

RACGP Guidelines for implementing the RACGP Standards for GP Registrars in the Australian Defence Forces (ADF)

Vocational Training requirements for GP Registrars in the ADF.

ADF GP registrars need to meet all the requirements for general practice vocational training in accordance with the *RACGP Standards for General Practice Training* and the *RACGP Vocational Training Pathway Requirements for Fellowship Policy*:

This means that registrars **must** complete:

- a. A minimum of one year of hospital rotations post Postgraduate Year 1 (PGY1) or intern year. The hospital rotations (in combination with PGY1) must:
 - i. Provide the Registrar with adequate exposure to the disciplines of medicine, surgery, emergency medicine, paediatrics, and other rotations appropriate to the discipline of general practice, sufficient to demonstrate an understanding of safe practice in these areas prior to commencing GPT1. For further information on fulfilling the required paediatric experience, see RACGP's *Paediatric Term Requirements Guidance Document*.
 - ii. Include certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) that meets the requirements detailed in RACGP's *Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Advanced Life Support Courses Guidance Document*.
 - iii. Be undertaken in an accredited hospital in Australia or New Zealand.
- b. A minimum of 18 months general practice experience in RACGP accredited general practice training posts under the guidance of an RACGP accredited supervisor.
- c. Six months of extended skills training approved by the vocational training provider in accordance with the *RACGP Standards for General Practice Training*.

Extended skills training may be made up of a single post or a combination of posts. When a registrar undertakes a combination of posts, these must be completed concurrently and together meet the full time or part time requirements below:

- i. The total number of minimum weekly working hours for extended skills terms are the same as for other terms. This means that full time terms must be undertaken over a minimum of four days per week within a minimum 38-hour working week, and part time terms must be undertaken over a minimum of two days per week within a minimum 14.5-hour working week.
 - ii. In non-general practice extended skills training, a minimum of 27 hours (full time) and 10.5 hours (part time) must be made up of activities core to the post; for example, group activities in a mental health post or home visits in an aged care post.
 - iii. At least 50 per cent of total hours worked must include contact with patients.
 - iv. Posts must be at least one month in duration.
- d. Training experience that involves a diversity of patient presentations in relation to age, gender, socioeconomic status, and cultural and linguistic backgrounds.
 - e. Training in at least two different general practices. In remote areas, the two-practice requirement can only be modified with permission from the RACGP, and provided that sufficient diversity of experience is possible in the post.

There are no differences in vocational training standards from civilian GP registrars.

The ADF GP registrar's RTO must apply to the RACGP ADF-Contact Censor for any variations or exceptions to the following guidelines prospectively. Below are the guidelines for the training of ADF GP registrars.

Guidelines for GPRs in the ADF

1. Special training environments

The RACGP recognises that ADF registrars often practice in special training environments. While special training environments can offer excellent training opportunities, it is vital that the registrar gains experience in the full depth and breadth of general practice.

General practice posts in special training environments may have some differences in terms of environment, funding, management and patient demographics. However, these posts should have the core features of general practice as defined in the *RACGP Standards for General Practice Training*.

2. Guidance for assessing hospital posts

ADF GP registrars need to meet all the requirements for general practice vocational training in accordance with the *RACGP Standards for General Practice Training*. There are no differences in vocational training standards from civilian GP registrars, meaning that **twelve months of post-intern hospital training must be undertaken in accredited hospital posts**.

It is strongly recommended that emphasis should be placed on paediatric and geriatric disciplines in these hospital training posts, as these clinical experiences are often limited for ADF registrars during training due to their ADF commitments.

3. Guidelines for Extended Skills Posts

ADF GP registrars need to meet all the requirements for general practice vocational training in accordance with the *RACGP Standards for General Practice Training* and the *RACGP Vocational Training Pathway Requirements for Fellowship Policy*. This means that ADF GP registrars may undertake up to six months of extended skills training approved by the vocational training provider in accordance with the *RACGP Standards for General Practice Training*.

There are no differences in vocational training standards from civilian GP registrars.

4. Overseas Extended Skills Post

It is AGPT policy not to allow overseas posts **except** for ADF GP registrars where the post has been approved by the RACGP (see clause 10 of the *AGPT Training Obligations Policy 2017* for further details). ADF GP registrars may apply for prospective approval for overseas clinical posts if they have completed 12 months of GP training. For ADF GP registrars, the posts do not need to be part of an accredited training institution or program in the relevant countries. However, on-site supervision is required for overseas posts.

Applications are submitted using the Overseas Extended Skills Post application form. Following the registrar's return to Australia, a Summary Report of the completed post must be submitted to obtain final sign-off on the post. Please refer to the application form, available at www.racgp.org.au/education/rto/accreditation/, for further details.

5. Recognising deployments in Australia as general practice training time

From time to time, ADF GP registrars are deployed and removed from their usual training posts. When this occurs, only deployments or exercises within Australia that meet the *RACGP Standards for General Practice Training* requirements for accreditation as a training post will be recognised as GP training time. Applications for approval from the RACGP ADF-Contact Censor should be made prospectively.

Role of the ADF-Contact Censor

The RACGP ADF-Contact Censor works closely with the RACGP State Censors. Input from the RACGP State Censors may be sought when appropriate. This recognises that GP registrars in the ADF often move during their deployment. Having a dedicated RACGP ADF-Contact Censor ensures consistency and efficiency in approval and assessment processes. The ADF-Contact Censor is available for discussion and feedback related to ADF GPR training.

The RACGP ADF-Contact Censor works collaboratively with Joint Health Command, Director Health Training & Professional Development to ensure the best training outcomes for GPRs in the ADF.

Contact:

All ADF related enquiries and applications should be submitted to the **ADF-Contact Censor** at ospost@racgp.org.au.