Explore the possibilities of GP training in NSW

General Practice Training in NSW
Please note:
This information is subject to change – always check the most up to date information available through the AGPT website (www.agpt.com.au) before applying.

* Beyond Medical Education extends into Victoria
** GP training places are also available in Albury and Corowa with the Victorian GP training provider, Bogong GP Training. For more information visit www.bogong.org.au
General Practice Training in NSW

If you’re looking for a medical profession that offers challenge, flexible and diverse career opportunities and a great work-life balance, then you’ve come to right place. General Practice offers all these things and more!

To become a General Practitioner you need to apply and be accepted into the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program. This guide has been developed by the NSW Regional Training Providers (RTPs) who deliver the Australian General Practice (GP) Training Program across NSW to help you navigate the GP training environment.

What is a Regional Training Provider (RTP)?

Across Australia there are seventeen Regional Training Providers (RTPs) delivering Australian General Practice training, with six located in NSW (see map opposite). When you make your application to GP training you are required to nominate which Regional Training Provider (RTP) you would like to apply to undertake the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program.

Funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing and administered by General Practice Education & Training (GPET), each of these training providers offer comprehensive education and training programs to equip registrars with the skills required to become independent General Practitioners.

All training providers offer registrars the opportunity to train towards the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP) and/or Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM). Some training providers may also offer training towards Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) provided by the RACGP.

Guide Contents

Inside this guide you will find the following:-

- An overview of the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program
- An explanation of the differences between general & rural training pathways
- A summary of the financial benefits of rural pathway training
- An overview on how to apply to GP training and selection processes
- A profile of each Regional Training Provider in NSW and contact details

To find out more

To find out more about General Practice training, visit the Australian General Practice Training website – www.agpt.com.au or a NSW RTP’s website (please see table below).

Regional Training Provider (RTP) | Website | Contact Number
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Beyond Medical Education | www.beyonmedical.com.au | 02 6334 4359
Coast City Country GP Training | www.ccctraining.org | 02 6923 5400
GP Synergy | www.gpsynergy.com.au | 02 9818 4433
General Practice Training – valley to coast | www.gptvtc.com.au | 02 4968 6753
North Coast GP Training | www.ncgpt.org.au | 02 6681 5711
WentWest | www.wentwest.com.au | 02 8811 7100
How long is the GP training program and what does it involve?

The Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program is a world class post-graduate vocational training program for medical graduates interested in pursuing a career in General Practice. Training is conducted within accredited medical practices and hospitals, and is supervised and assessed by experienced Medical Educators. The training program is set against College curriculums and includes self-directed learning, regular face to face educational activities and in-practice supervision and education.

Depending on which Fellowship/s you aspire to attain, the GP Training program is 3 or 4 years in duration.

Can I reduce my training time if I have previous experience?

Applicants can apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for part of their training upon being accepted into the training program.

Registrars training towards the FRACGP may be able to apply to reduce their hospital based training time. Applicants cannot reduce their GP term training (which includes extended skills terms) and must complete a minimum 24 months training.

Registrars training towards the FACRRM may also be able to apply to reduce their hospital based training time. They may also be able to apply for recognition of prior learning for other stages of training, however applicants should contact ACRRM and their RTP for clarification before applying to the program.

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

Training towards the FRACGP is generally 3 years, with an optional 4th year advanced rural skills training (FARGP). The typical FRACGP training program structure is:

- **Year 1**: Hospital based training
- **Year 2**: Supervised training in a GP setting
- **Year 3**: Additional GP training experience including an optional term pursuing a sub-specialty interest
- **Year 4 (optional)**: Advanced rural skills training

For more information about FRACGP visit www.racgp.org.au

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

For applicants training towards FACRRM, the training program is generally 4 years.

- **Year 1**: Hospital based training
- **Years 2 and 3**: Primary rural & remote training in a variety of teaching environments including rural and remote accredited hospitals, Aboriginal medical services and community based facilities.
- **Year 4**: Advanced specialised training

For more information about FACRRM visit www.acrrm.org.au
“Becoming a GP does not mean paperwork and viruses, the sheer complexity of humans means no matter what area of medicine you’re in, you will not be bored. GPs are not homogenous – you have the whole spectrum from the obstetrician/anaesthetist remote GP to the non-procedural GP and those in between. I think for flexibility of lifestyle (as much or as little as you want) and for the breadth of choice, not much beats general practice.”

GP Registrar, Dr Peter Roach
Applicants to GP training are required to undertake training in either a general or rural pathway; the main difference being where training is completed based on the Australian Standard Geographic Classification – Remoteness Areas (ASGC-RA) system.

The ASGC-RA classifies regions according to their remoteness in RA groups. RA 1 is major cities and can be defined as urban locations. RAs 2-5 are rural and regional areas. The Doctor Connect website (www.doctorconnect.gov.au) provides a map outlining the RA classifications across Australia as well as outer metropolitan locations.

**General Pathway**

The general pathway is for registrars wishing to undertake their training in a combination of urban (RA 1) and outer metropolitan and/or rural (RA 2-5) locations. In the general pathway, registrars are required to fulfill “Return of Service Obligation” (ROSO) training requirements. Subject to specific RTP policy, registrars are required to undertake:

- 12 months of their GP term training in a RA 2-5 location; or
- 12 months of their GP term training in an outer metropolitan location; or
- 12 months training in a non-capital city classified as RA1.

