AGPT Program 2021: Selection guide

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and seas on which we work and live, and pay our respects to Elders, past, present and future.
AGPT PROGRAM
2021 SELECTION GUIDE

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MESSAGE FROM
THE RACGP
PRESIDENT

When you choose general practice as a career, you choose to become a specialist in your patients’ lives.

There is nothing more rewarding than getting to know your patients and providing them patient-centred care based on trust and understanding.

When you choose general practice as a career, you choose a career that is as diverse as it is rewarding. A career in general practice will allow you to discover and delve into your areas of interest and tailor your career to suit your work–life balance.

If you are thinking of becoming a general practitioner (GP) in Australia, the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program with The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is for you.

The AGPT Program with the RACGP is the leading training program for doctors wishing to pursue a career as a GP in Australia.

When you choose general practice and the AGPT Program, you will gain access to a vast network of opportunities, education and support. The RACGP will support you throughout your training to ensure you have the knowledge, skills and experience you need to care for your community.

This guide will lead you through the selection process for the AGPT Program. I hope it answers any questions you may have about general practice as a specialty.

When you choose general practice as your career, the RACGP is right behind you.

Dr Harry Nespolon
RACGP President
AGPT IS THE LEADING PROGRAM FOR DOCTORS WISHING TO PURSUE THE SPECIALTY OF GENERAL PRACTICE

The RACGP is widely recognised as a leader in the provision of general practice training, and has supported more than 23,000 GPs in achieving Fellowship since 1958.

The RACGP is Australia’s largest professional general practice organisation and represents urban and rural GPs. We represent more than 40,000 members working in or towards a career in general practice.
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NEW FELLOW PROFILE

Dr Erin Gordon values the diversity of her working days, in that no two of them are the same. General practice gives Erin the opportunity to enjoy different experiences and face varied challenges every day. With eight years’ general practice experience under her belt, Dr Erin Gordon is a new Fellow who enjoys the opportunity of treating the whole person, not just the disease.

As a medical student and during her second year of hospital training, Erin worked in the Northern Territory, where the remote area nurses and GPs had a significant impact on her decision to specialise in general practice.

Now, Erin’s week includes three clinical days, including the supervision of general practice registrars and an adolescent evening clinic, in addition to working one day a week in a high school. Every six weeks she also works with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, performing outreach. She is currently completing a Masters of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

What was your experience like as a general practice registrar?

'I had an amazing experience as a general practice registrar. I was very fortunate to have such a wide and varied experience with my four rotations. I have just completed a five-year stint working in the clinic that had taken me on for my first rotation, which is a large community health centre with a focus on refugee and asylum seeker health. Prior to that I worked in an incredibly dynamic mixed billing clinic in St Kilda, followed by an outer metropolitan placement in Diamond Creek, and finally finishing up and remaining for a further year at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service.'

What’s a day in your life as a GP like?

‘General practice is just so incredibly varied. I could find myself in the morning working with a refugee family or a family that’s newly arrived, in conjunction with one of our refugee health nurses. My next patient may be someone seeking assistance for heroin addiction. Followed by a young person who has come in to talk about their mental or sexual health. And that’s what I really love about my work from day to day, week to week.’

What do you like most about being a GP?

‘Prior to commencing GP training, I had tried my hand at so many different things: psychiatry, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology. I realised that while I loved many different aspects of these specialities, nothing quite satisfied that connection that I really wanted with people, and the passion I had for being an advocate for more-vulnerable groups. This is what I’ve really loved about general practice; that it ties all of these things together, and also has such a political focus. General practice also provides such an array of opportunities to spread your wings and choose roles you are passionate about.’
DR ERIN GORDON
NEW FELLOW
BECOME A GP

Don’t let the word ‘general’ mislead you – general practice is a unique discipline of largely relationship-based specialist medical care. With comprehensiveness and continuity of care, GPs are specialists in their patient’s life from beginning to end, which places general practice at the centre of an effective primary healthcare system.
WHAT DO GPs DO?

Working in general practice is different to working in a hospital, and also different to working in many other specialties. Working in the community, GPs often see a patient in the early stages of an illness when the problem is undifferentiated. Not knowing what the next patient might present with and dealing with undifferentiated problems is challenging – but is also one of the most rewarding aspects of general practice. GPs manage an enormous variety of problems and conditions, requiring a broad span of knowledge.

When based in a community, access to services and investigations can be different to when based in a hospital. GPs get to know what is available and how to support their patients to access services. This requires knowledge of the individual patient, their circumstances and their community.

Getting to know patients and offering continuity of care across someone’s lifespan is a special privilege of general practice. Over time, GPs build up knowledge of their patients and their patients’ lives; some GPs support the birth of a child of someone they cared for many years before.

Lastly, GPs have an opportunity to practise preventive medicine. The chance to be proactive in helping patients maintain their health can be highly rewarding.

This guide is designed to:

- answer questions you may have about general practice as a specialty
- provide important information about what your career in general practice will entail
- guide you through RACGP selection into the AGPT Program.

When asked ‘Why did you choose to become a GP specialist?’, there was an overwhelming response nominating ‘diversity of patients and medical presentations’ as well as ‘hours/working conditions’.*

WHAT IS GENERAL PRACTICE?

General practice offers person-centred healthcare, based on a foundation of trust between patients and their chosen GP. A career in general practice offers enrichment, reward, financial security, the opportunity for personal and professional development, and a truly diverse experience in practising medicine.

You will never get bored – no two days or patient presentations in general practice are the same.

