

# *AGPT Rural Generalist Policy*

**March 2020**

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**Approved by:** ..... Assistant Secretary, Health Training Branch, Department of Health  
**Custodian and e-mail address:** ..... Department of Health [AGPTManagement@health.gov.au](mailto:AGPTManagement@health.gov.au)  
**Supporting documents, procedures and forms:** ..... Nil  
**Audience:** ..... Registrars enrolled on the AGPT Program Regional Training Organisations Stakeholders

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# 1 Purpose of Policy

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance for registrars seeking to train as Rural Generalists through the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program. The Policy is not intended to represent the National Rural Generalist Pathway being developed by the Rural Health Commissioner.

# 2 Definition

Word/Term	Definition (with examples if required)
<b>ACRRM</b>	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
<b>Accreditation</b>	The process required of a hospital or medical facility to receive certification from the College(s) to enable it to act as an accredited training facility for AGPT Program registrars.
<b>ARST</b>	Advanced Rural Skills Training (FARGP)
<b>AST</b>	Advanced Specialised Training (ACRRM)
<b>Core Vocational Training</b>	Core Vocational Training refers to GPT1, GPT2, GPT3 and Extended Skills Training for FRACGP registrars and Core Generalist Training (with the exception of first hospital year for PGY 2 registrars) and Advanced Specialised Training for FACRRM registrars.
<b>Education and Training Requirements</b>	The Education and Training Requirements placed on a registrar working towards fellowship of the RACGP, ACRRM or both. These requirements are specified by the Relevant College(s) and the RTO.
<b>Extenuating and Unforeseen Circumstances</b>	<p>Extenuating and Unforeseen Circumstances are defined as circumstances which were unforeseen and outside a registrar's control when they accepted a place on the AGPT Program. These circumstances will not be considered as unforeseen if it can be determined that the circumstances were known or reasonably should have been known by the registrar prior to the acceptance of their place on the AGPT Program.</p> <p>Examples of extenuating circumstances may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ill-health (other than minor illnesses);</li> <li>• Deterioration of an existing medical condition that can no longer be managed in the current location;</li> <li>• Bereavement;</li> <li>• Acute personal/emotional circumstances;</li> <li>• Hospitalisation;</li> <li>• Illness of an Immediate Family Member;</li> <li>• A major change to a registrar's personal circumstances; or</li> <li>• An involuntary change in a spouse's employment.</li> </ul> <p>All applications and requests pertaining to Extenuating and Unforeseen Circumstances of the registrar will be considered on a case by case basis.</p>
<b>FACRRM</b>	Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
<b>FARGP</b>	Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice through the RACGP. Registrars must be enrolled in FARGP to undertake Advanced Rural Skills Training.
<b>FRACGP</b>	Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
<b>Full-Time Equivalence (FTE)</b>	Under this policy the term FTE is defined to mean thirty-eight hours per week and includes all practice time, AGPT education and Program activities – the composition of which will vary depending upon a registrar's stage of training and College requirements.

Word/Term	Definition (with examples if required)
<b>Modified Monash Model</b>	<p>The Modified Monash Model (2019) (MMM (2019)) is a classification system that categorises metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas according to both geographical remoteness and town size.</p> <p>The MMM (2019) classification for any given area can be found by using the locator tool on the <a href="#">Doctor Connect website</a>.</p>
<b>RACGP</b>	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.
<b>Relevant College</b>	The GP College with which the registrar is enrolled - RACGP, ACRRM or both.
<b>Rural Generalist Additional Skills Training</b>	Up to 52 weeks is available for Rural Generalist registrars (as specified in this policy) above that required to meet the core requirements of the College's Fellowship awards.
<b>Skills Training</b>	<p>An AST term for registrars seeking FACRRM and an ARST term for registrars seeking FRACGP combined with FARGP. These training terms need to meet the educational and training requirements defined by the Relevant College.</p> <p>Other Skills Training may be approved by the Relevant College upon application and provided it is documented in the registrar's learning plan.</p>
<b>State or Territory Based Rural Generalist program</b>	Any state-based scheme offering Rural Generalist training in which a Rural Generalist registrar training on the AGPT Program is enrolled.
<b>Training Region</b>	An area defined by the Department of Health in Australia within which an RTO is required to deliver training to registrars enrolled on the AGPT Program.

