



RACGP

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

# *Working as a general practitioner in Australia*

**A step-by-step guide for international medical graduates working towards RACGP Fellowship**



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RACGP Fellowship

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RACGP

*Working as a general  
practitioner in Australia*

**A step-by-step guide for international  
medical graduates working towards  
RACGP Fellowship**

## Acronyms

AHPRA	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
AGPT	Australian General Practice Training
AKT	Applied Knowledge Test
AMC	Australian Medical Council
DWS	District of Workforce Shortage
ESO	Exam Support Online
FARGP	Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice
FICPI	Fitness for Intended Clinical Practice Interview
FRACGP	Fellowship of The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
GP	General practitioner
IMG	International medical graduate
KFP	Key Feature Problems
MBA	Medical Board of Australia
MBS	Medicare Benefits Schedule
OSCE	Objective Structured Clinical Exam
QI&CPD	Quality Improvement and Continuing Professional Development
RACGP	The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
RTO	Regional Training Organisation
RVTS	Remote Vocational Training Scheme

## About this guide<sup>†</sup>

This guide is developed for international medical graduates (IMGs)\* currently working towards Fellowship of The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP).

An IMG is defined as a doctor who obtained their medical qualifications from a medical school outside of Australia or New Zealand.

The content is designed to help answer questions about the pathways to FRACGP, recognition of skills and the processes involved. It also provides useful contacts and online resources to support IMGs along their journey.

The *First things first* section on page five includes some basic information about how to get skills recognised and the requirements for Australian medical registration.

We have included helpful tips (see orange boxes) and frequently asked questions (see blue boxes) throughout this booklet.

\* Sometimes referred to as an 'Overseas Trained Doctor' (OTD).

† The information held within this document is valid until 30 June 2017. Please securely destroy copies seven days after this date.



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## *Welcome to Australia*

Australia offers the opportunity for IMGs to work in a world-class health system in a diverse range of geographic and lifestyle settings – from large metropolitan general practice to providing quality medical services as a rural and remote general practitioner (GP).

Within Australia, each state or territory, region and rural town has its own distinctive character. Wherever you choose to settle and practise as a GP, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners(RACGP) welcomes you and we hope your experience will be valuable to your future medical career.

## *About general practice in Australia*

In Australia, general practice provides a medical home offering person-centred, continuing, comprehensive and coordinated whole-person healthcare to individuals and families.

The GP plays a central role in the delivery of healthcare to the Australian community. In Australia, the GP:

- is most likely the first point of contact in matters of personal health
- coordinates the care of patients and refers patients to other specialists
- cares for patients in a whole-of-person approach and in the context of their work, family and community
- cares for patients of all ages and sexes, across all disease categories
- cares for patients over a period of their lifetime
- provides advice and education on healthcare
- performs legal processes such as certification of documents or provision of reports in relation to motor transport or work accidents
- often provides special medical services, e.g. skin care or women's health
- may be involved in research related to primary care.

In Australia, general practice is a **medical speciality** (similar to what is often known as family medicine or family practice in other countries). Entry to the speciality may be achieved by admission to the FRACGP.

## *The role of the RACGP*

The RACGP is Australia's largest professional general practice organisation, representing over 35,000 members working in or towards a career in general practice. The RACGP is responsible for setting and maintaining the standards for quality clinical practice, education and research, and provides products and services to support GPs at every stage of their professional life.

We recognise the diversity among doctors who may wish to become GPs and offer a number of training opportunities and pathways to Fellowship.

Fellowship is the admission to the specialty of general practice and represents excellence in general practice. You can read more about the FRACGP on the next page.

For more information about the RACGP, including membership options, visit [www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au)



## *What is the FRACGP?*

Fellowship of the RACGP allows medical practitioners to be admitted to the medical speciality of general practice in Australia.