A variety of training options are available through NSW RTPs and applicants should contact RTPs directly for information about their ROSO requirements.

“At first I was a bit worried that being a GP would be lots of coughs and pap smears but in fact there is so much more interesting medicine to see and so many different people to meet, it really widens your perspective on life itself. I really enjoy the holistic patient care, flexibility and a chance to make a difference in people’s everyday life. I would definitely recommend this as a career because with all the different things you see, you won’t ever get bored. There are also many opportunities to sub-specialise and tailor your work to your interest.”

**Dr Vanessa Siu, Fellowed general pathway GP registrar**

**Rural Pathway**

The rural pathway is for registrars wishing to undertake their training in rural areas.

Doctors who elect the rural pathway are required to undertake their training in rural locations classified as RA2-5 and are eligible for generous Government financial incentives.

Doctors affected by the 10 year moratorium are only eligible to apply for rural pathways.

**RTPs offering rural pathway places in NSW:**

Beyond Medical Education, Coast City Country General Practice Training, GP Synergy, General Practice Training – valley to coast, North Coast GP Training, WentWest.

“What I love about being a rural GP is not having to think about peak hour traffic or even traffic lights on my way to work and that I haven’t worn a tie since I got here (and don’t expect to start anytime soon). I love that I can work as a rural, procedural GP, yet live ten minutes from world class untouched beaches. I love that my patients accept me for who I am and appreciate the service that I offer to the community. I love my lifestyle!”

**Dr Tim Francis, Fellowed rural pathway GP registrar**
Not only does rural training offer GP registrars a diverse and interesting training experience, there are many additional benefits for registrars undertaking training in rural settings.

This includes significant financial benefits as well as the opportunity to undertake procedural skills training in areas such as anaesthetics, surgery, obstetrics & gynaecology, amongst others.

**General Practice Rural Incentive Payments Scheme (GPRIPS)**

The General Practice Rural Incentive Payments Scheme (GPRIPS) provides financial incentives for registrars who undertake part of their General Practice training in rural and remote locations. These incentives are generous and are based on a sliding scale and are paid according to the ASGC-RA 2-5 location and the length of time in a rural location.

Both general pathway and rural pathway registrars are eligible for GPRIPS incentives dependent upon the location and duration of their RA 2-5 placement. For full details about this incentive scheme visit the Doctor Connect website (www.doctorconnect.gov.au) and enter the term ‘GPRIP’ into the site’s search engine or visit the AGPT website (www.agpt.com.au) or contact your local RTP.

**HECS Reimbursement Scheme**

The HECS Reimbursement Scheme is another financial incentive offered by the Federal Government. Participants of the HECS Scheme are eligible to have their HECS fees reimbursed for each full year of training or medical service you undertake in a RA 2-5 location.

For more information visit www.doctorconnect.gov.au and enter ‘HECS’ into the search engine.

**RTP Support**

Many Regional Training Providers (RTPs) offer additional support to registrars training in their region which may include financially based incentives. Contact the RTPs you are interested in training with to find out more about their support policy.

**Procedural Skills Training**

Registrars training in rural pathways are able to undertake terms in procedural skills training. Depending on the area of specialty, rural pathway registrars may be able to undertake a six month procedural skills post as part of their core training (i.e. as an extended skills term) or complete the post in twelve months, known as an Advanced Rural Skills Post (ARSP), in an optional 4th year of training. Specialities available will vary at each RTP and may include surgery, anaesthetics, obstetrics and gynaecology, emergency medicine and mental health.
Applying to GP Training*

Who can apply?
Applications to the GP Training program can be made as early as from your Intern (PGY1) year.

To apply for GP training you must meet certain eligibility requirements:

- **Citizenship:** You must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident by the application closing date. Alternatively, if you are a temporary resident who obtained their medical qualification in Australia or New Zealand you must be currently applying, or intend to apply, for permanent residence. All applicants must have a valid visa that will allow you to work as an AGPT registrar.

- **Medical Qualifications:** You must have obtained your primary medical qualification in Australia or New Zealand or have successfully completed all parts of the AMC exam by the AGPT application closing date.

- **Medical Registration:** You must have full unconditional medical registration by the 2015 AGPT program starting date or conditions deemed acceptable by General Practice Education & Training (GPET).

- **Training Program Registration:** If you are currently enrolled in a training program you may need to check your eligibility with AGPT.

This information is subject to change. To ensure you are eligible to apply for GP training, please visit the AGPT website [www.agpt.com.au](http://www.agpt.com.au) and complete the eligibility flowchart prior to applying.

Where can you apply to train?
All applications are to be made to Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) – [www.agpt.com.au](http://www.agpt.com.au)

In the application, applicants are required to indicate if they are applying for a general or rural training pathway position and can nominate their RTP preferences. Doctors affected by the moratorium can only apply for rural pathway places.