### 3 Application and Scope

- 3.1 This Policy applies to all registrars accepted into Rural Generalist Training through the AGPT Program as defined in clause 6.1 of this Policy.
- 3.2 This Policy does not exclude Rural Generalist registrars from adhering to the requirements and obligations specified in the rest of the AGPT Program Policies.
- 3.3 This Policy will come into effect as of 31 March 2020.

### 4 Policy Principles

- 4.1 For the purposes of this Policy, Rural Generalist Training applies to registrars training towards FACRRM and/or FARGP combined with FRACGP.
- 4.2 Rural Generalist registrars are expected to train on the rural pathway and undertake the majority of their training in facilities located in Modified Monash Model (2019) (MMM (2019)) locations 2-7. It is recognised that some Skills Training may need to be undertaken in MMM (2019) 1 locations in situations where skills posts are not available in rural areas.
- 4.3 Rural Generalists who are enrolled in a State or Territory Rural Generalist program must complete the AGPT Program and the state-based program training requirements concurrently.
- 4.4 Rural Generalist registrars are expected to be committed to rural practice, both throughout training and post-fellowship.

## 5 Rural Generalist Training

- 5.1 5.1 For the purposes of the AGPT Program, Rural Generalist registrars must train towards FACRRM and/or FRACGP combined with FARGP.

## 6 Eligibility

- 6.1 The avenues to undertake Rural Generalist Training through the AGPT Program are as follows:
- 6.1.1 For ACRRM registrars and applicants:
- 6.1.1.1 Applicants applying to train towards FACRRM, or currently training towards FACRRM, are considered to be undertaking Rural Generalist Training through the AGPT Program and can access the flexibility available under this Policy without needing to express interest or undertake any additional enrolment or eligibility tests.
- 6.1.2 For RACGP registrars and applicants:
- 6.1.2.1 Applicants applying for the AGPT Program for the 2019 cohort and beyond can express interest in undertaking Rural Generalist Training when applying to the AGPT Program through the annual selection process. Applicants will be required to register their interest in rural generalist/rural hospital/procedural practice at the time of application to be considered for Rural Generalist Training.
- 6.1.2.2 Applicants who wish to be considered for Rural Generalist Training and want to train towards FRACGP must select FRACGP combined with FARGP at the point of applying for selection onto the AGPT Program.
- 6.1.2.3 Up to 150 training places per annum filled through the RACGP will be able to train under this policy.
- 6.1.2.4 RACGP Registrars who are already enrolled in the AGPT Program can opt in to Rural Generalist Training through the AGPT Program at the discretion of the RACGP.

## 7 Skills Training

- 7.1 Registrars undertaking Rural Generalist Training through the AGPT Program must be enrolled with an RTO throughout their time on the AGPT Program.
- 7.2 Registrars will be expected to undertake their GPT1-3 and Extended Skills or Core Generalist Training (with the exception of first hospital year for PGY 2 registrars) within their RTO's Training Region.
- 7.3 Skills Training can be accessed outside of the RTO's Training Region and rural areas, in the following circumstances:
- 7.3.1 Where registrars are unable to undertake their ARST/AST within the Training Region in which they are enrolled, they can transfer to another Training Region. In this situation, ARST/AST should be undertaken in an MMM (2019) 2-7 location where possible.
- 7.3.1.1 Registrars enrolled in a State or Territory Based Rural Generalist program would need to comply with the requirements of their state-based program.
- 7.3.2 Where Rural Generalist registrars are unable to complete their ARST/AST in MMM (2019) 2-7 locations, RTOs may approve registrars temporarily training in an MMM 1 location.
- 7.3.2.1 For registrars subject to Section 19AB of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* and who require access to the Medicare Benefits Schedule, a Section 19AB exemption will be required before they can be approved to train in an MMM (2019) 1 location.
- 7.3.2.2 In order for an RTO to approve the registrar undertaking their ARST/AST on a temporary basis in an MMM (2019) 1 location, all reasonable options for rural placements within their Training Region must have been exhausted and the requirements under Section 19AB of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* must have been met (where applicable).
- 7.3.3 Upon completion of the ARST/AST term registrars are expected to return to MMM (2019) 2-7 placements and/or their enrolled Training Region. A transfer from the rural pathway to the general pathway is not required in this instance.

