

Application Assessment Criteria – Treatment Skills Training

Scope

1. This document articulates the application assessment criteria that the RACGP will use to provide access to the limited Treatment Skills Training spaces available for the AOD GP Education Program.

Application process

2. Applications to the program open 2 December 2019 and will remain open until all training places have been filled.
3. Applications will be assessed by the AOD GP Education Program team as they are received in order of submission.

State based access to the program

4. The RACGP has allocated a set number of training spaces to each state and territory to ensure that all members are given fair access to Treatment Skills Training. The number of spaces available differs for each state and territory, and are based on population and Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) data.
5. The RACGP will closely monitor applications to the program by each state and territory. The RACGP will endeavour to accommodate the educational preferences of all members who are provisionally approved to the program. To do so, the RACGP may alter the number of training spaces available in each state and territory over time to respond to needs members who meet the eligibility criteria.
6. If a member meets the eligibility criteria but a training place is not available, the member will be provisionally approved to be part of the program. The application will be held in a waiting list until a training place becomes available. Training spaces may become available if a member cancels or withdraws their registration, or after a period of time when other state allocations have not been fully utilised.

Access for rural and remote GPs (MM 4-7)

7. GPs practising in rural and remote regions (MMM 4-7) of Australia will have priority access to the program.
8. GPs who locum in rural and remote regions (MMM 4-7) for more than 12 weeks a year will also be given priority access to the program.

Access for GPs in remaining areas (MM 1-3)

9. As spaces for Treatment Skills Training are limited, it is expected that the RACGP may not be able to accommodate the volume of interest from GPs practising in metropolitan areas (MMM 1 – 3) who wish to apply for access to Treatment Skills Training.
10. GPs in rural practice (MMM 3) who can provide evidence that they treat patients from areas of identified socioeconomic disadvantage or identified at-risk groups will also be given priority access to the program.

11. GPs who are less experienced at treating patients for alcohol and drug use and who can provide evidence that they work in a practice that treats patients from identified at-risk groups will be given priority access to the program.
12. GPs treating patients in identified areas of socioeconomic disadvantage and can evidence how access to Treatment Skills Training will enhance their ability to treat alcohol and drug use in their local community will be eligible to apply to the program.

Eligibility

13. GPs must currently treat patients in community practice in order to apply to the program.
14. Consideration will be given to the number of patients a GP will treat on average each week, in proportion to their current days in practice. Due to the limited training spaces available, priority will be given to those who are regularly treating patients on most days.
15. The RACGP will consider each applicant's identified learning needs and levels of experience at treating alcohol and drug use. Priority will be given to those seeking help to treat large number of patients presenting with alcohol and drug use, or patients of increased complexity.
16. There may be instances where the RACGP deems an individual may already have sufficient skills and will approach the applicant to consider accessing Advanced Skills Training as a more suitable alternative to Treatment Skills Training.

Accommodating Applicants Education Preferences

17. The RACGP will endeavour to accommodate applicants' educational pathway preferences, however there may be instances where the RACGP will need to provide alternative pathway access to the program.
18. Whilst the RACGP recommends online education for members practising in rural and remote regions, requests to attend online workshop education sessions, or self-directed online learning will be accommodated on a case-by-case basis
19. Members from metropolitan and rural areas (MM 1-3) may request access to the online workshop pathway or self- directed online learning pathway.