When can you apply?
Applicants can apply from their intern year. Applications generally open annually for one month from April to May. For exact dates please visit the AGPT website - [www.agpt.com.au](http://www.agpt.com.au)

Do I have to complete mandatory hospital rotations before applying?
As applicants can apply to the AGPT program as early as from their intern year and the first year of GP training is hospital based, applicants can complete the following mandatory rotations DURING the GP training program. They DO NOT have to be completed before applying - they just need to be completed before you can progress into a GP Term. These mandatory terms include:

- General Medicine (or equivalent)
- Surgery (or equivalent)
- Accident & Emergency
- Paediatrics
- Three additional rotations

For more information on the application and selection process download the following documents from the AGPT website (www.agpt.com.au) available prior to applications opening:

- AGPT Handbook
- AGPT Application Guide

* PLEASE NOTE: The following information is subject to change. Always check the AGPT website (www.agpt.com.au) prior to applying.*
The Application and Selection Process*

*PLEASE NOTE: The following information is subject to change. Always check the AGPT website (www.agpt.com.au) prior to applying.

The Application Process

Generally there are a number of steps in the GP training application process. If applicants do not complete each step before the specified deadlines they cannot proceed to subsequent stages in the application process. Application deadlines can be found on the AGPT website – www.agpt.com.au

1. **Online Application:** Applicants to the GP training program are required to firstly complete an online application. During this process applicants nominate their Regional Training Provider (RTP) preferences.

2. **Supporting Documentation:** Applicants are required to electronically upload original colour scans of various official documents (for example, residency/citizenship proof) with their online application in order to meet a number of eligibility requirements. Should the AGPT Selection team have any doubts as to the validity of the document/s, they reserve 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. A full document checklist is available in the 2015 AGPT Applicant Guide.

3. **Referees:** All applications must include the details of two referees. These details are to be included with the online application. Referees should be medical practitioners who have directly supervised the applicant for at least a period of 10 weeks within the past three years. Referees may be contacted by RTPs for their reference.

Who should be my referees?

A referee ideally should be a medical practitioner who has directly supervised the applicant for at least a period of 10 weeks within the past three years. Applicants need to select referees who are able to confidently make judgments about the applicant’s professional capabilities and suitability for general practice. Referees can include AGPT registrars, but should not include other doctors who are applying for AGPT.

The Selection Process

Upon submission of application, eligible applicants will be required to participate in an online Situational Judgement Test (SJT) and the AGPT National Assessment Centre. At the assessment centres, applicants will participate in Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI).

What is the Situational Judgement Test?

The SJT is now an online assessment where candidates are presented with clinical scenarios. Applicants for the 2015 AGPT cohort will sit the SJT online in an authorised testing centre which will be located in various locations. Applicants will be able to book themselves into the online SJT once their AGPT application has been received by GPET. A full list of SJT test centres locations are available at the AGPT website www.agpt.com.au.

What does the Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI) involve?

Candidates rotate between stations answering a different question at each station. All applicants are asked the same set of questions and each interviewer asks the same question to that group of applicants. At the end of the session there is a consensus meeting of all interviewers to evaluate each applicant. Some questions might involve scenarios which candidates are given to read prior to the MMI station.

Where are the assessment centres and when are they held?

Assessment centres are run across Australia and applicants can attend a centre in any region in Australia regardless of where they are applying. Exact dates and locations can be found on the AGPT website prior to the application period.

What happens next?

A score is determined from your SJT results (50%) and MMI performance (50%). Using this score, candidates are progressively ranked from highest to lowest ranking applicants. Applicants are provided with a matrix. This matrix shows the number of training places available with each RTP, all other applicants preferences and their rankings, and the applicants ranking position. Applicants are then given the opportunity to revise their preferences in light of their relative standing.

Once final preferences are submitted applicants may be required to participate in an interview with their RTP of preference before a training place offer is made. You should check with this RTP in the lead up to the application opening date for their selection requirements. For more information please visit the AGPT website - www.agpt.com.au

Detailed information about application and selection is available in the AGPT handbook and AGPT Applicant Guide available on the AGPT website in the lead up to the application opening date.
Beyond Medical Education

Why train with us?
Experience life as a GP in a vibrant regional city, an outback community or take to the skies with the Royal Flying Doctors Service. No other provider offers the options we do.

The Beyond Medical Education experience:
Beyond Medical Education provides registrars with the opportunity to be part of an excellent training program as well as experiencing an enjoyable lifestyle. Training for general practice in the Beyond Medical Education region offers a range of experiences from small practices in quiet country towns to large practices in regional centres, with many practices providing opportunities to care for patients in the local GP managed hospital.

Hospital training is available in Ballarat, Bendigo, Echuca, Mildura and Horsham in Victoria and Orange, Bathurst, Dubbo and Broken Hill Base Hospitals in New South Wales.

Training opportunities:
Registrars are well supported in all practices with experienced supervisors and a dedicated education team, resulting in an exceptionally high exam pass rate. Registrars are placed with practices according to the preferences of both parties. Training practices are located in provincial cities, rural and remote towns, many with VMO admitting rights at regional hospitals.