FRACGP allows the GPs to:

- work unsupervised in general practice
- claim A1 Medicare specialist rebates
- use the post nominal 'FRACGP'

There are three pathways towards the FRACGP:

- General Practice Experience (GPE) Pathway for practising GPs
- Vocational Training Pathway for general practice registrars
- RACGP Specialist Pathway for IMGs with a recognised specialist qualification in general practice

Most doctors will need to undertake the RACGP assessments to achieve Fellowship. The assessments are delivered in various locations across Australia.

To find out more about RACGP Fellowship, visit [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp)

You can read more about the FRACGP exams and how to prepare for them on pages 18–22.

### **FAQ: How do I become a Fellow of the RACGP?**

You will need to have identified a pathway to Fellowship and then apply to be assessed to ensure you meet the requirements for the selected pathway. After successfully completing the requirements of that pathway you may be eligible to apply for Fellowship. Read more about pathways to Fellowship on page 11.

## *What is the FARGP?*

The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) is a qualification awarded by the RACGP in addition to the vocational Fellowship (FRACGP). The FARGP has pathways designed for both general practice registrars and experienced practising GPs.

The FARGP aims to develop additional skills and broaden options for safe, accessible and comprehensive care for Australia's rural, remote and very remote communities. The FARGP pathway offers the greatest benefits when completed over the full period of the registrar training program, well before you start preparing for your final FRACGP exams.

FARGP requirements:

- FARGP learning plan and reflection activity
- 12 months in a rural general practice setting
- 12 months of Advanced Rural Skills Training (ARST) in an accredited procedural or nonprocedural training post
- Complete a six-month 'working in rural general practice' community-focused project
- FARGP emergency medicine module, which includes a series of case studies, skills audit and satisfactory completion of two advanced emergency skills courses.

The FARGP is completed on an interactive learning platform which is accessed via the RACGP's *gplearning* website.

Give your rural community an advantage ... learn more about the FARGP today.

Call: 1800 636 764

visit: [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/ruraladvantage](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/ruraladvantage)

email: [fargp@racgp.org.au](mailto:fargp@racgp.org.au)

## *First things first*

### Working as a general practitioner in Australia

The DoctorConnect website is a useful starting point for IMGs wishing to relocate to Australia. This site provides information for doctors seeking employment in Australia. There is a checklist for medical registration and immigration, information on medical workforce strategies and programs, including Area of Need and Districts of Workforce Shortage (DWS). Most IMGs will only be able to undertake a period of supervised employment in an Area of Need or DWS.

The DoctorConnect website also includes an overview of the Australian healthcare system. Please visit [www.doctorconnect.gov.au](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au) for more information.

**Tip:** You can find a simple summary of the process you need to follow to work as a GP in Australia at [www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/firstSteps](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/firstSteps)

### Getting your skills recognised

Before choosing your pathway to FRACGP, it is important to have your medical qualifications and experience assessed and recognised.

To be eligible to work in Australia, you will need to fulfil the requirements of one of the registration pathways, which are coordinated by the Medical Board of Australia.

Visit the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) website at [www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/International-Medical-Graduates.aspx](http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/International-Medical-Graduates.aspx) to identify a registration pathway, verify your medical qualifications and ensure you meet the English language requirements.

## General practice experience (GPE)

The RACGP can help you with having your general practice experience assessed. The first step is to visit our website for information and application forms to lodge an assessment application. Please visit [www.racgp.org.au/gpe](http://www.racgp.org.au/gpe)

**FAQ: Do I have to do an English language proficiency test such as the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)?**

You will need to speak with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to meet their requirements.

**FAQ: Does my hospital experience count towards the time assessed of my general practice experience?**

Hospital experience is not counted towards the time needed to meet the general practice experience requirements. The definition of general practice used by the RACGP can be found at [www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au) by searching 'what is general practice?'

Assessment of GPE policy can be found at [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/policies/assessment-of-general-practice-experience-policy/](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/policies/assessment-of-general-practice-experience-policy/)

## Applying for medical registration in Australia

You will need to contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495 or from outside Australia call +61 3 9275 9009 to apply for medical registration in Australia.