Continuity of care
GPs have the privilege of fostering long-term relationships, mutual knowledge, understanding and trust with patients. They seek to build health, wellbeing and resilience through the continuing doctor–patient relationship, application of best available evidence in the unique context of each consultation, and coordination of clinical teamwork, resources and services.

Specific interests
A career in general practice allows you to pursue many areas of specific interest. If you have an interest in, for example, diabetes, paediatrics or palliative care, after attaining Fellowship of the RACGP (FRACGP) you can choose to pursue your interests with further professional development.

When asked about their overall training experience, 90% of registrars were satisfied with the overall education and training.*

Variety and portability
A career in general practice allows you the opportunity to work in a wide variety of community settings, including inner-city, outer-suburban, regional towns, smaller rural communities, isolated rural settings and overseas. These community settings provide possibilities to work with many different patient groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, refugees, people experiencing homelessness and older people.

Work–life balance
In comparison to many other medical specialties, general practice offers a wide variety of flexible working arrangements, including full time, part time, evenings and/or weekends, or short-term locum positions in different and interesting locations to suit your lifestyle.

Business ownership
General practice offers the unique and exciting opportunity to be your own boss by owning a general practice, which can offer career diversity, upskilling and autonomy. Practice ownership can be very rewarding financially, professionally and personally.

CHARACTERISTICS AND SKILL SET REQUIRED TO BE A GP

As general practice is largely a relationship-based specialist medical discipline, GPs possess a unique combination of characteristics and skills, including the following.

An interest in people and holistic care
GPs understand that health, illness and disease are ultimately personal experiences — the principal role of the GP is to relieve personal disease in all its forms in the manner best suited to each individual. Managing people in their community over time requires an understanding of the individual and their circumstances.

The ability to manage uncertainty
Not knowing what a patient is coming in for and managing them without a definite diagnosis can be challenging. Although GPs have support in this, you need to be able to manage the uncertainty that is both a challenge and a rewarding part of general practice.

A range of clinical skills and experience, both diagnostic and therapeutic
GPs are skilled in managing uncertainty, undifferentiated illness and complexity. They are able to use best practice evidence in light of individual circumstances, and engage patients and families in understanding, planning and managing their health according to individual capacities for a diverse range of conditions.

Communication skills
In caring for the medical needs of the whole person, the GP functions as a physician, counsellor, advocate and agent of change for individuals, families and their communities.

Clinical independence
GPs often work with the patient and make decisions one on one in their clinic. However, as a GP you are not isolated; there is plenty of support in the work you do, whether that be in the middle of a large city or in a remote rural area.
I chose general practice because …

‘Diversity! Diversity of patients, diversity of medical issues and the opportunity to develop multiple interests. Also, the flexibility of location and hours.’

My journey so far …

‘I’m enjoying working with amazing doctors and role models. I’m also enjoying getting to know patients and being valued as someone people feel they can turn to for help. There is also a big learning curve in medicine and the breadth of presentations to a GP is enormous. It’s an ongoing challenge to deal with. But I find it’s important to push myself to manage things to a high standard while also being honest about, and mindful of, my limitations.’
DIVERSITY IN GENERAL PRACTICE

General practice offers a wide array of options, allowing you to focus on your areas of interest or tailor your career to suit your desired work–life balance. The following are some opportunities you may choose to explore during your general practice training and possibly expand on later in your career. Clinical practices range in size, sites and structure. Some are private, some are publicly funded; some are in cities and some are rural. Many GPs choose to run their own practice, but others work as employees or contractors. Some choose to work in more than one practice and some do locum work, while many combine clinical work with work in areas of specific interest, such as dermatology or sports medicine. Lastly, some GPs might do sessions in hospitals or in non-clinical areas, such as administration, teaching or research. There are many options and possibilities.

RACGP Rural

RACGP Rural is the RACGP’s dedicated rural and remote faculty, and Australia’s largest representative body of rural GPs.

With more than 19,000 members, including more than 8500 GPs living and working in rural and remote Australia, RACGP Rural recognises the challenges specific to rural and remote areas and supports rural GPs and their communities through advocacy, research, education and policy development.

The unique characteristics of Australia’s rural areas offer diversity in complex health presentations, and provide GPs with opportunities to expand their skills and take on a wide variety of clinical opportunities. In many rural and remote areas across Australia, GPs with Advanced Rural Skills Training (ARST) offer the only specialist medical services (such as emergency medicine, mental health, anaesthesia and obstetrics) to which their communities have access. Clinical opportunities for rural GPs can include hospital and community-based work, using a range of procedural and non-procedural skills; emergency response; after-hours services; outreach clinics and population health initiatives.

RACGP Rural:

- champions the role of the rural GP and leads the discussion to address the challenges of rural general practice
- works with key stakeholders, state and national governments to enable meaningful and effective representation on key issues
- maintains policy leadership and a strong voice to secure a sustainable rural health system for the future
- delivers the Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) to broaden options for safe, accessible and comprehensive healthcare
- delivers education activities to develop clinical skills and support lifelong learning
- administers the Rural Procedural Grants Program to provide financial assistance for procedural GPs in rural and remote areas to complete education activities
- provides a range of guidelines, policies and updates to assist medical students, interns, registrars and GPs
- offers opportunities for networking, mentoring and professional development.


The FARGP can be undertaken concurrently with your FRACGP studies, extending your program from three to four years with a dual Fellowship outcome.

RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is one of Australia’s highest health priorities.

The RACGP is committed to raising awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health needs and, as a result, founded the faculty of RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in February 2010 to help ‘close the gap’.

