

## Information sheet

### PEP 'program pause' due to COVID-19

We understand that social distancing restrictions have had an extraordinary impact on the way GPs work, and that this has likely affected your ability to complete your Practice Experience Program (PEP) requirements.

We have some potentially helpful news.

Having received so many requests for extensions, the RACGP has introduced a **PEP COVID Term - 1** July to 30 September 2020.

This 'program pause' is available to any current PEP participant, regardless of your time in the program, to enable PEP participants and Training Organisations (TOs) additional time to work towards program requirements.

If any of the issues listed in the table below have affected your program, you will be eligible for the PEP COVID Term Extension.

**Table 1 – Issues that qualify for a PEP COVID Term**

Category	Description
1. Practice or personal	Difficulty for participants in completing the assessable tasks in the learning units due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• altered patient demographics, presentations and patient volumes which affect contextualisation of knowledge</li><li>• telehealth (limited examinations and procedures)</li><li>• personal circumstances - social stressors (eg family ill health), other social needs and/or home-schooling requirements.</li></ul>
2. Multisource feedback	Delays due to changes in patient and colleague recruitment.
3. Education activities	Inability of TOs to provide face-to-face education activities and WBA as planned, although alternatives should be sought wherever possible.

4. Employment	Instability in current employment, or the inability to commence in a new practice due to a reduction in patient volumes.
5. Assistance terms	Inability to participate in recommended PEP Assistance Terms due to loss of income and/or change in patient demographic profiles and consultation modalities.

### **Do you wish to apply for the COVID Term Extension?**

If the answer is yes, you will be required to apply for the COVID Term Extension by COB Monday 1 June 2020.

The application form can be found under the existing 'Change in circumstances' link on the PEP portal.

There is no cost if you apply for the COVID Term Extension.

Successful applicants are given an additional three months to complete their program requirements. Your PEP provider number can still be used during the extension, even for minimal working hours.

### **Other considerations**

If you were due to complete the PEP mid-year with the aim of enrolling in the 2020.2 exams, you are still eligible for an extension and able to enrol in the assessment cycle, as the 2020.2 exams are now delayed by at least three months.

'Change in circumstance' notifications are still required if you change your practice location and/or are seeking a new practice location during the time of extension.

### **We're here to help**

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at [pepadmin@racgp.org.au](mailto:pepadmin@racgp.org.au) or call 1800 472 247.