**Tip:** Visit [www.ahpra.gov.au/Support/FAQ.aspx](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Support/FAQ.aspx) for some useful FAQs

### **FAQ: How do I request a Letter of RACGP Fellowship status?**

Doctors who are on a pathway to FRACGP may be asked for a letter from the RACGP confirming their progress towards Fellowship. The requirement may be from AHPRA in relation to medical registration, from Medicare Australia in relation to a provider number, or from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in relation to a visa. To request a Letter of RACGP Fellowship status, visit [www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/imgaus/letter-of-status](http://www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/imgaus/letter-of-status)

## Finding a job as a GP in Australia

You will need to contact a recruitment agency that specialises in medical placements to find a job as a GP in Australia. The RACGP doesn't provide referrals of employment or match candidates with jobs. Please note that all IMGs are subject to Medicare Australia provider number restrictions.

The DoctorConnect website lists a number of recruitment agencies at [www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/findingAJob](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/findingAJob)

**Checklist:** Prior to applying for a job, please ensure you have done each of the following:

- Verified your qualifications with the AMC

- Identified your registration pathway

- Sat the AMC part 1 exam or both part 1 and part 2 (if applicable to your registration pathway)

- Contacted AHPRA for medical registration

### **FAQ: Do I need a working visa?**

For any questions regarding visa requirements please contact the Department of Immigration and Border Protection on 131 881 (within Australia) or the Australian embassy in your country.

## Top Medico-legal Tips for Practising in Australia

By MDA National

There's a lot to think about when you're starting out in a new country. MDA National is an Australian medical defence organisation that provides support and extensive professional indemnity for medical practice in Australia. MDA National can also extend cover for overseas practice.\*

### Top five top medico-legal tips

1. Read and comply with **Good Medical Practice: A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia**. The Code describes what is expected of all doctors to practise in Australia. It sets out the principles for good medical practice and outlines the standards of ethical and professional conduct expected of doctors by their peers and the community. If you receive a complaint, your conduct will be assessed against the Code.
2. Know your obligations when billing under **Medicare** and ensure you comply with the descriptors for all of the Medicare item numbers you use.
3. Be aware of the **Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme** requirements when prescribing and comply with the legislative requirements for prescribing drugs of dependency, including Schedule 8 drugs.
4. Meet the **Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)** registration standards, including adequate professional indemnity insurance and continuing professional development, and be aware of your obligations to **notify AHPRA within seven days of certain events**, such as any restrictions on your right to practice in a hospital or another facility.
5. If you become a member of a medical defence organisation, make the most of it. You don't need a complaint, claim or investigation against you to contact your medical defence organisation for help. You can get a broad range of medico-legal advice and educational tools to help you meet your professional and legal obligations as a medical practitioner.

Want more information?

Visit [mdanational.com.au](http://mdanational.com.au), phone **1800 011 255**  
or email [peaceofmind@mdanational.com.au](mailto:peaceofmind@mdanational.com.au).

\*Overseas cover can be extended in some circumstances.

This article is provided by MDA National. They recommend that you contact your indemnity provider if you need specific advice in relation to your insurance policy.

## Medicare Provider Numbers

Medicare is a public health insurance scheme funded by the Australian Government, which provides all Australians with access to free or subsidised healthcare.

A Medicare provider number identifies the health professional and the location from which the medical service is rendered. You must have a Medicare provider number to be able to access the Medicare program.

Every service that can be billed to Medicare has an item number. The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) lists the numbers and descriptions.

### **FAQ: How can I get a Medicare provider number?**

To get a Medicare provider number you will need to contact Medicare on 132 150 or visit [www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/forms/hw019](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/forms/hw019)

### **FAQ: How can I access Medicare item numbers and rebates?**

To access item numbers and rebates contact Medicare on 132 150 or visit [www.mbsonline.gov.au](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au)



## Pathways to RACGP Fellowship

There are a number of pathways you can take to RACGP Fellowship. If you hold a specialist qualification, to confirm which pathways are available to you, you may need to confirm whether your qualifications are recognised by the RACGP, by completing the pathway self assessment available at [www.racgp.org.au/selfassess](http://www.racgp.org.au/selfassess).