By understanding the cultural context, RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health advocates for culturally appropriate health delivery systems that will improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The RACGP is committed to growing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander general practice workforce. It provides dedicated support and activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates applying for and undertaking the AGPT Program, as well as for registrars working towards FRACGP. With the RACGP, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors and registrars have access to a workshop to assist in preparing for the RACGP’s AGPT national assessment, GP mentors, other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registrars and peers on shareGP, the fully funded Yagila Wadamba Program, the Growing Strong Award and webinars.

The RACGP further partners with key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, including the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association, Indigenous General Practice Registrars Network and National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

Visit www.racgp.org.au and search for ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health’ for further information.
You can become directly involved in research as part of your FRACGP or FARGP training by applying for the RACGP Academic Post Program. Working part time in a university department and in general practice offers significant advantages for your career aspirations.

Indigenous Fellowship Experience Program

Co-named by the Wurundjeri Council, Yagila Wadamba (meaning ‘learn to heal’), is an annual support program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander general practice registrars. The two-day workshop is held in May every year and concentrates on exam performance and other key areas of general practice training. Participants are able to network with their peers in a friendly and welcoming environment, while taking advantage of the opportunity to hear and learn from medical educators and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fellows. Attendees are supported to not only perform at their best in exams, but to thrive throughout their general practice training.


Growing Strong Award

Through the generous donation of RACGP member Dr Nathan Pinskier and Mrs Susan Pinskier, RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health has established the Growing Strong Award. The award was established to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander general practice registrars during the early stages of their general practice career. The award is presented each year at the RACGP’s annual conference, with the recipient receiving support to attend the conference (including airfares, accommodation and registration), with all residual funding going towards the recipient’s examination fees.

The Growing Strong Award is aimed at supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registrars, and complements the RACGP’s existing Standing Strong Together Award, which is open to Fellows who are working to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.


RACGP Specific Interests

RACGP Specific Interests, a national faculty of the RACGP, recognises the additional interests and/or expertise held by GPs. Membership is not constrained by geographical location, clinical expertise or career stage.

It is never too early to start exploring your interest areas. The career of a GP is one of lifelong learning, and your interests may change over time. Whether this is due to personal interests, clinical advancements or the changing requirements of your patient population, RACGP Specific Interests will support you to engage with and learn from like-minded GPs.

GPs with subject matter expertise have established, and lead, the various RACGP Specific Interests networks.

The activities of the networks vary, with some involved in developing educational materials, policy and clinical guidelines. Others share their research and news through member communications and online meetings. All offer networking and learning opportunities to their members.

The RACGP Specifics Interest networks broadly fall into clinical, vocational and organisational areas of general practice.

RACGP Specific Interests membership is a free member benefit available to all RACGP members.


Australian Defence Force

Australian Defence Force (ADF) doctors applying for the AGPT Program are encouraged to speak to the Regional Training Organisation (RTO) in their preferred region to discuss training options. The FRACGP program offers flexibility for ADF doctors.

RACGP Foundation

RACGP Foundation was founded in the 1950s to help GPs and general practice registrars conduct medical research into primary healthcare and develop research career pathways.

The foundation raises funds to support a diverse range of research grants, scholarships, Fellowships and awards that provide members with opportunities to undertake valuable research.

By participating in research, registrars can help build the evidence necessary to deliver the highest quality care and best health outcomes for all Australians.
Approximately 83% of all Australians visit a GP each year,* and how patients are treated in general practice needs to be grounded on sound research. Much of this evidence can only be acquired from research in the general practice setting.

Through funding and industry collaboration, and nurturing registrars and general practice researchers together, RACGP Foundation works to build the body of evidence that can be implemented on the front line from researcher to practitioner to patient.

Visit www.racgp.org.au and search for “grants” or email foundation@racgp.org.au for further information.

General practice research

Research in general practice is essential for improving patient health outcomes. It is essential that GPs are able to critically appraise and interpret research evidence as part of everyday general practice. Involvement in research during training can also create valuable opportunities for building an academic career that can be pursued in parallel with general practice.

RACGP Academic Post Program

The RACGP Academic Post Program, situated within the AGPT Fellowship pathway, offers registrars a 12-month, part-time salaried research and teaching role in an academic institution, in conjunction with part-time clinical training. The program seeks to ensure registrars have the opportunity to build their skills in the areas of research, teaching and critical thinking. Registrars will receive mentoring and support from their university’s department of general practice. The RACGP will also provide registrars with an activity support program, which includes face-to-face workshops and attendance to at least one national conference, with registration and travel costs funded by the RACGP.

The post aims to introduce registrars who may otherwise not have an opportunity to engage in research and teaching in the academic environment. Registrars who have had previous research experience will also find the Academic Post Program a valuable experience.

The Academic Post Program provides the opportunity to:

- contribute to the evidence on which general practice is based
- gain experience in research and teaching
- disseminate research in professional journals and at conferences
- help build the foundation for a career as a general practice academic or medical educator.


The attainment of Fellowship of the RACGP (FRACGP) signifies a GP is competent to deliver safe, specialised and high-quality general practice care in Australia’s metropolitan, rural, remote and very remote communities.

Why choose FRACGP and FARGP?

**Support**
The RACGP supports nine out of every 10 Australian GPs, including 5500 registrars annually working towards Fellowship.

**Rural**
With more than 18,000 rural members, RACGP rural registrars benefit from an established, well-supported program that meets their specific needs.

**Flexibility**
RACGP registrars have flexible training arrangements as well as the option to undertake further training for a Fellowship of Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP).