## 8 Training Commitments

- 8.1** Registrars are required to successfully complete the training terms specified by the Relevant College.
- 8.2** Registrars undertaking Rural Generalist Training on the AGPT Program are expected to achieve fellowship within:
  - 8.2.1** Six years from the Commencement of Training for FTE registrars seeking fellowship of RACGP and FARGP; and
  - 8.2.2** Six years (or seven years for registrars undertaking an AST in surgery) from the Commencement of Training for FTE registrars seeking fellowship of ACRRM.
- 8.3** The above training time cap includes all training terms as required by the Relevant College, an additional 52 FTE weeks to undertake additional Skills Training and a further additional 52 FTE weeks to allow for leave and extensions of training time if required.
  - 8.3.1** This additional Skills Training time can be used at any time during a registrar's training on the AGPT Program.
  - 8.3.2** The registrar's additional Skills Training must be documented in their learning plan and be supported by their RTO and College.
  - 8.3.3** The registrar's additional Skills Training should be intended to meet the needs of the community they will work in post-fellowship.
- 8.4** Rural Generalist registrars who are pursuing dual fellowship of RACGP and ACRRM must complete their training concurrently.
- 8.5** It is the expectation that Rural Generalist registrars will complete their training as outlined in this Policy.
  - 8.5.1** Registrars who wish to opt out of their Rural Generalist Training through the AGPT Program must inform their RTO and College in writing within 20 business days of the date they wish their enrolment as a Rural Generalist registrar to cease.
  - 8.5.2** Registrars who opt out of their Rural Generalist Training may be withdrawn from the AGPT Program, at the discretion of the Relevant College, or may be allowed to remain on the AGPT Program provided they continue to train on the rural pathway.

## 9 Roles and Responsibilities

- 9.1** Registrars are responsible for:
  - 9.1.1** Submitting all applications for transfers to their RTOs along with any supporting documentation;
  - 9.1.2** Providing reasons for the requested transfer and providing supporting documentation for the application;
  - 9.1.3** Meeting their Education and Training Requirements; and
  - 9.1.4** Notifying their RTO and College in writing if they choose to opt out of their Rural Generalist Training,
- 9.2** RTOs are responsible for:
  - 9.2.1** 9.2.1 Managing registrar placements in line with the requirements of the AGPT Program and, if applicable, State of Territory Based Rural Generalist program;
  - 9.2.2** Approving transfers between RTOs/Training Regions for Rural Generalist registrars in the circumstances set out in this Policy; and
  - 9.2.3** Facilitating transfers by funding the receiving RTO at the standard rate determined for all skills posts under the RTO funding model.
- 9.3** The Department of Health is responsible for:
  - 9.3.1** Entering all approved transfers into RIDE.

## 10 Related Documents

- 10.1 *AGPT Program Policies 2020 Overarching Document*
- 10.2 *AGPT Appeal Policy 2020*
- 10.3 *AGPT Complaints Policy 2020*
- 10.4 *AGPT Extension of Training Time Policy 2020*
- 10.5 *AGPT Training Obligations Policy 2020*
- 10.6 *AGPT Training Region Policy 2020*
- 10.7 *AGPT Transfer Policy 2020*
- 10.8 *AGPT Withdrawal Policy 2020*

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## 11 Version Control and Change History

<b>Version Control:</b>	3
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