The advice provided in this booklet is broad and accurate at the time of printing. To assist you in determining your eligibility for your chosen pathway, please refer to the below.

### **Have you identified the pathway to Fellowship that applies to you?**

The most common pathway to Fellowship for IMGs is the General Practice Experience Pathway ([www.racgp.org.au/gpe](http://www.racgp.org.au/gpe)). However, we recommend you consider the other RACGP pathways, such as the Specialist Pathway ([www.racgp.org.au/spp](http://www.racgp.org.au/spp)) or the Vocational Training Pathway ([www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/students/vocational-training-pathway/](http://www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/students/vocational-training-pathway/)).

## *IMGs with an RACGP-recognised specialist qualification*

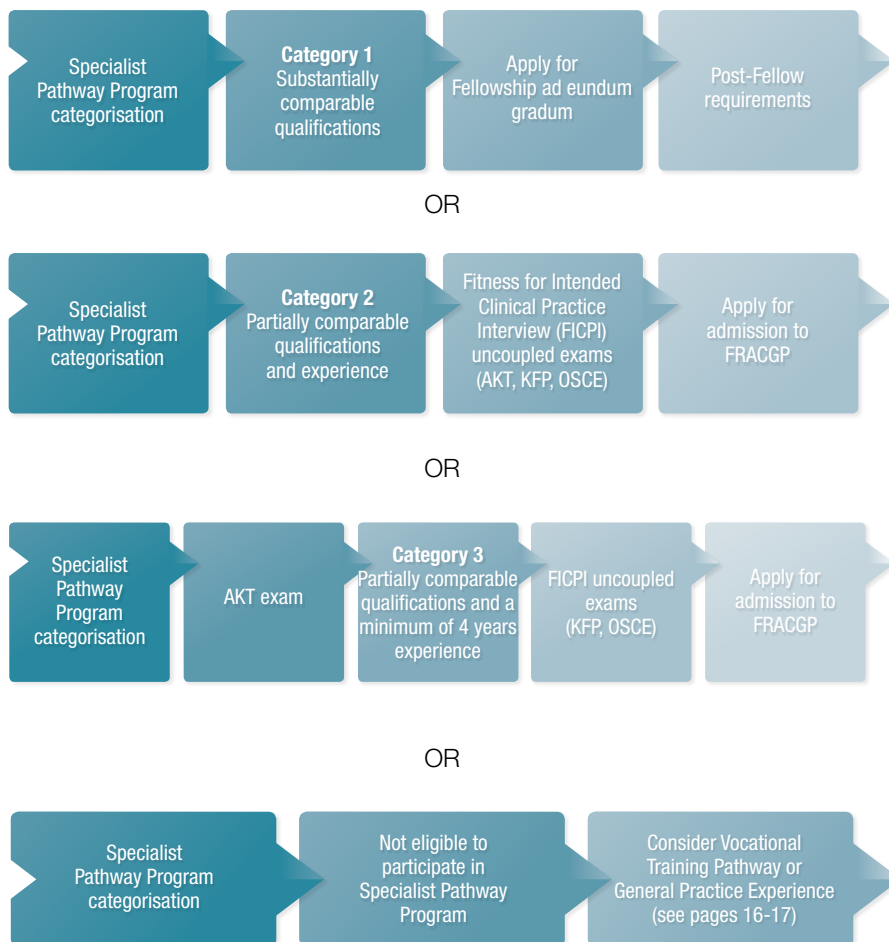
### Specialist Pathway Program (SPP)

Doctors with RACGP recognised specialist qualifications in general practice (or family medicine) may be eligible to obtain Fellowship *ad eundem gradum* (FAEG) through the FRACGP (depending on the level of recognition) or via the Specialist Pathway Program (SPP), a nationally agreed assessment and registration process developed in conjunction with AHPRA, the MBA, the Australian Department of Health, and the RACGP.

