.

* Australian Eastern Standard Time
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About the Australian General Practice Training Programme

TRAINING OVERVIEW

General practice is a recognised medical specialty and a doctor must undertake vocational training to become a qualified specialist general practitioner in Australia.

What is the Australian General Practice Training programme?

The Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) programme is a world-class vocational training programme for medical graduates wishing to pursue a career in general practice in Australia. It is the leading training programme for GP registrars in Australia.

The programme involves a three- or four-year full-time commitment, which may be reduced with recognition of prior learning (RPL) (see page 9). During training, registrars acquire valuable practical experience in different training locations, including teaching hospitals, and rural and urban practices. 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. 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 is conducted within accredited medical practices and hospitals and is supervised and assessed by accredited general practitioners. The training includes self-directed learning, regular face-to-face educational activities and in-practice education. Relevant college assessments are undertaken throughout or at the end of training to achieve fellowship with one or both GP colleges and eligibility for specialist (general practitioner) registration.

A quota is placed on the number of AGPT positions available each training year, therefore entry into the programme is competitive. There are currently 1500 training positions funded by the Australian Government per year.

Additional training places supported by funding from external partners may become available commencing in 2017. Further information will be published on the AGPT website as it becomes available.
TRAINING DELIVERY

How does general practice training differ from other medical specialty training programmes?
General practice training is funded by the Australian Government and managed by the Department of Health (Health). Health contracts nine regional training organisations (RTOs) to deliver the AGPT programme across 11 training regions nationally in accordance with the standards of the two professional colleges—the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM).

What role do the GP colleges play in the AGPT programme?
There are two professional general practice colleges in Australia—RACGP and ACRRM. The two colleges are responsible for setting the curriculum and professional vocational training standards, assessment, certification and continuing professional development. The two colleges accredit and monitor compliance of the RTOs’ delivery of vocational training in line with college curriculum, standards and delegation agreements.

The colleges award the vocational end points of the AGPT programme—Fellowship of RACGP (FRACGP) and Fellowship of ACRRM (FACRRM), both of which lead to specialist (general practitioner) registration with the Medical Board of Australia. The RACGP also awards the Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) (see ‘Training Qualifications’ on pages 6 and 7 for further details).

What is a training region?
A training region is the geographical area in which an AGPT registrar undertakes their training. There are 11 training regions throughout Australia (see the training regions map on page 16). Doctors applying for the AGPT programme are able to nominate up to four preferred training regions within their application.

What are regional training organisations?
Regional training organisations (RTOs) are the organisations contracted by Health to deliver the AGPT programme. Each of the nine RTOs occupies one or more of the training regions in Australia (see the RTO contacts listed by training region on page 17).

The RTOs, together with the college/s, are responsible for accrediting hospital posts, general practices, Aboriginal medical services (AMS) and other medical facilities for the delivery of vocational training within their training region/s. RTOs also facilitate the placement of registrars within these accredited facilities to undertake their training.

RTOs also provide:
- Personalised training plan development and associated support services for registrars, and for their in-practice training supervisors
- Education and training events and activities for registrars, and for in-practice training supervisors
- Networking opportunities for registrars, supervisors and other stakeholders of the AGPT programme
- Education and training facilities and access to AGPT learning and teaching resources
- Advice and support relating to the AGPT programme and its requirements.

When applying for the AGPT programme, applicants must consider their preferences for where they undertake their training and the services available in each training region. Applicants are encouraged to contact the RTOs in the regions in which they are interested in training to assist in this decision making process (see contact details on page 17).
Although transfers are available in some circumstances, registrars are required to remain training in their selected training region for the entirety of the training programme. For further information regarding transfers, please read the AGPT Transfer Policy 2016 at agpt.com.au

**TRAINING ELIGIBILITY**

**When can doctors apply for the AGPT programme?**

Doctors can apply for the AGPT programme as early as their intern year, to begin training the following year.

**How can a doctor determine if they are eligible to apply?**

To self-assess eligibility to join the AGPT programme, check the *Programme Eligibility Guide—AGPT 2017* inside the back cover fold out.

Doctors who are eligible for the programme and are overseas-trained (also known as OTDs) or foreign graduates of an accredited medical school (FGAMS) will need to check their pathway eligibility and whether or not they are subject to section 19AB (3) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* (also known as the 10-year moratorium).


