



# PATHWAYS TO GENERAL PRACTICE FELLOWSHIP

## Introduction

Many practices employ GP registrars or are interesting in having GP registrars work at their clinics. This document has been created to provide an overview of the various training pathways doctors may be undertaking while working in general practice. Information on the benefits of becoming a GP training site and/or GP supervisor have also been included.

## Pathways to Fellowship (FRACGP, FRACGP-RG, FACRRM)

There are many different ways a doctor can become a vocationally registered general practitioner (GP) in Australia, with the most common way to achieve fellowship through the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) and Rural Generalist (RG) Pathway. In 2023, there has been a shift from Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) delivering the training, back to the colleges (RACGP and ACRRM.)

## What does GP training involve?

Each training program has slightly different requirements, however most will require the following, in addition to the doctor's intern year:

- One year in the hospital setting to complete rotations in key areas such as emergency, general medicine, general surgery and paediatrics.
- Two years working in general practice. GP registrars are fully qualified doctors working with their own provider numbers. They are employed by general practice clinics who have accredited GP supervisors working at the clinic who can teach and mentor them.
- In addition to this core training, many training programs allow GP registrars to do a specialist year (e.g. anaesthetics or obstetrics). This enables a GP registrar to be qualified as a procedural GP and do some work in local hospitals, in addition to their GP work in the clinic.
- GP registrars must sit and pass the fellowship exams of their chosen college (RACGP or ACRRM) as the final step. As a fellow, GPs can work unsupervised as a GP anywhere in Australia.

## How does my practice become a GP training site?

Each training pathway will have slightly different requirements. To become an accredited training site or supervisor for the AGPT you must meet the following requirements:

- must be in an area where training sites are required
- hold current accreditation against the RACGP [Standards for general practices](#)
- be able to support a registrar and provide a safe clinical learning environment
- provide adequate patient numbers with a variety of demographics to ensure registrars experience sufficient depth and breadth of general practice
- provide a quiet space for teaching, learning and study
- provide a suitably equipped, dedicated patient consultation room.

If you meet the above criteria, you can submit an expression of interest to become an accredited training site to help train the next generation of Australian GPs:

- [RACGP - Submit an EOI](#)
- [ACRRM - Submit an EOI](#)

Please contact other training programs directly for information on how to become an accredited training site or supervisor. To learn more, see: [General Practice Supervision Australia \(gpsa.org.au\)](http://gpsa.org.au)

### **Benefits of becoming a GP supervisor**

Teaching and mentoring GP registrars can be a very rewarding experience. It can help create a great culture within a clinic of teaching and learning, and supervisors often report a renewed sense of purpose as they share their knowledge and experience with the next generation of general practitioners. In the best-case scenario, these registrars may have such a great experience working at your clinic, that they decide to come back and work there in the future.

Increased workforce is another obvious advantage of hosting a GP registrar. GP registrars have their own provider number and see their own patients and can help to address GP workforce shortages. Training practices and supervisors who have a GP registrar training with them under the AGPT and RG program, will receive nationally consistent payments administered by Services Australia.

- [How to register an organisation in PRODA - PRODA \(Provider Digital Access\) - Services Australia](#)

### **Teaching and supervising can count towards a GP's CPD hours**

GPs may already be doing lots of things in their everyday practice that can count towards their continuing professional development (CPD) hours. All teaching, supervision, mentoring and case-based discussion can count towards a GP's 50 hours of annual CPD.

- [RACGP - 2023-25 Triennium](#)

### **Murray PHN's involvement in sustainable rural general practice**

Murray PHN has been commissioned by the Commonwealth Government to do some analysis on the general practice training landscape throughout Victoria. The Strategy and Performance Unit (SPU) is looking at the spread of GPs and GP practices and providing the Commonwealth with data on where there is workforce and community need for additional general practitioners. This is a complex task as there are many factors to consider (community need, workforce need and training capacity). GP registrars cannot be placed in regions where there are no accredited supervisors to teach and mentor them.

The AGPT program distribution targets will be informed by Workforce Planning and Prioritisation organisations (of which Murray PHN is leading for Victoria) and set by the Department of Health and Aged Care to meet current and future community needs.

The findings of this work will help inform where GP registrars are placed to complete their training in future. The data collected may also be used to inform where students in other clinical placements, such as nursing and allied health, could be placed to help with workforce issues across the region.

## Overview of available training programs

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| <b>Australian General Practice Training (RACGP and ACRRM Pathways)</b> | <p>The Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program is one way to become a GP in Australia. It offers 1,500 Australian Government-funded training places every year. Registrars who complete the program can work unsupervised as a GP anywhere in the country.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program   Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">RACGP - Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPT) (acrrm.org.au)</a></li> </ul> |
| <b>Rural Generalist Pathway</b>  | <p>GPs are an integral part of rural communities, and the skills they practise depend on the context in which they work and the specific needs of their community. While a fellow of the RACGP can practice unsupervised anywhere in Australia, the extra emergency medicine skills and additional non-GP specialist skills gained as part of the Rural Generalist Fellowship extend GP's scope of practice for rural and remote areas.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Rural Generalist Training Program   Victorian Rural Generalist Program (vicruralgeneralist.com.au)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">NSW Rural Generalist Medical Training Program   HETI</a></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS)</b>                        | <p>The RVTS is a national training program for doctors seeking fellowship. The program is delivered via distance training and remote supervision to doctors in rural and remote Australia and Aboriginal Medical Services. Doctors undertake the three- or four-year program while they continue to provide medical services to their community.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">RVTS Home Page - RVTS</a></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Fellowship Support Program (FSP)</b>                                | <p>The FSP is a new education and training program to support doctors on the General Practice Experience (GPE) Pathway when the Department of Health and Aged Care subsidy for the Practice Experience Program (PEP) ends in June 2023. The program is self-funded, with two intakes per year.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">RACGP - Fellowship Support Program</a></li> </ul>  |
| <b>ACRRM Independent Pathway</b>                                       | <p>Independent Pathway (IP) is a supported and flexible training pathway with a comprehensive and structured education program, developed and delivered by experienced Fellows of ACRRM. IP enables doctors to work directly with ACRRM staff and medical educators to craft a training plan to suit their career goals, to negotiate their own training placement and manage their own learning experience. Doctors completing the IP are not restricted by Commonwealth funding requirements and policy.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Independent Pathway (IP) (acrrm.org.au)</a></li> </ul>   |
| <b>More Doctors for Rural Australia Program (MDRAP)</b>                | <p>This program is for doctors who are temporary or permanent residents of Australia and not vocationally recognised. Doctors in this program get support and training towards joining a college fellowship program to become vocationally recognised.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">More Doctors for Rural Australia Program (MDRAP) - RWAV</a></li> </ul>   |

## Contact us

For more information contact your local Quality Improvement Consultant.

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