The SPP provides a pathway to RACGP Fellowship for IMGs based on an assessment of their previous training in general practice.

The requirements for the program vary depending on the credentials each particular doctor holds and the country issuing the qualification.

To confirm whether you are eligible for the SPP, visit [www.racgp.org.au/spp](http://www.racgp.org.au/spp) and take a pathway self-assessment.



For more information about the Specialist Pathway Program, including a process overview flowchart and fees, visit [www.racgp.org.au/spp](http://www.racgp.org.au/spp)

Once Category 1 SPP candidates have been admitted to FAEG, they are entitled to apply for entry on the Fellows list. This gives doctors the right to deliver unsupervised general practice to the Australian community and access A1 Medicare rebates.

### **Want to know if you are eligible for the SPP?**

Visit [www.racgp.org.au/spp](http://www.racgp.org.au/spp) and take a 'pathway self assessment' to determine:

- whether you may be eligible to apply to the SPP
- which category you may be eligible for
- how to submit an initial application.

Please note that the 'self-assessment' is a guide only and the RACGP will make all final eligibility and categorisation decisions.

SPP candidates (Categories 2 and 3 only) are required to complete the Fitness for Intended Clinical Practice Interview (FICPI).

## **FICPI**

The FICPI is part of the SPP for IMGs who are assessed to be partially comparable to an Australian trained specialist GP and/or partially comparable to a holder of FRACGP. These candidates must successfully complete a FICPI prior to registration into the RACGP Specialist Pathway. Visit [www.racgp.org.au/download/Documents/Fellowship/Fitness-for-Intended-Clinical-Practice-Interview-Guidance-Document.pdf](http://www.racgp.org.au/download/Documents/Fellowship/Fitness-for-Intended-Clinical-Practice-Interview-Guidance-Document.pdf) for more details.

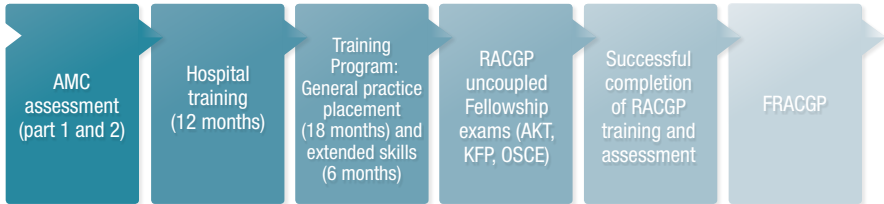
## *IMGs without an RACGP-recognised specialist qualification*

If you do not have an RACGP-recognised specialist qualification and wish to gain medical registration, you may have to sit the Australian Medical Council (AMC) exam before fulfilling the requirements of your Fellowship pathway.

The RACGP runs the AMC multi-choice question (MCQ) online only bridging program to help doctors prepare for the AMC MCQ exam. Visit [www.racgp.org.au/education/amc](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/amc) for more information.

In order to progress to Fellowship, doctors will have to fulfill the requirements of the Vocational Training Pathway or the General Practice Experience Pathway, which includes completion of the FRACGP exams.

## Vocational Training Pathway



The Vocational Training Pathway is a 3-year specialist general practice training program. Successful applicants for the vocational training program are called ‘registrars’.

The Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program and Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS) manage and deliver general practice vocational training. These two organisations deliver the training according to the standards set by the RACGP.

The AGPT Program is the larger of the general practice training organisations and offers a general and a rural stream of general practice training. The RVTS delivers training only in remote and isolated communities to a smaller group of registrars.

Please note some IMGs may be required to undertake a period of supervised employment in an Area of Need or DWS. For more information, please visit [www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/restrictions](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/restrictions)

For more information on the Vocational Training Pathway visit [www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/Students/vocational-training-pathway](http://www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/Students/vocational-training-pathway).

## The General Practice Experience (GPE) Pathway



If you have been working in general practice for a significant period of time, you may be eligible to enrol in the FRACGP assessments via the General Practice Experience pathway.