**Advocacy**
With more than 40,000 members, the RACGP has a powerful voice to advocate for registrar members at the highest levels of government.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce**
The RACGP provides dedicated support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors applying for the AGPT Program and registrars working towards Fellowship.
Why not combine FRACGP and FARGP over four years to achieve dual Fellowship and gain additional skills?

About FRACGP
The attainment of FRACGP demonstrates to governments, the general practice profession and Australian and overseas communities that a GP has met the required level of competence to practise safely and unsupervised in any Australian general practice setting – metropolitan, rural, remote and very remote communities.

It also confers the ability to access specialist medical registration and, consequently, A1 rebate rates under Medicare legislation.

The pathway to awarding FRACGP encompasses recognising differences in experience, formal and informal learning, required general practice experience and assessment processes, including formative and summative activities and examinations.

It is underpinned by a comprehensive suite of RACGP education materials, including the Competency profile of the Australian general practitioner at the point of Fellowship, the Curriculum for Australian General Practice 2016 and Standards for general practice training.

About FARGP
GPs are an integral part of rural communities, and the skills they practise depend on the context in which they work and the specific needs of their community.

The FARGP provides the opportunity to develop additional emergency medicine skills and procedural or non-procedural skills in areas including:
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- adult internal medicine
- anaesthetics (in conjunction with the Joint Consultative Committee on Anaesthesia (JCCA))
- child health
- emergency medicine
- mental health
- obstetrics and gynaecology (DRANZCOG/DRANZCOG Advanced)
- palliative care
- surgery.

Other posts will be considered on application to the RACGP rural censor as part of an individually designed program.

Candidates have four years to complete the requirements and achieve dual RACGP Fellowship (FRACGP, FARGP). Developing your additional rural skills with the FARGP helps broaden the options for safe, accessible and comprehensive care in Australia’s rural, remote and very remote communities.

The FARGP pathway offers the greatest benefits when completed over the full period of the training program, well before you start preparing for your final FRACGP exams.

Requirements include:
- an FARGP learning plan and reflection activity
- 12 months in a rural general practice setting
- 12 months of ARST in an accredited procedural or non-procedural training post
- a rural general practice community-focused project
- an 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, accessed via gplearning.


Rural Generalist Training
The term ‘rural generalist’ describes a rural GP who is working to the full scope of their practice with skill sets that are informed by the needs of the rural community they serve. The skills encompass comprehensive general practice and emergency care, and required components of other medical specialist care in hospital and community settings.

Rural generalist medicine is a well-established model of care, practised by many GPs in rural and remote areas across Australia.

The FARGP qualification is recognised as an appropriate end-point for Rural Generalist Training on state and territory rural generalist programs and the AGPT’s Rural Generalist (RGT) Policy.

AGPT Rural Generalist Training Policy
The AGPT Program provides an RGT Policy for candidates wishing to train towards becoming a rural generalist.

RGT candidates must select to train towards FRACGP combined with FARGP at the point of application. The RGT Policy grants rural registrars additional time to complete training, which can include the opportunity to undertake more than one extended skills training term.

The RGT Policy offers flexible registrar training through the easing of restrictions related to transferring between training regions.


The future: RACGP’s Rural Generalist Fellowship
The RACGP supports the implementation of a national rural generalist pathway and has been working alongside key stakeholders to develop strategies to attract and retain rural and remote doctors, including the development of its own Rural Generalist Fellowship.

The RACGP has lodged an application to the Australian Medical Council and the Medical Board of Australia for the formal recognition of rural generalism as a specialised field within the specialty of general practice, and is seeking accreditation to offer a Rural Generalist Fellowship with curricula aligned to the requirements of a national pathway. The Fellowship will be known as FRACGP-RG.

The achievement of national recognition will help deliver clear and consistent training, credentialing and employment arrangements across Australia.

Candidates training towards FARGP in 2021 will be offered the opportunity to transition to the RACGP’s Rural Generalist Fellowship when it is launched.

The RACGP journey towards Fellowship

**MEDICAL SCHOOL (FOUR TO SIX YEARS)**

**APPLYING FOR GENERAL PRACTICE TRAINING**
If you decide that a career in general practice is the career for you, then you can submit an application during your intern year or any year subsequent (ie PGY2 onwards).

**GENERAL PRACTICE TRAINING (THREE YEARS)**
Vocational training towards FRACGP is three years full time (or part-time equivalent), comprising hospital training (12 months), general practice placements (18 months) and extended skills (six months).

**RACGP FELLOWSHIP EXAMINATIONS**
The RACGP assessment comprises three segments: the Applied Knowledge Test (AKT), the Key Feature Problem (KFP) exam and the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

**APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP**
Successful completion of RACGP training and assessment.

**HOSPITAL TRAINING TIME**
The minimum requirement for entry to general practice training is one year of training in an Australian or New Zealand hospital. If you do have more than one year of hospital training experience upon entry to general practice training, you may be eligible to reduce your training time.

**FARGP REGISTRAR PATHWAY**
Enrolling in the FARGP will enable you to complete an additional 12 months of Advanced Rural Skills Training (ARST), taking your training from three years to four years.

It is recommended that the FARGP is undertaken during general practice training to enable you to get the most out of your experience and fulfill the majority of FARGP requirements before heading into the FRACGP exams. FARGP can also be undertaken post-Fellowship (refer below).

