



Rural Locum Education Assistance Program Guidelines

Introduction

The Rural Locum Education Assistance Program (Rural LEAP) was developed as a result of the 2009-10 Budget Rural Health Workforce Strategy. Financial assistance is provided to urban general practitioners who undertake emergency medicine training and commit to a four week (20 working days) general practice locum placement in a rural locality within a two year period.

In 2009-10 a pilot program will be implemented, with limited number of placements in the program available. Depending on uptake in the pilot, places in the program may be increased in future years.

Eligibility

To be eligible for payment under the Program applicants need to be:

- a General Practitioner; and
- currently practicing in an urban locality.

The Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Area (ASGC-RA), is the classification system used to define eligible areas. Urban localities are classified ASGC-RA 1 and localities eligible for locum placements are in ASGC-RA 2-5.

This is a one off incentive with participants only able to access and obtain financial assistance to undertake emergency medicine training up to a total of \$6,000.

How to Apply

To be considered for the Program, urban GPs must apply to either the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) or the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) using the attached application form.

Due to the limited number of places in the program, both Colleges will assess applications based on when an application is received. Applicants will also need to outline the following:

- when the applicant intends to undertake training;

- type of training the applicant intends to undertake; and
- when the applicant intends to fulfil their locum commitment.

If the program is over subscribed, all successful applicants who do not make the initial round, will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if numbers in the program are increased.

Eligible Training

ACRRM and the RACGP, in consultation with relevant external agencies, assess the eligibility of training for inclusion in the Program.

The list below provides examples of training courses. Other courses may be available and further information can be obtained from either ACRRM or RACGP:

- Emergency Crisis Resource Management
- Early Management of Severe Trauma (EMST)
- Emergency Life Support (ELS) Course
- APLS
- Rural Emergency Skills Training (REST)
- Intermediate and/or Advanced Life Support
- Emergency Medicine Crisis Management
- Intermediate and/or CEMP workshops
- HWQLD Rural Emergency Medicine Workshop
- Soma Health Airway, CPR and Trauma Management Workshop

If the above courses do not meet your needs, you can submit a learning plan as part of your application to be assessed.

Value of Incentive

The Rural LEAP payment is calculated on a maximum of \$6,000 per GP for three days of upskilling activities. This is based on a rate of \$2,000 per day.

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Locum Commitment

Participants in the Program are to undertake a total of four weeks locum placements within two years of receiving their payment for undertaking emergency medicine training. The four weeks (20 working days) can be broken up into shorter periods, however a total of two weeks (10 working days) needs to be completed in the first 12 months from receiving their payment.

Participants are required to undertake practice based GP locum positions located in ASGC-RA 2-5. These locum placements may be organised by the participant or the participant may seek assistance through various locum agencies.

Once a participant has fulfilled their locum commitment, they are required to advise Medicare Australia. This can be through a statutory declaration from the practice where the locum was provided or a letter from the locum agency as verification.

Administration of the Program

The administration of the Program is jointly managed by ACRRM and the RACGP.

ACRRM and the RACGP are responsible for assessing the eligibility of GPs and of training.

Medicare Australia is responsible for maintaining a register of eligible GPs and for making payments to GPs on completion of eligible training. Medicare Australia is also responsible for tracking the two year period for participants to undertake their locum requirement.

Payment of the Incentive

Eligible GPs receive a payment once Medicare Australia receives evidence from ACRRM or the RACGP of the GP's completion of eligible training.

Payments to GPs are made directly to a bank account nominated by the GP. Medicare Australia also forwards a statement to the GP detailing payment. Medicare Australia will also provide reminders to GPs to undertake their locum requirement by a required date.

Program Contact Details

Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
(ACRRM)
GPO Box 2507
BRISBANE QLD 4001
Phone: 1800 223 226

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
(RACGP)
National Rural Faculty
15 Gover Street
NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006
Phone: 1800 636 764

Rural Locum Education Assistance Program Application Form

GP Details

Name:	
Provider No:	
Practice Address:	
Postal Address:	
Day Time Phone No:	
Mobile No:	Fax No:
Email Address:	

Grant payment should be made into the following account:

Account Name:	
Bank:	Branch:
BSB:	Account No:

Note: GPs may direct the funds to either a personal or a practice account.

Training Details

I am applying for the Rural LEAP and am interested in undertaking the following emergency medicine training:

Course Name:

Is the above an approved course?

Yes

No

If no, please attach a learning plan.

I intend to undertake this training in the next:

6 Months 12 Months 18 Months

I intend to fulfil my 4 week locum commitment within the next:

6 Months 12 Months 18 Months 2 Years

Declaration and Consent

I declare that:

1. The information that I have supplied in this application form is true and correct. I understand that providing false and misleading information is a serious offence.
2. I will undertake locum placement/s totalling 20 working days located in ASGC-RA 2-5 within two years of receiving my payment (10 working days to be undertaken within 12 months).
3. I will advise Medicare Australia within 14 days of any change in my circumstances which may affect my ability to fulfil my locum commitment.
4. I will advise Medicare Australia once I have completed my locum commitment.
5. I understand that I will be required to repay any payments received under the Program if my locum commitment is not fulfilled.

Signature

Date

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