This pathway recognises work experience and is a way IMGs can gain FRACGP without having to complete specialist general practice training (vocational training) in Australia.

If you are an IMG currently working in Australian general practice, to be eligible for enrolment in the Fellowship assessments, you are required to spend four years full-time (or the part-time equivalent) in general practice, one year of which must have been undertaken in Australia. Please note, hospital work is not considered to be general practice.

You can sit the AMC exam and have your Pre Employment Structured Clinical Interview (PESCI) assessed at the same time you have your time in general practice assessed by the RACGP, through a formal application process.

For more details on the experience, education and assessment requirements to enter the GPE pathway to Fellowship, please refer to the GPE Pathway Handbook [www.racgp.org.au/download/Documents/Fellowship/Policy%20Framework/Handbooks/GPE-Practice-Eligible-Pathway-Handbook.pdf](http://www.racgp.org.au/download/Documents/Fellowship/Policy%20Framework/Handbooks/GPE-Practice-Eligible-Pathway-Handbook.pdf)

If you do not meet the eligibility requirements of the General Practice Experience Pathway, you may continue working towards meeting the requirements, or you may wish to consider specialist general practice training (vocational training).

**FAQ: What is the process for assessment of my general practice experience and how long will it take?**

The first step is to visit [www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/imgaus/your-application/](http://www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/imgaus/your-application/) and complete an online application form. Once you submit your completed application, it will be reviewed to ensure all required documentation has been provided and is correct. If your application is complete, it will then be sent for assessment. This process may take up to 10 weeks before you receive the final outcome.

**FAQ: What are the requirements of the General Practice Experience pathway?**

In order to obtain FRACGP via the General Practice Experience pathway, candidates can refer to [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/policies/)

## Pre-Employment Structured Clinical Interview

Candidates entering Australian general practice via GPE pathway must successfully complete a Pre-Employment Structural Clinical Interview (PESCI) as a pre-requisite to being considered for conditional registration in their state. Read more about PESCI at [www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/imgaus/pesci](http://www.racgp.org.au/becomingagp/imgaus/pesci)



## *FRACGP exams*

Successful completion of the FRACGP assessments is required for FRACGP.

The FRACGP exam has three segments:

- Applied Knowledge Test (AKT) – online segment
- Key Feature Problems (KFP) – online segment
- Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) – clinical segment.

You will be required to complete all segments of the exam. The order in which you sit the exams may be different depending on your pathway.

Passing the exams is the usual method to become eligible to apply for Fellowship. Visit [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/exams/exam-enrolments](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/exams/exam-enrolments) for further information on upcoming exams, including enrolment dates, exam fees, dates and venues.

### **FAQ: What happens if I am enrolled in the OSCE and I don't pass the AKT and KFP exams, will I get a refund?**

You will receive a full refund, which will automatically be paid into the original account you used to pay your fees. Please note it may take up to six weeks to receive the refund.

### **FAQ: Are there any scholarships, funding or grants available to assist me in attaining Fellowship?**

The RACGP currently doesn't provide funding or grants for Fellowship candidates. However, some interest organisations occasionally provide grants. Please contact these organisations directly.

## *How to prepare for the FRACGP exams*

It's important to prepare early for the exams. The RACGP offers a range of services to support all medical practitioners, IMGs and registrars in preparation for the FRACGP exams. Seminars include study groups, pre-exam workshops, webinars and mock exams.

Candidates are encouraged to view the information available at [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/exams/preparation](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/exams/preparation) on preparing for the FRACGP exams.

### State-based pre-exam workshops and courses

Your local RACGP state office, can provide you with assessment preparation courses and seminars for Fellowship candidates.

Please contact your local office (see contact details on page 24) for further details.

### *gplearning*

Candidates are encouraged to make use of *gplearning* ([gplearning.racgp.org.au](http://gplearning.racgp.org.au)), the RACGP's online interactive learning tool. *gplearning*, has more than 300 hours of educational learning, valuable for refreshing clinical knowledge in preparation for the exams.