**ACADEMIC POST**
You can apply for an academic post term after completing GPT1 – your first general practice term. Applications may open prior to you finishing GPT1, so be aware of application dates and discuss with your RTO early. Register interest and start thinking about your research project. The post is for 12 months and is undertaken concurrently with your clinical placement. The term can be undertaken as the extended skills component of the training program, as extended training time, or as an FARGP ARST if approved by the rural censor.

**FARGP PRACTISING RURAL GENERAL PRACTITIONER PATHWAY**
The FARGP is available to eligible practising GPs. The pathway recognises the skills, experience and training of practising rural GPs.

**RACGP FELLOWSHIP**

**CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**VOCATIONAL TRAINING PATHWAY**

**ADDITIONAL OPTIONS**
I chose general practice because …

‘I’ve always found so many different areas of medicine really interesting and I liked learning a little bit about everything. I liked that mixture of acute care as well as continuity of care, and fundamentally I really like talking to people. I think that as a general practitioner you’re lucky to be able to help people through all different stages of their lives. Some of which can be tricky to help navigate but it’s a really rewarding job.’

My journey so far …

‘As a rural general practice registrar I get to do the best bits of everything. I do clinic-based work, we have a 10-bed hospital where I work so I’m on-call and help provide the rural urgent care service. I’m also involved in medical student teaching. I feel like I’m [doing] what I want to do.’
The AGPT Program is a three-year full time (or part-time equivalent) program. An optional fourth year is available for additional skills and qualifications in rural general practice with an FARGP.

There is flexibility regarding when and how the essential components of training can be completed, such as the ability to complete the training on a part-time basis.

Hospital training (12 months)
The first year of the program is spent in hospital, and can be completed anywhere in Australia, not necessarily in your RTO’s region.

Particular hospital rotations must be completed by the end of the first year of training, before commencing a general practice placement. They are general medicine, general surgery, emergency and paediatrics, and a range of other rotations to provide a breadth of experience.

These rotations can be completed at any time during your hospital years and need not be completed in order to be able to apply for training; you can complete them during the first year of the program. Not everyone is able to do a specific paediatric rotation, so there are various options for completing the paediatric experience, such as particular emergency terms.


General practice placements (18 months)
Your RTO will provide you with a list of general practice placements when you join the program. While in practice, you will receive supervision and teaching from general practice supervisors. You will also receive support and education from your RTO.

General practice registrars in the general pathway need to complete at least 12 months in outer-metropolitan, rural or Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander health posts during their training. Registrars in the rural pathway must complete at least 18 months in rural practices.


Extended skills (six months)
Six months of the program is spent on extended skills training. This training provides an opportunity to extend or further develop your general practice skills, and can be completed in a range of RACGP-accredited settings. Many options are available for extended skills training, including in palliative care, sports medicine, sexual health and skin cancer medicine.


Recognition of Prior Learning
In certain circumstances, you may be eligible to apply for an exemption from the first year of the program. This is called ‘Recognition of Prior Learning’ (RPL). There are certain requirements that need to be met in order to be given RPL by the state censor, and it is therefore important not to assume you will be granted an exemption. You can discuss your eligibility with your Regional Training Organisation.


Taking leave from general practice training
There are various forms of leave available to registrars in the AGPT Program. Visit www.agpt.com.au and search for ‘policies’ for further information.

On provision of appropriate supporting evidence, general practice registrars may place their RACGP membership on hold during periods of approved leave that are of three or more months in duration. Fees while your membership is on hold are not required.


Basic and advanced life support
During training, registrars must complete further skills in basic and advanced life support. You will need to have completed a basic life support course in the 12 months prior to commencing your first general practice term. All courses must meet RACGP criteria.

Visit www.racgp.org.au and search for ‘cardiopulmonary resuscitation and advanced life support courses’ for further information.
APPLYING TO SPECIALISE IN GENERAL PRACTICE

The AGPT Program is the leading training program for medical graduates who wish to pursue a career as a GP in Australia.

The program, with the RACGP, takes three years, with an additional fourth year available to complete the FARGP.

Training is a combination of self-directed and face to face, conducted within accredited medical facilities by accredited supervisors. AGPT with the RACGP is based on the RACGP’s educational framework.

Training locations vary for AGPT registrars, and include teaching hospitals and rural and urban practices. Experience in advanced specialised training is also encouraged, as is the pursuit of other areas of relevant interest, such as procedural general practice and academic posts.
Application and eligibility

23 March – 2 June

Applications for the 2021 AGPT Program open 10.00 am (AEDT) 23 March 2020 and close 10.00 am (AEST) 27 April 2020.

Candidates are required to complete an online application form available at www.racgp.org.au/agpt

The application process includes providing supporting documentation and referee details, and candidates can nominate up to four preferred training regions/pathways.

Applications and supporting documents will be checked to establish eligibility for the AGPT Program.

Candidates will be notified of their eligibility no later than 2 June 2020.

National assessment

25–27 June

Eligible candidates sit the Candidate Assessment and Applied Knowledge Test (CAAKT), a computer-based test comprising knowledge test questions and situational judgement test questions.

The CAAKT is based on the RACGP education framework and focuses on knowledge, skills and attributes related to becoming a GP.

Interview and offers

25 July – 14 August

Candidates who achieve the minimum standard in the CAAKT will progress to the next stage of selection and may be allocated to an interview with an RTO in accord with their CAAKT score, cohort ranking, and stated training region and pathway preference.

Interviews will consist of five common questions in either multiple mini-interview format or a single interview with a panel. Each RTO has the opportunity to ask an additional three questions specific to their region.