Beyond Medical Education offers procedural training opportunities in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Emergency Medicine, Aboriginal Health, Anaesthetics, Mental Health, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Palliative Care and experience with the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The smaller communities offer organised primary health care in a less resource supported environment, which in combination with good supervision can lead to an enriching learning experience not only in rural medicine but rural culture. Advanced procedural training years can be undertaken at Bendigo, Ballarat, Mildura, Orange, Bathurst, Dubbo and Broken Hill Base Hospitals.

Registrars undertaking GP terms are eligible for a one off lump sum allowance per training term to help contribute towards the costs associated with moving to or living in the region. This payment varies according to the RA classification of the practice registrars are working in each term. Registrars are also eligible for rental or mortgage subsidies.

Our region:
Starting in Victoria the region extends from the north-western fringes of Melbourne along the Western Highway to the border with South Australia. The Hume Highway forms the eastern boundary, and northern limits include Echuca and Mildura. In NSW the region extends from Bourke and Walgett in the north to Deniliquin in the south and from Lithgow in the east to Broken Hill in the west. It is a large geographical region offering a broad range of clinical and lifestyle experiences.

To Find Out more:
Regional Program Coordinators:
Louise Farmer - lfarmer@beyondmedical.com.au
Allira Gudiksen - agudiksen@beyondmedical.com.au
Phone: 02 6333 4100

Registrar Liaison Officers: Zeshan Shaikh & Nidhi Sharma - beyondrlonsw@beyondmedical.com.au
Website: www.beyondmedical.com.au
What our registrars say…

“I am a Beyond Medical Education registrar and during my training I have been placed with superb supervisors, one with more than 25 years experience in general practice. Working with this supervisor has definitely enriched my general practice training. Undertaking my training in Dubbo has been a great experience for myself and my family. Everything (including the zoo – see photo) is within a short distance, something we’ve never had in Sydney. I’m really satisfied with the way Beyond Medical Education has been guiding my training. They have been very supportive to me and to my family (wife and two boys) since we moved from Sydney, making us feel welcome, helping finding us our home in Dubbo, informing us of local events and activities for our kids and organizing many social get-togethers with other Beyond Medical Education registrars, doctors and their families during the year.”

Beyond Medical Education
GP Registrar, Dr Khalid El-Skafi

“What Beyond Medical Education I have been able to train in a small country town called Forbes, where I have had the opportunity to work at the local hospital. This has been a great learning experience, being able to increase my skills from acute care to chronic care to paediatrics to geriatrics, with the added bonus of being warmly embraced by the community.”

Beyond Medical Education
GP Registrar, Dr Fah Bee Kok

Location: Beyond Medical Education delivers GP training across Central and North Western Victoria and crosses the border into Central and Western New South Wales.

Pathways Offered: Rural and General Pathways are available

Fellowship Options: FACRRM, FRACGP & FARGP
Coast City Country General Practice Training Ltd (CCCGPT)

Why train with us?
CCCGPT defines itself by the word ‘relationships’. We understand that personal/family needs are important; and your personal training program will be designed to meet those needs, as well as your individual learning requirements.

CCCGPT is looking for people willing to commit themselves to the communities in which they train, exhibiting a passion for medicine and care; for patients and community.

The Coast City Country GP Training experience:
For aspiring rural GPs and Hospital Generalists, CCCGPT has the greatest number and broadest range of regionally-based GP Procedural posts in NSW.

CCCGPT regional centres offer unique opportunities for registrars to teach medical students and JMOs or undertake research – the biggest range of options outside of Sydney!

CCCGPT also specialises in supporting Overseas Trained Doctors to complete the training program in minimum time.

Training opportunities:
Our urban and large Regional Centres offer training opportunities in Travel Medicine, Refugee and Prison Health and Aboriginal Health.

Regional centres support advanced training in Surgery, Obstetrics, Mental Health, Anaesthetics, Aboriginal Health, Emergency Medicine, and Expedition Medicine based in the ski fields. Most of our rural practices provide opportunities to exercise VMO rights at the local hospital.

Academic research and teaching posts are also available through affiliations with the medical faculties of the University of NSW, Australian National University and the University of Wollongong, which can be undertaken in urban and rural/ regional settings.

Our region:
Our region boasts a diverse landscape starting in the Illawarra, along the spectacular South & Sapphire Coasts, through to the charming Southern Highlands, Snowy Mountains and the Southern Tablelands. Our region continues westwards across the Riverina high country to the regional centre of Wagga Wagga, the wineries of Griffith, and the outback of Hay and Hillston.

It is this diversity that enables CCCGPT to provide an exceptional mix of rural, alpine, coastal, regional and urban training opportunities catering to each individual registrars’ needs and preferences.

Our regional centres provide all of the benefits of accessible city living, while rural centres provide a more paced “green change” or “sea change” lifestyle with exciting opportunities to experience practice-based and hospital medicine.

To find out more:
Administrative Email: enquiries@ccctraining.org
Registrar Liaison Officer Email: rlo@ccctraining.org
Phone: (02) 6923 5400
Website: www.ccctraining.org
Location: CCCGPT is the largest rural/regional training provider in NSW, delivering training to SENSW and the ACT. This area encompasses the regions of the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Sapphire Coast, Southern Highlands, Southern Tablelands, NSW Snow Fields, Riverina and the ACT.