*gplearning* also offers the program Exam Support Online (ESO), which allows you to learn about the elements of the AKT and KFP segments of the exam. You can also try some practice questions that include feedback. This is a service available to Fellowship candidates enrolled in the AKT and KFP exams.

For assistance, please contact the *gplearning* Helpdesk on 1800 284 789 or email [gplearning@racgp.org.au](mailto:gplearning@racgp.org.au)

## Examination guide

The '*Fellowship examinations guide*' is designed for current and prospective RACGP Fellowship examiners and candidates.

Everything candidates need to know about the AKP, KFP exams and OSCE is contained within this guide, which outlines the standards, processes and features used to develop each exam and provides examples of question types and tips for preparation.

Visit [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/exams/preparation](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/exams/preparation).

## Public Exam Report

Following each examination, the RACGP publishes information pertaining to the cohort performance and outcomes for the AKP and KFP exams.

Both reports for the AKP and KFP examine exam psychometrics, candidate preparation, feedback report and a breakdown of the cases featured in the exam, followed by the type of answers received by applicants.

The Public Exam Reports are provided to allow prospective candidates to see the breadth of content and to understand how to approach each exam.

**Did you know?** The RACGP Exam Support Online (ESO) is designed to give exam candidates practical experience of what might be expected in the RACGP exams. It is available to candidates (that have a confirmed exam enrolment) approximately 4 weeks prior to their scheduled online exam. Visit [www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/exams/exam-support-online](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/exams/exam-support-online) for more information.

## *check*

*check* is the RACGP's monthly independent case study-based education program. Each activity is written by expert clinicians. Units include up to six clinical case studies with questions to work through the diagnosis, treatment and management of common presentations in general practice. There are detailed, referenced answers to assist participants along the way. The activity includes a series of MCQs that form part of the final assessment. *check* is available quarterly, (via opt-in) in hard copy and the MCQs can be completed online via *gplearning*.

## *Australian Family Physician Clinical Challenge*

*Australian Family Physician* (AFP) is the official, independent, peer-reviewed journal of the RACGP. It includes a series of commissioned focus articles on a particular disease state, as well as clinical, research and professional articles. The journal includes a Clinical Challenge, which is based on the focus articles, and is available in hard copy and via *gplearning*.

Visit [www.racgp.org.au/publications/afp](http://www.racgp.org.au/publications/afp)

## QI&CPD Program

The RACGP Quality Improvement and Continuing Professional Development (QI&CPD) Program is internationally recognised and assists in the development and maintenance of general practitioner's skills and lifelong learning. The QI&CPD Program supports GPs to provide the best possible care for patients. The program recognises ongoing education in improving the quality of everyday clinical practice.

The RACGP QI&CPD Program is recognised by many organisations, including AHPRA and Medicare. GPs and other doctors are able to meet the formal requirements of their medical registration (AHPRA), to access preferential rates from Medicare and to achieve career credentials required in a number of other situations.

For more information, visit [www.racgp.org.au/education/qicpd-program](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/qicpd-program)

### **FAQ: Do I need to participate in the QI&CPD Program?**

In order to maintain specialist registration as a GP with AHPRA, and recognition with Medicare Australia, all GPs are required to undertake and maintain QI&CPD according to the standards of the relevant college. By meeting the RACGP QI&CPD requirements (130 pts), GPs are also fulfilling AHPRA requirements.

Medical practitioners who are not on the vocational or specialist register and are **not** a member of the RACGP, must complete a minimum of 50 hours of QI&CPD per year and may choose a self-directed program.

## *RACGP contacts*

If you have any more questions, contact your local RACGP office.