Doctors applying for the AGPT programme must nominate to train on either the general or rural pathway. However, doctors who are subject to section 19AB (3) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* can only train on the rural pathway (see page 13).

**What is an OTD and FGAMS category?**

Applicants that meet the AGPT eligibility requirements will need to determine their applicant category status, which outlines the mandatory documentation to be submitted with their online application.

Each applicant will fall into one of four applicant categories:

- Overseas-trained doctor—OTD
- Foreign graduates of an accredited medical school—FGAMS
- Australian medical graduate—AMG
- Australian medical graduate born overseas—AMG (born OS).

Each applicant category has specific mandatory and supporting documentation requirements. Applicants can self-assess their category in the *2017 AGPT Applicant Guide*, downloadable from the AGPT website (agpt.com.au) from April 2016.

**What is section 19AB (3) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973***?

Section 19AB (3) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* prescribes a 10-year moratorium for some doctors seeking to practice in Australia. This is an Australian Government policy which restricts access to Medicare benefits and requires OTDs and FGAMS to work in a district of workforce shortage for 10 years in order to access Medicare arrangements.

Section 19AB (3) applies for a period of 10 years (and may be scaled to five years 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
DIAGRAM 1: GENERAL PRACTICE TRAINING LANDSCAPE

Australian Government

\[
\text{AGPT}
\]

Australian General Practice Training programme

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)

Specialist (General Practitioner) Registration
Training Qualifications

The AGPT programme supports three fellowships, outlined below, two of which (FACRRM and FRACGP) lead to specialist (general practitioner) registration. Registrars may choose which fellowship/s they would like to pursue.

FACRRM/FRACGP

The AGPT programme is primarily designed to prepare registrars to undertake the Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM) and/or the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP).

The FACRRM with its broader curriculum and scope of practice is specifically designed to prepare registrars to practise competently and confidently in rural and remote medicine. Registrars undertake the majority of their training in rural and remote settings and are able to complete their assessments at these locations.

The FRACGP prepares registrars to competently deliver high quality unsupervised general practice services in any urban, regional, rural or remote general practice setting. The RACGP also offers advanced rural training through concurrent participation in the Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP).

Both fellowships lead to specialist (general practitioner) registration and the ability to work independently as a GP anywhere in Australia.

Prerequisites for the FACRRM and FRACGP are:

- Satisfactorily completing the required period of training, three years of full-time training for the FRACGP and four years for the FACRRM (see Diagram 2: Australian General Practice Training 2017, page 8)
- Satisfactorily meeting the education requirements of the AGPT programme
- Passing the ACRRM or RACGP assessments.

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

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

Deciding which fellowship to undertake is a personal decision. The Department of Health recommends that doctors considering applying for the AGPT programme contact both colleges, as well as the RTO in their preferred training region, to discuss options and determine the best fit for their career goals and the skill set they wish to attain.

Dual Fellowship

Registrars are able to undertake dual fellowships with both RACGP and ACRRM. The training must be concurrent and should only be pursued after discussions with a registrar’s RTO and both colleges.

For further information potential applicants should contact the RTO in their preferred training region (see page 17 for the list of RTOs and training regions).
FARGP

GPs are an integral part of rural communities, and the skills practised depend on the context in which they work and the specific needs of their community. In many rural and remote communities across Australia, GPs with advanced rural skills training are the only access communities have to ongoing specialist medical services such as emergency medicine, mental health, anaesthesia and obstetrics.

The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) is a qualification awarded by the RACGP in addition to the vocational fellowship (FRACGP). The FARGP aims to develop additional skills for safe, accessible and comprehensive care for Australia’s rural, remote and very remote communities. The FARGP pathway is designed specifically for general practice registrars and can be completed over the full period of the general practice registrar training programme.

Please email fargp@racgp.org.au or call the RACGP Rural team on 1800 636 764.
**DIAGRAM 2: AUSTRALIAN GENERAL PRACTICE TRAINING 2017**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Two</th>
<th></th>
<th>GP Terms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Rural &amp; Remote Training</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>GPT 1—6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GPT 2—6 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Three</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GPT 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Extended Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Four</th>
<th>FACRRM*</th>
<th>FARGP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note: Fourth year is for FACRRM &amp; FARGP candidates</td>
<td>Advanced Specialised Training</td>
<td>Advanced Rural Skills Training (12 months) for FARGP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 RTO.

Doctors are advised to contact the RTO in their preferred training region to discuss training options.