Candidates are notified of the interview outcome by way of a joint RTO–RACGP email. Candidates will be required to respond to any placement offers in writing.
Regional Training Organisations

An RTO is an organisation that delivers education and training within a specific geographical region. There are currently nine RTOs that cover 11 training regions.

Funded by the Department of Health, RTOs are accredited every three years against the RACGP’s *Standards for general practice training* through the bi-college accreditation process. For over 15 years, RTOs have provided general practice registrars with general practice training, ensuring an appropriate breadth of experience is gained. The RTOs also have a role in workforce distribution, helping the majority of Australians access properly trained GPs via appropriate placements.

Successful applicants to the AGPT Program will train with one RTO on either the general or rural pathway. For detailed information, refer to the website of the RTO you are interested in training with. If you have questions regarding the region and/or pathway in which you are interested, please contact the RTO directly. General practice registrars in the AGPT Program will complete their training at one of the RTOs listed under ‘Getting to know your RTO’.

Training regions

Please visit RTO websites, listed under ‘Getting to know your RTO’ (next section) to view each training region.
Getting to know your RTO

NEW SOUTH WALES
North Eastern NSW
Lower Eastern NSW
Western NSW/ACT

GP Synergy
Registrars seeking a challenging, diverse and fulfilling career in general practice in NSW or ACT can visit www.gpsynergy.com.au and download the GP Synergy Applicant Pack. This essential pack explains how registrars are allocated to sub-regions within their shortlisted training region, and how the general practice term placement process works.
www.gpsynergy.com.au
1300 477 963 or +61 2 8321 4000
applicant@gpsynergy.com.au

QUEENSLAND
North Western Queensland

James Cook University (JCU)
Through its general practice training program, JCU delivers training across much of Queensland, beyond the southeast corner of the state. With support from 12 regional offices around Queensland, registrars with JCU train in clinically diverse and rewarding training posts, with a focus on the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and of rural and remote communities.
www.jcugp.edu.au
+61 7 5373 4413
jcugp.selections@jcu.edu.au

South Eastern Queensland

General Practice Training Queensland (GPTQ)
GPTQ offers training in high-quality metro, outer-metro and rural practices to cater for both general and rural pathways. It delivers a district-based education model supported by a dedicated medical educator team. Rural and general pathway doctors applying to the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and the RACGP are welcomed by GPTQ, including members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Queensland Health Rural Generalist Program.
www.gptq.qld.edu.au
+61 7 3552 8100
applicant.enquiries@gptq.qld.edu.au

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Northern Territory General Practice Education (NTGPE)
NTGPE provides training opportunities in urban, rural and very remote parts of the Northern Territory, with a focus on registrars have an opportunity to develop an extended scope of practice in well-supported and educationally enriching clinical environments. Dedicated clinical supervisors, enthusiastic medical educators and supportive staff facilitate general practice training.
www.ntgpe.com.au
+61 11 123 4567
applicant.enquiries@ntgpe.com.au
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. Registrars can design their training journey to become a skilled GP, with support from an experienced team of medical educators, cultural educators and support staff.

www.ntgpe.org
+61 8 8946 7079
registrar@ntgpe.org

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

GPEx
GPEx provides a pathway to becoming a GP in South Australia. It offers registrars a structured, self-directed online learning program, diversity of clinical practice, a range of opportunities to extend your skills and the opportunity of urban, rural or remote locations in which to train. GPEx provides the foundation for registrars to achieve their potential, and offers a team of experienced supervisors and medical educators, as well as one-on-one support throughout the general practice training journey.

www.gpex.com.au
1300 473 972 or +61 8 8490 0400
selection@gpex.com.au

TASMANIA

General Practice Training Tasmania (GPTT)
GPTT is the sole Tasmanian provider of the AGPT Program. It provides a friendly, supportive and intimate learning environment for registrars. Offering a high-quality, well-organised program, GPTT’s training includes a suite of practical skills workshops, integrated communication skills training, and teaching skills and research opportunities for general practice registrars.

www.gptt.com.au
+61 3 6215 5000
enquiries@gptt.com.au

VICTORIA

Eastern Victoria

Eastern Victoria GP Training (EV)
EV offers an innovative educational program combined with high-quality, in-practice supervision in urban and rural settings. Registrars have opportunities to work in a variety of practices, follow special interests and extend their skills. Registrars are well supported and are prepared for Fellowship assessments. EV’s goal is to train competent and confident GPs.

www.evgptraining.com.au
1300 851 753
enquiry@evgptraining.com.au

Western Victoria

Murray City Country Coast GP Training (MCCC)
MCCC provides training for the next generation of GPs who will care for and support the health needs of diverse communities. It partners with general practices, universities, Primary Health Networks and hospitals to provide an innovative, high-quality training program. Registrars are offered a broad range of opportunities in areas such as Aboriginal health, alpine medicine and refugee health, plus other procedural skills and special interests posts.

www.mccc.com.au
1300 622 247
info@mccc.com.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australian General Practice Education Training (WAGPET)
Registrars training with WAGPET experience a diversity of patients and medical presentations to be expected from such a geographically vast community. Registrars are supported by a team of medical educators, supervisors and program staff. The program offers registrars the opportunity to develop special interests and be part of medical teams that are making a difference to communities all across Western Australia.

www.wagpet.com.au
+61 8 9473 8200
gpcareers@wagpet.com.au
Applying for the AGPT Program

Applying for the 2021 AGPT Program involves three main stages:
1. AGPT application and assessment of eligibility
2. national assessment
3. interview and offers.