<b>National</b>	1800 4RACGP   1800 472 247 <a href="http://www.racgp.org.au">www.racgp.org.au</a>
<b>RACGP NSW/ACT – Sydney</b>	02 9886 4700 <a href="http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/nswact">www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/nswact</a>
<b>RACGP Victoria – Melbourne</b>	03 8699 0488 <a href="http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/victoria">www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/victoria</a>
<b>RACGP Tasmania – Hobart</b>	03 6234 2200 <a href="http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/tasmania">www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/tasmania</a>
<b>RACGP QLD – Brisbane</b>	07 3456 8944 <a href="http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/queensland">www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/queensland</a>
<b>RACGP WA – Perth</b>	08 9489 9555 <a href="http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/wa">www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/wa</a>
<b>RACGP SA/NT - North Adelaide</b>	08 8267 8310 <a href="http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/sant">www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/sant</a>
<b>RACGP Rural</b>	1800 636 764 <a href="http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/rural">www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/rural</a>
<b>RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health</b>	1800 000 251 <a href="http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/aboriginal">www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/aboriginal</a>

## Other useful websites and contacts

### Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)	<a href="http://www.ahpra.gov.au">www.ahpra.gov.au</a>
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Medical Board of Australia	<a href="http://www.medicalboard.gov.au">www.medicalboard.gov.au</a>
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### Rural interests

Rural Health Workforce Agency Australia (RWA)	<a href="http://www.rhwa.org.au">www.rhwa.org.au</a>
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NSW Rural Doctors Network	<a href="http://www.nswrdsn.com.au">www.nswrdsn.com.au</a>
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Health Workforce Queensland	<a href="http://www.healthworkforce.com.au">www.healthworkforce.com.au</a>
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Rural Doctors Workforce Agency – South Australia	<a href="http://www.ruraldoc.com.au">www.ruraldoc.com.au</a>
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Rural Workforce Agency – Victoria	<a href="http://www.rwav.com.au">www.rwav.com.au</a>
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Rural Health West	<a href="http://www.ruralhealthwest.com.au">www.ruralhealthwest.com.au</a>
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### Training providers

Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) programme	<a href="http://www.agpt.com.au">www.agpt.com.au</a>
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Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS)	<a href="http://www.rvts.org.au">www.rvts.org.au</a>
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Regional training providers – overview	<a href="http://www.agpt.com.au/Training-organisations/Training-Organisations-by-State-Territory">www.agpt.com.au/Training-organisations/Training-Organisations-by-State-Territory</a>
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### IMG websites and organisations

DoctorConnect	<a href="http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au">www.doctorconnect.gov.au</a>
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### National Prescribing Service

National Prescribing Service	<a href="http://www.nps.org.au">www.nps.org.au</a>
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### Australian Immunisation Handbook

Australian Immunisation Handbook	<a href="http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook10-home">www.immunise.health.gov.au/ internet/immunise/publishing. nsf/Content/Handbook10- home</a>
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### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and their culture

Australian Government Indigenous Portal	<a href="http://www.indigenous.gov.au">www.indigenous.gov.au</a>
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### Medical benevolence and personal assistance

Medical Benevolence Association of QLD	<a href="http://www.mbaq.org.au">www.mbaq.org.au</a>
Medical Benevolence Association of NSW	<a href="http://www.mbansw.org.au">www.mbansw.org.au</a>

Doctor's Health Advisory Service (also in other States)	<a href="http://www.dhas.org.au">www.dhas.org.au</a>
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### Medicare and government health departments

Medicare	<a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/dhs/medicare">www.humanservices.gov.au/ customer/dhs/medicare</a>
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Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS)	<a href="http://www.health.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Medicare-Benefits-Schedule-MBS-1">www.health.gov.au/internet/ mbsonline/publishing.nsf/ Content/Medicare-Benefits- Schedule-MBS-1</a>
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Department of Health and Ageing	<a href="http://www.health.gov.au">www.health.gov.au</a>
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Western Australia Health	<a href="http://www.health.wa.gov.au">www.health.wa.gov.au</a>
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### Department of Immigration and Border Protection

Department of Immigration and Border Protection	<a href="http://www.border.gov.au">www.border.gov.au</a>
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Australian Medical Association	<a href="http://www.ama.com.au">www.ama.com.au</a>
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## 28 Working as a general practitioner in Australia

*A step-by-step guide for international medical graduates working towards RACGP Fellowship*

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