*Leading to specialist (general practitioner) registration.
Training Time Frames and Options

The AGPT programme generally takes three to four years to complete, depending on which fellowship a registrar wishes to obtain. Training time can be reduced through a successful application of recognition of prior learning (RPL), see below.

- FACRRM requires a four-year full-time equivalent training commitment
- 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.


COMMENCEMENT OF TRAINING

The AGPT programme begins in January or February each year; start dates are determined by the individual RTOs in each training region.

There are limited circumstances where a registrar can defer commencement of training; these exceptional circumstances are detailed in the [AGPT Programme Leave Policy 2016](http://agpt.com.au).

PART-TIME TRAINING PROVISION

Doctors are accepted into the AGPT programme on a full-time basis. Registrars can apply to their RTO to undertake all or part of their training on a part-time basis. Although the hospital year is normally undertaken full-time, all other components of AGPT may be undertaken on a part-time basis, subject to approval by a registrar’s RTO. A minimum part-time arrangement is specified in the AGPT policies. For further information see the [AGPT Training Obligations Policy 2016](http://agpt.com.au).

LEAVE FROM TRAINING

Leave from the programme is restricted and subject to prior approval. Potential applicants are encouraged to read the [AGPT Programme Leave Policy 2016](http://agpt.com.au) and consider the restrictions that apply.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) can reduce a registrar’s overall time in the AGPT programme.

RPL applications are made through the RTO and then assessed and approved by the relevant college censors (ACRRM/RACGP), not the Department of Health. Medical education staff from the RTO in each training region can assist in preparing RPL applications during the first six months of core vocational training.

The Department of Health is unable to advise or assist applicants with their RPL enquiries.

Applications for RPL should be made within the first six months of core vocational training. Doctors are responsible for applying to the relevant college censors for assessment through their relevant RTO.

For queries regarding FACRRM related RPL please contact [training@acrrm.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:racgpeducation@racgp.org.au) or call 1800 626 901 (Int: +61 3 8699 0454).
Training Requirements

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Training generally commences at the beginning of the calendar year. Prospective applicants are advised to contact the RTO in their preferred training region for advice about potential placements, particularly if they wish to commence training in general practice placements.

AGPT registrars are required to participate in a range of educational activities and will regularly receive feedback on their progress.

More information about the training requirements and curriculum of both colleges is available on their respective websites at acrrm.org.au and racgp.org.au

Mandatory hospital rotations

Certain hospital rotations must be completed by doctors in their postgraduate years 1 and 2 (PGY 1 and 2), or later.

These mandatory hospital rotations do not have to be completed before application and entry into the AGPT programme.

Where possible all rotations should be completed prior to the second year of the AGPT programme when registrars begin working in the general practice setting (see ‘Primary Rural and Remote Training/GP Terms’ Diagram 2: Australian General Practice Training 2017 on page 8).

The following is a guide to the rotations required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PGY 1—Rotations required to achieve general registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Medicine • Surgery • Emergency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PGY 2 or later—Rotations required by the colleges as part of the college fellowship requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RACGP: • Paediatrics • Three rotations of choice relevant to general practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACRRM: • Paediatrics • Obstetrics and gynaecology • Anaesthetics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prospective applicants should refer to the relevant college documents below and discuss with the RTO in their preferred training region for more detailed information:


PLEASE NOTE:
If a rotation is not completed, please contact the RTO in your preferred training region or the relevant college for further information on various alternatives to gain these skill sets as you progress through training.

ACRRM
Phone: 1800 223 226 (Int: +61 7 3105 8200)
Email: training@acrrm.org.au
Website: acrrm.org.au

RACGP
Phone: 1800 626 901 (Int: +61 3 8699 0454)
Email: racgpeducation@racgp.org.au
Website: racgp.org.au
AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE DOCTORS

All training regions can accommodate Australian Defence Force (ADF) doctors. ADF doctors apply for the AGPT programme in the same way as non-ADF doctors and are required to meet the same general educational requirements as other AGPT registrars once enrolled in training. 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 programme 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 unit (see Diagram 2: Australian General Practice Training 2017 page 8) 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 the AGPT Training Obligations Policy 2016 at agpt.com.au or contact:

Medical Officer Career and Professional Development Committee (MOPCDC) Secretariat
Joint Health Command
CP3-6-162, 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 programme are required to apply for the AGPT programme in the same way as non-rural generalist doctors and must select the rural pathway (see page 13) in their online application.