Pathways Offered: Rural and General Pathways are available

Fellowship Options: FACRRM, FRACGP & FARGP

What our registrars say...

“Since attaining my rural general practice training position with CCCGPT I have developed into a more thorough, conscientious and empathic doctor. Being a rural registrar is a very challenging job, especially at the onset; however a smooth transition was facilitated through the guidance and training provided by CCCGPT. As a rural registrar, I was looked after from all aspects, be it financial, emotional or educational. I would thoroughly recommend this wonderful and lifelong experience to others interested in becoming a rural practitioner under CCCGPT.”

CCCGPT Fellowed GP Registrar, Dr Siva Rajadurai

“In my last 2 years with CCCGPT I have worked part-time as a GP Registrar in a regional setting whilst raising 2 small children. It has been a journey of discovery on both fronts in part to the amazing support offered by the CCCGPT medical educators and administration staff. I have always felt part of a close-knit team and have had highly experienced GP supervisors who practice evidence based medicine and are wonderful teachers. The education offered by CCCGPT has been relevant, stimulating and holistic, with an emphasis on self-directed learning and self care. There are options to pursue special interests and financial support to enhance skills. I would not hesitate to recommend CCCGPT as a training provider- their niche is in acknowledging the individual needs of their registrars and providing a flexible, personal program.”

CCCGPT GP Registrar, Dr Jemima Grant
The General Practice Training – valley to coast experience:

Valley to Coast is an experienced regional training provider with an outstanding reputation for its educational program. The training is practical, relevant, hands-on, challenging and well supported. Generous support packages are available with funding for courses, educational resources and relocation, plus additional subsidies for rural terms.

Training opportunities:

Valley to Coast runs workshops for registrars at all stages of their training. Most workshops are held in Newcastle with distances small enough that all registrars can attend workshops together.

Hospital terms – There is a huge range of hospital terms in the region with two Area Health Services and eight hospitals.

GP terms – We have an extensive network of quality, enthusiastic GP teaching practices ranging from urban practices around Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and the Central Coast to small rural towns with GP run hospitals.

Special interest areas – Extensive options available including, Palliative Care, Paediatrics, Community Paediatrics, Community Geriatrics, Drug and Alcohol, Community Mental Health, O&G, Sexual Health, as well as terms at Aboriginal Medical Services, and Academic posts with the University of Newcastle, Discipline of General Practice. There are also advanced training posts in Anaesthetics, Obstetrics, Emergency Medicine and Mental Health.

Our region:

The Valley to Coast region includes the NSW Central Coast, Hunter region and Manning region. It extends from the Hawkesbury River in the south, to just above Taree in the north, and up the Hunter Valley to Scone in the west. The Valley to Coast office is centrally located in Newcastle.

If you want the facilities and attractions of city life without the hectic pace of Sydney, then Gosford and Newcastle have what you need: restaurants, theatre, music, cinema, university campuses and a great choice of schools. If you are keen on water there are kilometres of superb surfing beaches and vast areas of lake (Great Lakes and Lake Macquarie). The Hunter Valley is home to one of Australia’s finest wine regions. The rural areas contain extensive State Forests and National Parks and opportunities for kayaking, bushwalking, camping and horse riding.

To find out more:

Website: www.gptvtc.com.au
or contact us by
Email: gptraining@gptvtc.com.au
Phone: 02 4968 6753
Registrar Liaison Officer: rlo@gptvtc.com.au

Why train with us?

Ideally situated two hours north of Sydney, the region has much to offer with great beaches, national parks and the Hunter Valley vineyards. Both urban and rural practices allow you to complete all of your GP terms within the one region. Our rural practices are all within a 2 hour drive of Newcastle. There are also plenty of job and career opportunities for your partner if required.
“I transferred my GP training to Valley to Coast from a Sydney regional provider after my husband moved up to Newcastle. Valley to Coast has made my transfer effortless and the welcome into the program was warm and friendly. The comprehensive workshops are extremely helpful and mentally nourishing. Perhaps the greatest thing about Valley to Coast is the overwhelming support from the medical educators, the supervisors and the staff who always ensure that we are well looked after. During my training with Valley to Coast, I didn’t feel alone or overwhelmed by general practice, instead I’ve always felt positive and look forward to going to work each day. I contribute a big part of this sentiment to my experience with Valley to Coast. I strongly recommend Valley to Coast to anyone considering GP training.”

GPTVTC GP Registrar, Dr Jamie Tran

“Valley to Coast has provided me with the opportunity to further my career as a rural general practitioner over the last three years. They have been supportive and enthusiastic in developing my career needs with motivated educational sessions, supportive staff and educators, and keen GP supervisors that are happy to teach and share their range of clinical knowledge and skills. They have paid particular attention to my career and social/family needs. Valley to Coast has provided me with the foundation to launch my rural GP career.”

GPTVTC GP Registrar, Dr Craig Barry
GP Synergy

Why train with us?
We are proud to have a long standing reputation for providing high quality education and in-practice supervision to vocational and prevocational doctors. Our reputation stems from our unwavering commitment to provide the highest quality education resources and in-practice training experiences.