Visit www.racgp.org.au/agpt to be kept up to date on key stages and dates.

AGPT application and eligibility

Applications for the 2021 AGPT Program open 10.00 am (AEDT) 23 March 2020 and close 10.00 am (AEST) 27 April 2020. Candidates are required to complete an online application form and upload a number of supporting documents. To access the online application form, candidates should visit www.racgp.org.au/agpt.

Within the application form, candidates can select up to four training region preferences. Candidates are encouraged to familiarise themselves with their preferred training regions and to contact the relevant RTO with any questions.

Information regarding eligibility to apply for the AGPT Program is available in the RACGP AGPT Program 2021: Eligibility guide. Candidates are strongly encouraged to review this document before commencing their application.

Following submission of their application, candidates will be notified of their eligibility and will then progress to the next stage of the selection process.

National assessment

Candidates will be invited to enrol in the Candidate Assessment and Applied Knowledge Test (CAAKT), which is the RACGP’s national assessment. This computer-based assessment focuses on current knowledge, skills and attributes in relation to becoming a GP.

The CAAKT consists of two types of questions: knowledge test questions and situational judgement test questions. The ‘RACGP education framework’ that follows outlines the core skills the RACGP will assess in the CAAKT.

Enrolment for the CAAKT is completed via an online portal where candidates pay the selection fee and nominate a preferred available assessment venue.

Candidates must meet a minimum standard in the CAAKT for progression to the interview stage.

Interview and offers

Candidates may be shortlisted for interview with one of their preferred training regions.

RTOs will hold interviews in either multiple mini-interview format or a single interview with a panel.

Candidates are advised of the outcome of their interview through a joint RTO–RACGP email. Candidates will be required to respond to any placement offers in writing.

Candidates who are not allocated to an interview, or who do not receive a training offer after completing their interview, may be able to renominate for subsequent rounds and/or intakes and may be invited to attend further interviews.
RACGP education framework

Core skills

Domain 1 – Communication and the doctor–patient relationship
CS1.1 General practitioners communicate effectively and appropriately to provide quality care.
CS1.2 Through effective health education, general practitioners promote health and wellbeing to empower patients.

Domain 2 – Applied professional knowledge and skills
CS2.1 General practitioners provide the primary contact for holistic and patient-centered care.
CS2.2 General practitioners diagnose and manage the full range of health conditions in a diverse range of patients across the lifespan through a therapeutic relationship.
CS2.3 General practitioners are informed and innovative.
CS2.4 General practitioners collaborate and coordinate care.

Domain 3 – Population health and the context of general practice
CS3.1 General practitioners make rational decisions based on the current and future health needs of the community and the Australian healthcare system.
CS3.2 General practitioners effectively lead to address the unique health needs of the community.

Domain 4 – Professional and ethical role
CS4.1 General practitioners are ethical and professional.
CS4.2 General practitioners are self-aware.
CS4.3 General practitioners mentor, teach and research to improve quality of care.

Domain 5 – Organisational and legal
CS5.1 General practitioners use quality and effective practice management processes and systems to optimise safety.
CS5.2 General practitioners work within statutory and regulatory requirements and guidelines.

Terms and conditions, incentives

Terms and conditions of employment during training
General practice registrars are paid via their relevant state or territory health department, according to the appropriate awards for junior medical officers throughout their first year of hospital-based training within the AGPT Program.

After general practice registrars complete the first year of the program, they undertake community-based training and are employed by accredited training practices. The terms and conditions of employment are contained in the National Terms and Conditions for the Employment of Registrars (NTCER), an agreement between General Practice Registrars Australia (GPRA) and General Practice Supervisors Australia.

The NTCER is regularly reviewed in order to ensure relevancy regarding employment terms and conditions. Candidates applying for the AGPT Program are encouraged to access the document on the GPRA website.


Incentives
There are incentives to encourage general practice registrars to consider careers in outer-metropolitan, rural and remote areas.

GP's considering a challenging and rewarding career in areas of workforce shortage and rural areas can often access additional financial incentives, such as relocation assistance, housing allowances, a car or cash sign-on bonuses. This is further enhanced by the General Practice Rural Incentives Program (GPRIP), through which eligible GPs can access $12,000–$60,000 per annum.

RACGP membership joins you to a vibrant community of more than 40,000 members committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all Australians.

Membership provides you with tailored offerings based on the guiding principles of education, advocacy, support and collegiality.
Membership tailored to you

The RACGP is a strong collegiate network of more than 40,000 members working in or towards a career in general practice across metropolitan, regional and rural areas of Australia and overseas. The RACGP provides education, advocacy, support and collegiality for and on behalf of its members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership type</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General practice registrar</td>
<td>• gplearning – more than 300 hours of interactive online activities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Australian Journal of General Practice (AJGP) – the RACGP’s evidence-based medical journal aimed at helping GPs provide the highest quality patient care</td>
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<td>• check – case studies consisting of multiple-choice questions and answers</td>
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<td>• Exam support online (ESO) – designed to give exam candidates practical experience of what to expect in the RACGP online exams</td>
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<td>• Local pre-exam workshops</td>
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<td>• John Murtagh Library Discovery tool – unified search across RACGP library databases and resources</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Australian medicines handbook – members receive $30 off this prescribed guide</td>
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Membership requirements

General practice registrars must be financial RACGP registrar members prior to their first day of training in the AGPT Program and throughout their training. Any training undertaken while not a financial RACGP registrar member will not be recognised towards FRACGP.

The RACGP encourages maintaining membership from medical school onwards; the resources and benefits are specifically designed to support members on their general practice journey.