AGPT training positions are not guaranteed for rural generalist doctors.

If successful in obtaining a place in the AGPT programme rural generalist doctors are required to meet the same education and training requirements as all other AGPT registrars.

For information about the rural generalist programme in your state or territory please contact your relevant state health department or employer.
Training Pathways

Doctors applying for the AGPT programme elect to train on either the rural pathway or the general pathway. These pathways determine the area where a registrar will train, not the content of their general practice training. Most RTOs offer both general and rural pathways with no difference in the training given to either group.

The pathway system assists in ensuring at least 50 per cent of training on the AGPT programme is delivered in rural and remote areas, to meet community need. The Australian Standard Geographical Classification—Remoteness Area (ASGC-RA) system determines what constitutes urban, regional, rural and remote areas (see details below).

A registrar’s training pathway will not restrict where they can later work as a fellowed GP with specialist (general practitioner) registration. The duration of training is dependent on a registrar’s choice of fellowship (FRACGP/FACRRM), other vocational training choices and relevant prior experience, not their choice of pathway.

Training locations, distribution of training placements and registrar allocation to those placements across a training region are managed by the RTO.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION—REMOTENESS AREA SYSTEM

The Australian Standard Geographical Classification—Remoteness Area (ASGC-RA) system was developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics using Census data. It is used by a number of federal and state agencies and was last updated after the 2006 Census.

The ASGC-RA divides regions that share remoteness characteristics into RA groups. RA1 is major cities and can be defined as urban locations; RA2–5 are grouped in progressively more remote locations, and can be defined as regional or remote.

Registrars on the general pathway may train in RA1–5 locations.

Registrars on the rural pathway must train in RA2–5 locations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RA Classification</th>
<th>RA Category</th>
<th>General pathway</th>
<th>Rural pathway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RA1</td>
<td>Major cities of Australia</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA2</td>
<td>Inner regional Australia</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA3</td>
<td>Outer regional Australia</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA4</td>
<td>Remote Australia</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA5</td>
<td>Very remote Australia</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The general pathway enables doctors a choice in the selection of training placements across all urban, rural and remote areas. Doctors on the general pathway can train in all Australian Standard Geographical Classification—Remoteness Area (RA) 1–5 locations (see page 12).

A registrar on the general pathway is required to undertake 12 months of their training in a prescribed location. The location options available to registrars include:

- Twelve months training in a rural location classified RA2–5
- Twelve months in an outer metropolitan location
- Twelve months training in a non-capital city classified as RA1
- Twelve months training comprising two of the following:
  - Six months training in an outer metropolitan location
  - Six months training in a rural location classified RA2–5
  - Six months training in a non-capital city classified RA1
  - 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 2016 at agpt.com.au > ‘Policies’.

RURAL PATHWAY

The rural pathway is for doctors who wish to undertake their training in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia. Doctors who elect the rural pathway are required to undertake their training in rural locations classified as RA2-5 (see page 12).

The rural pathway offers a range of benefits and opportunities commensurate with the work of rural general practice for example, access to procedural training.

Doctors who are offered an AGPT place on the rural pathway can elect to enrol in the FRACGP (with or without FARGP) and/or FACRRM.

Overseas-trained doctors (OTDs) and foreign graduates of an accredited medical school (FGAMS) who are subject to section 19AB (3) of the Health Insurance Act 1973 (the 10-year moratorium) must train on the rural pathway and are ineligible for the general pathway.

For more information visit doctorconnect.gov.au > ‘First steps’ > ‘Medicare provider number legislation’ or contact the Department of Health at 19AB@health.gov.au
The main thing that drew me to GP is how important a GP’s role is. It is one of the few specialties where your role is not just to treat, but to prevent disease. It is because of this, I feel that the GP role is often under-recognised; there is so much a GP does before a disease occurs or gets worse. General practice is a rewarding specialty that allows you to really make a difference in a patient’s life. GPs are often the ones who are there from the beginning to the end. It is because GPs are so integral, that draws me to this specialty.

Dr Christine Tran, AGPT Registrar
Medicare Provider Numbers

Once accepted into the AGPT programme, registrars require a Medicare provider number (MPN) to perform the following functions while undertaking their training placements:

- Claim Medicare rebates for their services or have rebates claimed on their behalf by their employer or patients
- Refer their patients to other specialists through the Medicare system
- Request services on behalf of their patients.

