



The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP)

Advanced Rural Skills Training – Small Town Rural General Practice
training post accreditation guidelines for regional training organisations



1. *Background*

Since July 2013 the responsibility for the accreditation of trainers and training posts for Advanced Rural Skills Training (ARST) posts for the Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) has been delegated to Regional Training Organisations (RTOs).

This document has been developed by the RACGP Rural Education Committee to provide assistance for RTOs with the accreditation of trainers and training posts for the purpose of the FARGP ARST for Small Town Rural General Practice.

When accrediting a training post for the FARGP ARST for Small Town Rural General Practice, the RTO must be able to demonstrate that all four (4) of the mandatory requirements, and three (3) of the five (5) secondary requirements, have been met for the post.

2. *Purpose of guidelines*

By providing these guidelines, that include mandatory and secondary requirements, RTOs will be provided with the information they require to accredit ARST Small Town Rural General Practice posts based on the individual needs of that community and the geographical location and remoteness of each training post. Important factors such as a lack of specialist medical support and access to other resources should be taken into account.

These guidelines should also remove the confusing, and at times, inequities of the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Area (ASGC-RA). These guidelines should allow an RTO to accredit a particular training post and not the whole town or region. This will allow the practice's individual setting, access to resources and unique community circumstances to be considered regardless of the ASGC-RA.

Unlike some other ARST posts that can only be undertaken within a large or regional hospital for factors such as appropriate supervision and resources, the mandatory requirements for ARST Small Town Rural General Practice have a strong emphasis on the 'small town' experience. This provides FARGP candidates undertaking this curriculum with the appropriate exposure to rural general practice experiences and rural lifestyle, giving them a true and accurate sense of being involved in a small town community.

3. *Accreditation requirements*

When accrediting a training post for the FARGP ARST for Small Town Rural General Practice, the RTO must be able to demonstrate that all four (4) of the following mandatory requirements, and at least three (3) of the five (5) secondary requirements, have been met for the post.

Mandatory requirements:

1. The practice is in a town with a population of less than 12,000
2. GPs from the practice provide services at the local community hospital
3. The practice is more than a 45-minute drive from the nearest hospital with salaried multidisciplinary medical specialists and inpatient/outpatient allied health services
4. The practice is accredited for the vocational training of general practice registrars

Secondary requirements:

1. GPs at the practice provide emergency/trauma services at the local hospital or a similar healthcare facility
2. GPs at the practice provide after-hours services for community need
3. GPs at the practice provide procedural and/or non-procedural services
4. No specialist medical referral services are available within a 45-minute drive of the town
5. The practice is in ASGC-RA 4 or 5

4. Example of application

Using the requirements listed above, the table below is an example of how an RTO could demonstrate (with supporting evidence) how a practice meets the mandatory and secondary accreditation requirements for a FARGP ARST Small Town Rural General Practice training post.

Practice and location	Mandatory requirements				Secondary requirements					Accredited
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	
Practice ABC	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Practice XYZ	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Practice AEK	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

5. Further assistance

If you have any questions or require assistance in relation to these ARST training post accreditation guidelines, please contact the RACGP National Rural Faculty on 1800 636 764 or email fargp@racgp.org.au or visit www.racgp.org.au/fargp



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