Your GP Synergy experience:
Providing a supportive and high quality learning environment underpins our training philosophy and is a shared value amongst all GP Synergy medical educators, supervisors and training practices.

GP Synergy is fortunate to be able to draw upon highly expertised and experienced medical education staff who develop and deliver a comprehensive and tailored education program to support trainees during their learning.

As in-practice experience plays a significant role in your development we have a robust accreditation and quality review system to ensure our training practices meet high teaching standards.

Significant support is available to doctors training with GP Synergy. We have a dedicated Rural Support Officer and rural placement financial support program, as well as a comprehensive fellowship preparation exam series to help you reach your fellowship goals.

Training opportunities:
As one of Australia’s largest training providers, GP Synergy registrars can pursue an extensive range of special interests such as paediatrics, sexual health, Aboriginal health, antenatal shared care, drugs and alcohol, mental health, and academic research to name a few.

GP Synergy also offers a range of highly regarded procedural skills training posts. Supported by specialist and GP supervisors, these include obstetrics and gynaecology, anaesthetics, mental health and emergency medicine.

Our region:
The extensive GP Synergy Sydney region offers general pathway registrars a range of diverse, unique and flexible learning opportunities.

Our urban training footprint encompasses northern, eastern, central, southern and southwestern Sydney.

Located in Northwest NSW, our rural training region offers a breadth of training experiences from large regional centres to smaller country locations. The area is at the forefront of medical development, with the leading teaching hospital in Tamworth, and UNE medical school in Armidale.

The rate of new medical facility developments and the region’s embrace of technology has made it one of the most well connected and well supported rural healthcare regions, at the envy of many others.

The region has excellent transport connections with several airports offering daily flights to Sydney (and in some locations Brisbane).

To find out more:
Request an applicant information pack:
Contact: applicant@gpsynergy.com.au
Phone: 02 9818 4433
Website: www.gpsynergy.com.au

Talk to a GP Synergy Registrar:
Contact our Registrar Liaison Officer’s on
rloRural@gpsynergy.com.au
rloGeneral@gpsynergy.com.au
What our registrars say...

“I have found GP Synergy to be really helpful and positive. The level of support available is huge and their is very high quality teaching undertaken in workshops.”
Dr Jemma Golding
General Pathway Registrar

“My GP Synergy rural training experience has been part of the best experience of my life. I was exposed to a wide range of clinical presentations and the supervision I received was excellent.”
Dr Charles Piao
Rural Pathway Registrar

“My training experience with GP Synergy has been extremely positive. I have been very impressed the teaching which is practical, relevant and pitched at the right level; as well as the continuing approachability of educators and presenters and their genuine desire to help you learn. Training with a very high quality cohort of peers who are motivated, friendly, with varied interests has made training very enjoyable and I have made good friends throughout the training program.”
Dr Jenny Morrison
Rural Pathway Registrar
Why train with us?

North Coast GP Training offers a highly personalised, supportive and innovative training program in a beautiful and unspoiled corner of northern NSW that boasts an enviable quality of life.

“Our aim is to assist all registrars to gain the confidence to practice medicine in an environment of their choice, utilising the skills they and their community most need”.

Dr Christine Ahern, Director of Training and 2011 GPET Medical Educator of the Year

The North Coast GP Training experience:

NCGPT provides a flexible and family oriented learning environment with a high priority placed on face to face teaching by our team of experienced Medical Educators (the smiley group top right).

We offer exceptional personal and professional support to our registrars throughout their GP training journey. NCGPT’s Medical Educators are all experienced clinicians and teachers, recognised nationally and internationally for their work in the area of GP wellbeing. Their focus on wellbeing runs through the entire NCGPT program and gives our registrars skills that will sustain them throughout their careers.

Our full time Registrar Support Officer is dedicated to assisting registrars in their relocation to our region and settling into the training program with generous support provided for relocation costs.

NCGPT works with over 65 accredited training practices and over 150 GP trainers across the region, all of whom are committed to giving our registrars excellent learning experiences and support throughout their training.

Training opportunities:

NCGPT delivers its training across three training nodes (Ballina/Byron, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie). Our Medical Educators deliver a comprehensive education program designed to give our registrars the clinical, practical and personal skills to become competent and confident GPs.

NCGPT’s Procedural Training and Rural Generalist Programs offer registrars opportunities to gain valuable procedural skills in Emergency, O&G, Anaesthetics, Surgery and Mental Health in accredited Advanced Rural Skills Posts based in hospitals across the region. NCGPT registrars also have opportunities for a rich and rewarding experience in any one of seven Aboriginal Medical and Health Services across the region. Academic research posts are also available.

Full practical exam preparation support is offered, for both the written and clinical exams, giving our registrars a strong track record of success in the College exams.

Our region:

Geography: Our region offers long sweeping beaches, a stunning hinterland, pristine rainforests and a unique subtropical climate.

Community: The North Coast boasts a range of diverse communities up and down the coast each with its own unique character, flavour and identity. Being a part of a smaller community brings many rewards not generally found in larger metropolitan areas.

Culture/Arts: The North Coast is known nationally and internationally for its music festivals, colourful craft and garden markets and flourishing arts scene. The Byron Bay Writers Festival, Bluesfest and Splendour in the Grass are just some of the regions many well-known events.