An MPN does not allow a registrar to prescribe medicines. Registrars will need a separate prescriber number to perform this function.

RTOs will submit provider number applications on behalf of registrars who have previously held an MPN (either as an intern, hospital medical officer or temporary resident working in general practice) using a simplified system implemented in November 2015. The MPN application will be made once the registrar has completed their AGPT placement form for their RTO.

Registrars who have not previously had an MPN will need to complete their AGPT placement form and submit it to their RTO. They will then be required to complete an Application for an Initial Medicare Provider Number and submit it to the Department of Human Services. Visit humanservices.gov.au and search the form code ‘HW019’.

All AGPT placement forms should correctly identify:

- Any section 19AB (3) 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.

For further information visit agpt.com.au > ‘GP Registrars’ > ‘Application Forms’.

It is expected that an MPN will be provided within 28 days of receipt of application.

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 the operation of section 19AB (3): 19AB@health.gov.au
- The Department of Human Services for queries about Medicare eligibility: 132 150.
Training Regions

A competitive tender process was undertaken in 2015 to select a reduced number of regional training organisations (RTOs) to deliver the AGPT programme from January 2016. In addition, new geographical boundaries were established. There are now nine RTOs delivering the AGPT programme across 11 training regions in Australia. The training regions are outlined in the map below.

RTOs are responsible for managing registrars’ training, training locations and the distribution of training placements across the RTO’s training region/s.

Applicants are encouraged to research each training region to determine the area in which they would like to train. The RTO responsible for each training region can provide information regarding training, including the extended skills and academic posts available.

**DIAGRAM 3: MAP OF TRAINING REGIONS**

**PLEASE NOTE:**
The three training regions covering the ACT and NSW are managed by one RTO. However, each 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  
W: gpsynergy.com.au  
T: (02) 9818 4433  
E: applicant@gpsynergy.com.au

**New South Wales**

**Lower Eastern New South Wales**

GP Synergy  
W: gpsynergy.com.au  
T: (02) 9818 4433  
E: applicant@gpsynergy.com.au

**North Eastern New South Wales**

GP Synergy  
W: gpsynergy.com.au  
T: (02) 9818 4433  
E: applicant@gpsynergy.com.au

**Victoria**

**Eastern Victoria**

Eastern Victoria GP Training  
W: evgptraining.com.au  
T: (03) 9822 1100  
E: enquiry@evgptraining.com.au

**Western Victoria**

Murray City Country Coast GP Training  
W: mccc.com.au  
T: 1300 622 247  
E: info@mccc.com.au

**Queensland**

**North Western Queensland**

Generalist Medical Training  
W: gmt.edu.au  
T: 1300 823 874  
E: gmt@jcu.edu.au

**South Eastern Queensland**

General Practice Training Queensland  
W: gptq.qld.edu.au  
T: (07) 3552 8100  
E: applicant.enquiries@gptq.qld.edu.au

**South Australia**

GPEx  
W: gpex.com.au  
T: 1300 473 972  
E: admin@gpex.com.au

**Northern Territory**

Northern Territory General Practice Education  
W: ntgpe.org  
T: (08) 8946 7079  
E: registrar@ntgpe.org

**Tasmania**

General Practice Training Tasmania  
W: gptt.com.au  
T: (03) 6215 5000  
E: enquiries@gptt.com.au

**Western Australia**

Western Australian General Practice Education and Training  
W: wagpet.com.au  
T: (08) 9473 8200  
E: gpcareers@wagpet.com.au
I see a lot of value in preventative health and GPs are very well placed to be able to provide this. The breadth of the qualification means that we can exert influence across so many areas of public health, for example, immunisation awareness, sexual health, bowel cancer screening programs, lifestyle interventions et cetera. We’re not limited to a particular dimension.

Dr Shumaila Panhwar, AGPT Registrar
Extended Skills/Advanced Specialised Training

A set period of skills training is required by both RACGP and ACRRM for registrars undertaking vocational training through the AGPT programme. Skills training is generally undertaken as an extended skill and/or advanced specialised training term.

The following is a sample list of some of the skills training options available to AGPT registrars, subject to regional availability:

- 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 visit the AGPT website [agpt.com.au](http://agpt.com.au) > ‘GP registrars’ > ‘Training Posts’ > ‘Extended Skills Training’ or 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](http://acrrm.org.au) and [racgp.org.au](http://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 the RTOs and colleges, works in consultation with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) sector to contribute to the Council of Australian Government’s ‘Closing the Gap’ initiatives.