Education

Access tailored education to suit your professional needs and learn in a format that suits you

Advocacy

Benefit from strong advocacy on behalf of GPs and future GPs to enhance the quality of patient care

Support

Access guidelines, tools and resources to assist in your medical studies, exam preparation or daily practice

Collegiality

Connect with peers through networking, online forums, events and conferences
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What is the AGPT Program?**
The Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program is an Australian Government initiative that provides training for doctors to obtain general practice Fellowship and gain specialist registration.

The AGPT Program is three to four years of full-time training, offered nationally in urban, regional and rural locations. It comprises hospital training, general practice placements and extended skills training.

**With which RTO should I apply to train with?**
In order to decide which Regional Training Organisation (RTO) you would like to train with, it is recommended you contact the RTOs in which you have an interest and ask them questions to help inform your decision. Selecting more than one training preference gives you the best chance of securing a placement in the AGPT Program. Refer to ‘Getting to know your RTO’, earlier, for a list of the RTOs, their contact details and links to their websites.

**Can I transfer between RTOs during my training?**
Registrars in the AGPT Program remain in their training region for the duration of their training. Applicants should not nominate a training region they are not willing to train in and, if necessary, relocate to for the entire AGPT Program.

Transfers between training regions and pathways are restricted and never guaranteed. For more information, please visit www.agpt.com.au

**How much does AGPT cost?**
Eligible candidates are required to pay a selection fee of $725 to participate in the RACGP selection process. The Australian Government funds all training and education costs. The only other costs are to sit your exams and membership fees.
When does the 2021 AGPT Program commence?
The AGPT Program begins in January or February each year, with commencement dates being determined by individual RTOs. The first year of training is your hospital year, in which you spend 12 months working and learning in a hospital setting, completing rotations relevant to general practice. If you already have experience working in a hospital, you may be eligible for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). This can reduce your hospital training time by up to 52 weeks.

Is it possible to defer commencement of the program, or take leave during training?
If you are experiencing circumstances that mean you need to take leave from the AGPT Program, options are available. Applications for leave must be made to your RTO in writing. Generally, deferring the commencement of training is not permitted. The AGPT Program Leave Policy on the RACGP website provides detailed information on the conditions under which leave from the program and deferral may be considered.

What is the difference between the rural pathway and general pathway with the RACGP?
The Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP) is the same program for both the general and rural pathways; however, the context that the registrar is in significantly influences how those skills are used. Additionally, the rural pathway offers opportunity to further develop rural skills by undertaking the Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP). The AGPT has requirements as to where registrars may work according to pathway choice. General pathway registrars may work in any general practice location, whereas rural pathway registrars are required to work in rural and remote general practice placements.

Can I do FARGP while doing FRACGP?
Yes. The FARGP is completed concurrently with FRACGP, extending your training time from three years to four years. The FARGP should be commenced early in the training period to allow time for completion well before the final FRACGP exams.
FARGP can be added on to the FRACGP at any time by registrars enrolled in AGPT, and it can also be completed post FRACGP Fellowship via the FARGP practising GP pathway. The FARGP practising GP pathway recognises prior learning by offering the opportunity to provide evidence that demonstrates specific criteria has already been met.

What options are available in terms of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)?
RPL is available for different components of the AGPT Program, including hospital training and the extended skills term. If you have hospital experience or experience relevant to an extended skills term, you may be eligible for RPL. This can reduce your training time, with the maximum overall reduction available being 52 weeks. If you are accepted into the AGPT Program, your RTO will support you in putting together your application for RPL, including submitting it to the RACGP on your behalf. Once submitted, your application will be reviewed by the censor, who will come to a decision. For information on the specific requirements for RPL, visit www.racgp.org.au and search for ‘Recognition of Prior Learning Policy’.

How much can I expect to earn as a Fellowed GP?
As an FRACGP, your earnings can be determined based on a number of factors, including but not limited to hours worked, complexity, Medicare item numbers, number of patient presentations and billing practices.
When working in a general practice setting, Fellowed GP earnings are supported through access to A1 Medicare rebates.
To find out more about what you can expect to earn in different practice settings, visit www.gpra.org.au

How do I comply with the RACGP’s Registrar Membership Policy?
In accordance with the RACGP’s Registrar Membership Policy, as a general practice registrar you must be a financial RACGP registrar prior to your first day of training in the AGPT Program and throughout your training. Any training undertaken while not a financial member will not be recognised towards Fellowship/s. Visit www.racgp.org.au and search for ‘Registrar Membership Policy’ for further information.

When do I need to decide that I want rural generalism as part of my training?
To undertake Rural Generalist Training (RGT), you will need to select this option when applying for the AGPT Program, and select FRACGP and FARGP.

Further information
Further information is available at www.racgp.org.au
For AGPT Program enquiries, please email racgpeducation@racgp.org.au or call 1800 4RACGP | 1800 472 247.
I chose general practice because …

‘I chose general practice because I loved everything and I didn’t fit into one particular thing. I loved obstetrics, I loved emergency, I loved general medicine, a little bit of surgery and orthopaedics. I couldn’t imagine doing the same thing every day so I chose general practice to do everything.’

My journey so far …

‘Once you start working in general practice you find out what you didn’t know about general practice – it’s not all just coughs and colds. One of the things I enjoy in rural general practice is that you don’t know what’s going to come in the door next, it can be anything. I’ve had acute appendicitis, fractures to cast, joint injections and mental health, which is something that I’m upskilling in.’
Healthy Profession.
Healthy Australia.