To find out more:

Interested? Contact our dedicated Registrar Support Officer at: T: (02) 6681 5711 or E: info@ncgpt.org.au

Call to get an NCGPT information pack and visit our website at www.ncgpt.org.au. You’ll be glad you did!
“NCGPT have been fabulous! The team here is extremely friendly and approachable and will bend over backwards to help us. The whole vibe is relaxed and because the organisation is relatively small it is easy to get to know everyone, feel part of a team and network with registrars from across the region. The education program is head and shoulders above anything else I’ve experienced. The workshops and release days are fantastic with small groups and lots of input. The NCGPT exam pass rate is testament to the excellent education program.”
Dr Katherine Dent, recently completed NCGPT Registrar

“If you’re interested in personalised, supportive and award winning GP training then, North Coast GP Training is the place for you! I personally owe my 2009 and 2010 GP Registrar of the year awards to the endlessly dedicated, enthusiastic and immensely supportive staff at NCGPT. General Practice training with NCGPT can be everything YOU want it to be, nothing is too difficult for the staff to assist you with or to arrange. NCGPT is an attractive option in so many ways. Location lifestyle and educational opportunities are endless. The support and encouragement received from NCGPT is superb!”
Dr Sarah McEwan, past NCGPT Registrar, 2009 RACGP Rural Registrar of the Year and 2010 ACCRM Rural Registrar of the Year

“What our registrars say…

“North Coast GP Training is a fantastic place to be a GP Registrar. The region has amazing beaches end to end, stunning hinterland, and perfect climate. When at work, the education and training program at NCGPT is superb - come and join us!”
Dr David Chessor, Current NCGPT Registrar, 2013 RACGP Rural Registrar of the Year and 2013 GPET Registrar of the Year.
The WentWest experience:

As a Regional Training Provider, WentWest offers vocational training for General Practice in greater Western Sydney - incorporating the catchments of Western Sydney Medicare Local (WSML) and Nepean Blue Mountains Medicare Local. Embarking on your general practice career WentWest will offer you:

- The opportunity to work with a vibrant and diverse range of patients and communities
- Guidance and support from dedicated and caring general practitioners
- Access to a wealth of resources for training and ongoing professional development
- A well-regarded and award winning education program, tailored to our regions needs
- High population/doctor ratio offering clinical experience and patient exposure and
- Research and innovation opportunities.

With over 60% of our practices in outer metropolitan areas, Registrars are able to satisfy their training pathway obligation by remaining in the WentWest area for the entire duration of their training.

Training opportunities:

The WentWest program has been developed locally to take advantage of high-quality resources. This includes working with leading teaching hospitals in the area such as Westmead, Blacktown, Nepean and Auburn Hospitals.

Registrars can choose to complete an Academic Term at the University of Sydney’s Department of General Practice, Western Clinical School, with Professor Tim Usherwood.

Registrars have the opportunity to undertake extended skills posts as an optional component of their training, allowing them to focus on a particular area of interest relevant to General Practice. Registrars can choose from areas such as Aboriginal Health, Paediatrics or Palliative Care.

WentWest is pleased to have 85 high quality training practices throughout our region. We have 135 accredited Supervisors within these practices many of whom have been involved in long term Registrar Training. It is a testament to the quality of Supervisors and Practices and the experience they provide Registrars that approximately 30% of our Practices have Fellowed Registrars now working in them as GPs and in some cases Supervisors themselves.

Our region:

Geographically the region includes many contrasts from the urbanised plains of the Sydney Basin to the scenic river gorges, hills and bushland of the Blue Mountains. The area is also one of great demographic, cultural and socio-economic diversity that offers world-class shopping facilities and restaurants and a wide range of recreational activities and venues.

To find out more:

Administration: Maggie Laycock, RTP Team Leader
Email: maggie.laycock@wentwest.com.au
Ph: 02 8811 7100; Fax: 02 9622 3448
Website: www.wentwest.com.au
Address: Level 1, 85 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown NSW 2148
Registrar Liaison Officer: Dr Cheng Chen
rlo.cheng@wentwest.com.au
Ph: 02 8811 7100; Fax: 02 9622 3448

Why train with us?

WentWest has been focused on providing better health care in our community since 2002. We do this both as a Regional Training Provider and as a Medicare Local. We connect health services to meet local needs and strive for better health outcomes for Western Sydney. We do this in partnership with doctors, allied health professionals, the local health district and many others. We are here to help and offer Registrars ongoing education and support throughout their professional development. WentWest utilises the many networks and programs available to deliver first class training, resources, services and events.
“Having grown up and worked in western Sydney I naturally chose to start my general practice training with WentWest. From the time I entered the training program I felt well supported by WentWest staff who have always made time to answer any questions, particularly in the transition from the hospital setting. As a registrar I immediately felt part of the WentWest “family”.

The fortnightly workshops have been the backbone of the training program, providing the core curriculum of general practice training, along with a special exam preparation course. Being able to attend regular workshops has given me the opportunity to meet other registrars which created a great atmosphere to train in. I have also been able to explore my own special interests in general practice.