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

Registrars are encouraged and supported to undertake further dedicated training in this area; and can choose to undertake an AGPT accredited Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training post during their training.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training posts are located in metropolitan, rural and remote areas.

Benefits of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training post

A post offers registrars the opportunity to develop a range of clinical and professional skills in a unique training environment, including:

- Treatment of diseases not often seen in mainstream primary health care settings
- 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
- Health promotion within a cultural context.

For further information please contact the GP Training Policy unit at [agpteducation@health.gov.au](mailto:agpteducation@health.gov.au)
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 programme offers the opportunity to undertake full-time training in an academic post. This comprises of an approved general practice placement and salaried research and teaching in an academic institution.

The academic post is an AGPT training term where registrars learn academic skills through individualised learning plans with mentoring and support from RTOs, universities and the Department of Health.

During an academic post, registrars develop skills in research, teaching, project work and critical evaluation of research relevant to the discipline of general practice. Registrars undertaking academic posts will find these skills invaluable to the way they practice throughout their careers.

Some examples of previous academic post projects include:

- Ageing and eye disease: are we blind to early detection and intervention?
- Exploring self-efficacy in GPs managing patient obesity
- General Practitioners as Climate Change and Health Advocates: Challenges and Opportunities
- Co-sleeping, Breastfeeding and Sudden Unexplained Death in Infancy (SUDI): a risk minimisation approach to facilitate informed decision making by parents of young infants
- Planning to stay out of hospital: Will advance care planning achieve this goal?
- 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 and conferences
- Publish work in professional journals and present at conferences
- Help build the foundation to become a GP academic supervising university research, a medical educator, or undertake a PhD.

I always wanted to be a GP. It is such a challenging and worthwhile vocation. I have never, ever been bored as a GP. Each day in clinic brings people who ask me to consider their problems or dilemmas, and a potent mix of science and emotion that needs to be artfully navigated … It is an absolute privilege to have people share their ups and downs, fears and problems, and to be alongside them and their families over many years.

Dr Susan Wearne, GP and AGPT Supervisor
Remuneration and Incentives

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT DURING TRAINING

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

During the following years of community-based training, registrars are employed by accredited training practices. The terms and conditions of employment are outlined in a document entitled National Terms and Conditions for the Employment of Registrars (NTCER). The NTCER represents an agreement between General Practice Registrars Australia (GPRA) and General Practice Supervisors Australia (GPSA), with the support of the Australian Medical Association (AMA).

The NTCER is regularly reviewed to maintain contemporary employment terms and conditions. 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’ > ‘Employment resources’.

Registrars seeking assistance regarding employment arrangements can seek advice from registrar liaison officers, their RTO or GPRA 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 is unable to 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 following incentives promote careers in outer metropolitan, rural and remote areas.

General Practice Rural Incentives Programme

AGPT registrars may be eligible for payments under the General Practice Rural Incentives Programme (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 Programme’.

Other grants or incentive programmes

Other grants or incentive programmes may be available to registrars via the colleges, for more information visit acrm.org.au and racgp.org.au
Application and Selection Process for Entry into the AGPT Programme in 2017

Applications from doctors for entry into the AGPT programme in 2017 open at 10am AEST Monday 11 April 2016.

Below is a summary of the application and selection process for doctors seeking entry into the AGPT programme in 2017 and some useful tips to help applicants prepare.

Please note this is only a guide and it is recommended that applicants refer to the AGPT website and the 2017 AGPT Applicant Guide (available at agpt.com.au from April 2016) for the most up-to-date information.

The AGPT application and selection process is made up of three stages.

### Stage 1—Application and eligibility check

Applicants submit an online application, supporting documentation, referee details and nominate up to four training region preferences. Applications and supporting documents will be checked to establish eligibility for the AGPT programme.

Applicants who are ineligible will be notified by email.

### Stage 2—National assessment

Applicants are required to attend two assessments at two different venues:

1. A Situational Judgement Test (SJT) held at a National Testing Centre (NTC) from Monday 13 June to Monday 4 July 2016.

2. Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) held at a National Assessment Centre (NAC) from Friday 24 June to Sunday 17 July 2016.

**Please note:** NTC and NAC dates vary by city, please check the AGPT website for details.

The standardised results of these assessments will determine applicants' total AGPT selection scores and ranking.

Further information and example questions are available from the AGPT website (agpt.com.au) and in the 2017 AGPT Applicant Guide. Applicants will be notified by email of their total AGPT selection score and whether or not they have been shortlisted.

### Stage 3—RTO and training region placements

The RTO will decide which applicants will be offered training places in the AGPT programme, and will notify applicants. Written acceptance of an RTO’s offer of a training place, within seven days of the offer being made, will confirm selection into the AGPT programme.

Further information regarding stage three is available on the AGPT website (agpt.com.au) and in the 2017 AGPT Applicant Guide.
This three-stage process will run from the opening of applications in April through to September (approximately) when applicants will be informed as to whether or not they have been offered a place in the AGPT programme.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to read the 2017 AGPT Applicant Guide, available on the AGPT website from April 2016 (agpt.com.au), for detailed instructions on how to fill out the online application form and an overview of the selection process.
I find the great variety of personalities, which comes your way when meeting GPs, rather refreshing. The training, too, whilst definitely well organised and to a high standard, allows for individuality and the fact that people have a life beyond being doctors.

Dr Patrick Sprau, AGPT Registrar
Preparation for Application

There are a number of things applicants can do to prepare for their application:

ELIGIBILITY
Potential applicants should self-assess their eligibility to join the AGPT programme using the *Programme Eligibility Guide—AGPT 2017* inside the back cover fold out.

If eligible, doctors who are OTDs or FGAMS (see page 4) should then check their pathway eligibility using the *General/Rural Pathway Eligibility Guide—AGPT 2017* on page 30, to determine which pathway they can apply for—general or rural.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION
Applicants are required to electronically upload original, clear colour scans of the required official documents (for example, residency/citizenship documentation) with their online application in order to meet a number of eligibility requirements. Should the Department of Health have any questions as to the validity of the document/s, Health reserves the right to request certified copies of any or all supporting documents required.

Applicants unable to supply original, colour scans will be required to electronically upload certified copies of their documents. Applicants can prepare these documents prior to the opening of applications. A full document checklist is available in the *2017 AGPT Applicant Guide* (available on the AGPT website [agpt.com.au](http://agpt.com.au) from April 2016).

REFEREES
All applicants must provide the details of two referees in their online application. Ideally referees should be medical practitioners who have directly supervised the applicant for at least a period of four weeks within the past three years.

Applicants need to select referees who are able to confidently make judgements about the applicant’s professional capabilities and suitability for general practice.

Referees must be contactable by RTOs throughout the entire selection process (April–September 2016) (see page 24).

SELECTING A TRAINING REGION
Prior to applying, applicants are encouraged to contact the RTOs of the training regions in which they are interested in training. RTOs can assist applicants with any queries they may have about the training region and opportunities available (see list of RTOs and training regions on page 17).

Applicants should only nominate regions they are willing to train in for the entire AGPT programme and, if necessary, relocate to.
National Testing and Assessment

Eligible applicants are required to undertake two assessments at two separate venues:

• The Situational Judgement Test (SJT), which will be undertaken at National Testing Centres (NTCs) between Monday 13 June and Monday 4 July 2016

AND

• Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs), which will be undertaken at National Assessment Centres (NACs) between Friday 24 June and Sunday 17 July 2016.

Both the NTCs and NACs will be held in most capital cities and some large regional centres. A full list of locations, dates and times will be available on the AGPT website (agpt.com.au) from Monday 11 April 2016.

What is a Situational Judgement Test?

The Situational Judgement Test (SJT) is an examination comprised of approximately 50 multiple choice questions, which takes up to 120 minutes to complete including time for applicants to provide feedback.

The SJT assesses an applicant’s:

• Clinical reasoning
• Analytical/problem solving skills
• Professional/ethical attributes.

The structure of the SJT:

1. Applicants are presented with a scenario based in a clinical context; a number of possible responses to the scenario are also presented.
2. Applicants are asked to either rank the responses from most correct to least, or select the three appropriate responses to the situation.
3. The SJT is then scored.

What are Multiple Mini Interviews?

Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) consist of six interview questions and involve applicants being rotated between interview stations (one for each standard interview question) with each interviewer asking the same question to each applicant individually. The MMI will take approximately 2–3 hours to complete.