Now that I am approaching the end of my training, I feel confident that the staff and training program at WentWest have equipped me with the tools to become a knowledgeable, safe and compassionate general practitioner.”

Dr Hamshi Singh
WentWest GP Registrar
PGPPP: The Prevocational General Practice Placements Program

What is PGPPP?
The Prevocational General Practice Placements Program (PGPPP) is an Australian Federal Government initiative that provides hospital based junior doctors with an opportunity to experience a supervised General Practice placement as an accredited hospital rotation.

How does the program work?
Junior doctors undertake a 10-11 week rotation with an accredited GP training practice seeing patients with on-site supervision from an experienced GP supervisor, weekly teaching sessions and an education program. Like any other hospital rotation, it is an accredited hospital term and during the rotation the junior doctor remains an employee of the hospital.

Who can/should participate in the program?
All junior doctors who have not yet enrolled in a specialty training program should consider a PGPPP placement:

- Junior doctors not considering a career in General Practice and who have decided on another specialty career choice;
- Junior doctors who are not sure of their career plans;
- Junior doctors already considering a career in General Practice.

Why participate in PGPPP?
There are many benefits for junior doctors to participate in the PGPPP program:

1. Improve and acquire new skills: The direct patient contact and management in a PGPPP placement allows you to build your clinical and consultation skills in a supervised setting;

2. Benefit from individual mentoring: In a PGPPP placement you receive one on one mentoring by respected and experienced GPs, maximising your personal development;

3. Build your confidence: As a PGPPP placement exposes you to a range of health care services and settings, it enables you to build skills and confidence to take into future training and work environments;

4. Form professional relationships: Regardless of your professional preference, a PGPPP placement offers important networking opportunities important for future training plans and professional pursuits;

5. Be a better specialist: A PGPPP placement ensures all doctors, even those already decided on a different career choice, develop an enhanced understanding of the Australian health care system, improving their awareness and integration of specialist and primary care services.

6. Dispel misconceptions: PGPPP placements offer significantly more hands on experience over and above what you may have experienced in undergraduate training allowing you to really explore and understand the complexities and diversity of General Practice.

7. Try something different: The General Practice environment is very different to the hospital environment and with PGPPP placements located across urban and rural parts of NSW, there are lots of experiences and opportunities to explore.

For more information
If you would like more information about a career in General Practice or to find out more about GP training, please contact a local Regional GP Training Provider.

“My PGPPP term provided a fantastic introduction to life in a busy practice. With expert GP supervision and encouragement, as well as excellent teaching, I navigated through ten weeks’ worth of patients with all sorts of issues; Substance dependence and abuse, pregnancy and paediatrics, sexual health and end-of-life issues were just a sample of items on the menu. It was hard to return to the relative drudgery of some of the hospital-based ward work. The term is not just extremely useful for those JMOs set on the path to GP training, it provides experience in how the vast majority of medicine is conducted. I have found this primary health care experience useful back in the hospital setting, for example in understanding the importance to patient care of quality discharge summaries and ongoing interaction with GPs.”

Dr Andrew Palfreman reflecting on his PGPPP experience
NSW Rural Generalist Training Program

A Rural Generalist is a medical practitioner that has an extended range of advanced skills and knowledge required to provide primary care to a rural community whilst being credentialed at the local health service to provide procedural / advanced skills of their chosen specialty.

The new NSW Rural Generalist Training Program is being implemented by the NSW Government with a primary goal of building and sustaining a medical workforce to meet the health care needs of rural communities. This career pathway will result in qualifications as a medical Practitioner who can work in a General Practice setting as well as in a hospital providing secondary medical care in a rural town.

To be eligible to apply for the NSW Rural Generalist Training Program, the candidate must be enrolled in or intending to enrol in a General Practice Education and Training Program (FACRRM or FRACGP and FARGP).

To register your interest or to find out more information on the program, please visit www.ruralheti.health.nsw.gov.au

NSW GP Procedural Training Program

In 2002, The NSW Rural General Practice Procedural Training Program was developed to establish training posts and address the workforce and skills shortage of practicing proceduralists across rural NSW. Procedural training has been completed in the following areas; Anaesthetics, Emergency Medicine, Obstetrics, Surgery and Mental Health.

A Procedural GP is able to provide primary care to a rural community as well as working as a GP/VMO at a local health facility providing procedural services in a chosen specialty. The program is targeted at GPs and GP Registrars currently in rural practice or intending to take up rural practice.

Applicants accepted into the program are required to either be enrolled in GP Training (GPY 3/4/5) or to be working in a rural General Practice. Options for PGY1/2 to gain advanced skills training would include the Rural Generalist Training Program; a 4 year structured training program with options to undertake additional advanced skills training whilst completing community General Practice training.

To register your interest or to find out more information on the program, please visit www.ruralheti.health.nsw.gov.au
For More Information

If you would like more information about a career in General Practice or General Practice training, please contact a NSW Regional Training Provider.

To apply for GP Training or to find out more about how to apply contact AGPT:

Australian General Practice Training (AGPT)
Phone: 02 6263 6777
Email: selection@gpet.com.au
Web: www.agpt.com.au

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