Applicants will have two minutes to read the question before entering the interview room, then up to eight minutes to answer the question from the interviewer. The applicant is then rotated to the next interview station and the same process applies for the next question. Each interviewer gives the applicant a score based on standardised criteria.

For examples of SJT and MMI questions please visit agpt.com.au > ‘Junior doctors’ > ‘Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) programme’ > ‘New applicants’ > ‘Application and selection process’.

PLEASE NOTE:

Unlike objective structured clinical examinations (OSCEs), MMIs do not involve patient presentations.
The following flowchart can be used as a guide to determine if OTD and FGAMS applicants are subject to section 19AB (3) of the Health Insurance Act 1973 (the Act). Applicants should identify which of the following two categories applies to them, and then follow the arrows to determine which pathway they are eligible to apply for.

You obtained your primary medical qualification overseas (but not in New Zealand).

By January 2017 will you have been medically registered in Australia for a period of 10 years or longer and currently hold Australian permanent residency or citizenship?

Yes: Were you assessed as eligible to sit the AMC examinations prior to 1 January 1997?

Yes: By January 2017 will you have been medically registered in Australia for a period of 10 years or longer and currently hold Australian permanent residency or citizenship?

Yes: It appears that you may not be subject to section 19AB (3) of the Act (the 10-year moratorium) and should be able to apply for both the general and rural pathway.

No: It appears that you may be subject to section 19AB (3) of the Act (the 10-year moratorium) and may be restricted to the rural pathway.

No: It appears that you may be subject to section 19AB (3) of the Act (the 10-year moratorium) and may be restricted to the rural pathway.

By January 2017 will you have been medically registered in Australia for a period of 10 years or longer and currently hold Australian permanent residency or citizenship?

No: You obtained your primary medical qualification in Australia or New Zealand.

Were you an Australian/New Zealand citizen or permanent resident at the time you commenced your Australian/New Zealand medical degree?

Yes: By January 2017 will you have been medically registered in Australia for a period of 10 years or longer and currently hold Australian permanent residency or citizenship?

Yes: It appears that you may not be subject to section 19AB (3) of the Act (the 10-year moratorium) and should be able to apply for both the general and rural pathway.

No: It appears that you may be subject to section 19AB (3) of the Act (the 10-year moratorium) and may be restricted to the rural pathway.

No: It appears that you may be subject to section 19AB (3) of the Act (the 10-year moratorium) and may be restricted to the rural pathway.
FOR MORE INFORMATION

For detailed information about entry into the AGPT programme in 2017, including the key dates of the application and selection process, required documentation and examples of SJT and MMI scenarios visit the AGPT website or contact the Department of Health.

The Department of Health is responsible for managing the application and selection related processes for entry into the AGPT programme.

Contact information:

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

Notes:
Are you an Australian/New Zealand permanent resident or citizen, or will you be by 9 May 2016?

- NO
  - Are you a temporary resident who obtained your primary medical qualification in Australia/New Zealand and is currently applying, or intends to apply, for Australian/New Zealand permanent residence?
  - NO
    - You are not eligible.
  - YES
    - Did you obtain your primary medical qualification in New Zealand?
      - NO
        - You are not eligible.
      - YES
        - Are you an AMC* graduate who has successfully completed all elements of the AMC?
          - NO
            - Will you have received your AMC certificate by 9 May 2016?
              - YES
                - NO
                  - Will you have done so and received your AMC certificate by 9 May 2016?
                    - YES
                      - You are not eligible.
Are you an Australian/New Zealand permanent resident or citizen, or will you be by 9 May 2016?

Did you obtain your primary medical qualification in Australia?

Did you obtain your primary medical qualification in New Zealand?

Are you an AMC* graduate who has successfully completed all elements of the AMC?

Will you have received your AMC certificate by 9 May 2016?

Will you have completed the competent authority pathway via AHPRA† by 25 July 2016?

Will you have done so and received your AMC certificate by 9 May 2016?

You are not eligible.

Other training programmes

Do you expect to have general medical registration without conditions or undertakings in Australia by the commencement of the 2017 training year (6 February 2017)?

Please contact the AGPT Selection team on 1800 DR AGPT (1800 37 2478)

Are you enrolled in any other specialist vocational training programmes (including AGPT)?

Please contact the AGPT Selection team on 1800 DR AGPT (1800 37 2478)

It appears you are eligible.

Medical Registration

* AMC: Australian Medical Council
† AHPRA: Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency