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We recognise the traditional custodians of the land and sea on which we work and live.
I am delighted to introduce The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners’ (RACGP) selection process for entry into the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program. This guide explains the RACGP selection into GP training for 2018 intake of AGPT Program, and aims to clarify your questions about the specialty of general practice.

General practice is a unique and exciting medical specialty. In general practice, you are exposed to more medical conditions than you can imagine, and more patient stories than you’ve ever read or heard about in the past. In general practice, you specialise in your patients. You truly are their specialist in life and there is no greater privilege.

So, congratulations for making general practice your preferred specialty. Being selected into the training program will be your first step towards an incredibly fulfilling career.

Remember that you are not alone on your journey. The profession is right behind you and the RACGP is here to support you to succeed, to make a difference, and to become a passionate advocate for your patients.

Dr Bastian Seidel
RACGP President
I chose AGPT with the RACGP

I chose RACGP Fellowship because …

‘I heard great things about it and because of the great curriculum. The RACGP has such great support systems, resources, reputation and an overall great training program. The examinations and curriculum were also in a familiar setting and complementary to what I have done through medical school.

‘The RACGP supported me during my training through multiple resources and avenues. The main support that really helped was the RACGP Indigenous Fellowship Excellence Program (IFEP). This program was well organised, informative and supportive, which was provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander RACGP registrars based around exam preparation and general practice.’

I chose general practice because …

‘Of my love for people. General practice allows me to care for my patients holistically.

‘I believe that, unlike many other areas of medicine, general practice is a shared journey with patients; I love people, their stories, backgrounds, cultures and journeys. With general practice, I am able to learn about my patients and share in the pain, joy, achievements and milestones of their lives. There is something truly joyful and rewarding about caring for a person’s health on a holistic level.

‘It is hard to say what I have enjoyed the most about registrar training, as it has been so great, but I would have to say definitely working with Associate Professor Dr Brad Murphy. He is an amazing Aboriginal doctor and mentor. As an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctor myself, this has been such a rewarding and blessed experience. My other joy would be caring for my community and my mob.’

Dr Jeanette Wimbus
AGPT registrar
RTO: Generalist Medical Training
north-western Queensland
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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, general practitioners (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.

This guide is designed to:

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

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 a range of opportunities to work with different patient groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples or those with other special needs like refugees, people experiencing homelessness and older people.

Specific interests
A career in general practice allows you to pursue many areas of specific interest. For example, if you have a clinical interest in diabetes, paediatrics or palliative care, you can choose to develop specific skills in that area after attaining Fellowship of the RACGP (FRACGP) by undertaking further formal studies to expand on these skills.

Continuity of care
GPs have the unique privilege to build long-term relationships, mutual knowledge, understanding and trust with patients. GPs 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.

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.

For more information on starting a private practice, refer to the RACGP’s members-only resource General practice management toolkit, or visit www.racgp.org.au to register for a ‘Starting in private practice’ workshop in your state.

After paying the selection fee, all training costs for the entire training program are met by the Commonwealth Government.
General practice offers an array of diverse 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 RACGP general practice training and possibly expand on later in your career.
RACGP Rural is Australia’s largest representative body of rural GPs

RACGP Rural has a long history in providing advocacy and support for rural and remote communities. The unique characteristics of rural and remote Australia offer diversity in terms of 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 are the only specialist medical services (such as emergency medicine, mental health, anaesthesia and obstetrics) to which communities have access. Rural GPs respond to changes in patient needs and work to minimise barriers to healthcare access. Clinical opportunities for rural GPs may 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 recognises the challenges specific to rural and remote areas and supports its members in these communities through advocacy, research, education and policy development. RACGP Rural also provides opportunities to access resources, networking opportunities, mentoring and professional development.

RACGP Rural currently has more than 16,600 members, including more than 7700 GPs in rural and remote Australia, making it the largest representative body for rural GPs in Australia.

Additionally, RACGP Rural:

- contributes directly to rural health policy reforms
- delivers the Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) program
- delivers a range of rural-focused education activities, including webinars and active learning modules (ALMs)
- administers the Rural Procedural Grants Program
- offers advice and guidance to students and general practice registrars by hosting rural health career checks
- provides a range of learning resources to assist registrars and GPs working in rural and remote Australia
- offers members the opportunity to contribute to projects, events and publications.

Visit [www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au) and search “rural” for further information.

A FARGP can be undertaken concurrently with your Fellowship of the RACGP studies, extending your program from three to four years with a dual Fellowship outcome.
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 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 undertakes a range of activities dedicated to support Indigenous registrars throughout their general practice training journey. Access to GP mentors, our shareGP* Indigenous registrar forum and the fully funded Indigenous Fellowship Excellence Program (IFEP) prove to be invaluable resource for Indigenous registrars during their training.

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

Visit www.racgp.org.au and search ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health’ for further information.

**Indigenous Fellowship Excellence Program**

The Indigenous Fellowship Excellence Program (IFEP), which has been 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. This program is supported by Dr Nathan Pinskier and Mrs Susan Pinskier. 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 also 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 journey.

Visit www.racgp.org.au and search ‘IFEP’ for further information.

**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 will be 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 the health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Visit www.racgp.org.au and search for “Growing Strong Award” for further information.

*shareGP is RACGP’s professional meeting space for GPs. shareGP is a secure, private GP community exclusive to RACGP members.*
General practice research

Research in general practice is essential for the improvement of patient health outcomes. It is important for GPs to understand how to access and apply research evidence to their clinical work, as all GPs are research users.

It is equally important that clinical questions arising from general practice be answered by research undertaken within the general practice setting. Getting involved in supervised research early in your career enables you to develop valuable skills to take into your clinical work and could act as a stepping stone towards an academic career.

GPs can be involved in research at various levels, from recruiting patients for projects undertaken by others, to actively engaging in the research process as a co-investigator of leading research projects. There is a wealth of opportunities to help you find the right level of research for you during your general practice training.

You can become involved in research during your general practice training by applying for an academic term as part of the RACGP’s training pathway and working part-time in a university department. An academic term can be completed as either an extended skills post or as optional additional training time, and can occasionally count toward a higher degree (e.g., Master of Medicine or a PhD). Involvement in research will equip you with skills you can use throughout your medical career.

You can also become involved in a research project by contacting your local university department of general practice or rural clinical school, or the RACGP Foundation.

The RACGP Foundation

The RACGP Foundation supports GPs and general practice registrars who want to conduct medical research into primary healthcare, raising funds to support a diverse range of research grants, scholarships, Fellowships and awards that provide members with opportunities to undertake this valuable research.

The RACGP Foundation encourages general practice registrars to consider undertaking research.

RACGP Foundation research grants acknowledge the vital contribution GPs make in furthering medical advancements within the community.

Visit www.racgp.org.au and search ‘foundation’ or email research@racgp.org.au for further information.

Specific interests

A career in general practice allows you to pursue many areas of specific interest. For example, if you have a clinical interest in diabetes, paediatrics or palliative care, you can choose to develop specific skills in that area after attaining FRACGP by undertaking further formal studies to expand on these skills.

This can be done by applying to complete postgraduate qualifications in your specific interest area, e.g., the Diploma of The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (DRANZCOG) via RANZCOG, or the Certificate of Primary Care Dermatology through the RACGP’s partnership with the Australasian College of Dermatologists.

RACGP Specific Interests is a national faculty established by the RACGP in order to help recognise the additional interest and expertise held by GPs in selected areas of general practice. The faculty includes a number of networks that are defined by a clinical, educational, contextual or organisational aspect of general practice. Members of RACGP Specific Interests have the opportunity to share knowledge and develop educational materials with other like-minded GPs.

Visit www.racgp.org.au and search ‘specific interests’ for further information.

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 RACGP Fellowship program offers flexibility for ADF doctors.

You can become involved in research during your general practice training by applying for an academic term as part of your FRACGP. Working part-time in a university department and in general practice offers significant advantages for your career aspirations.
The attainment of FRACGP signifies a GP as competent to deliver safe, specialised, and high-quality general practice care in Australia’s metropolitan, rural, remote and very remote communities.
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 – urban, regional, rural or remote. It also confers the ability to access specialist medical registration and, consequently, A1 rebate rates under Medicare legislation.

For GPs wishing to develop advanced rural skills and give their rural community an advantage, the RACGP offers the FARGP.

Why choose FRACGP?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>The RACGP supports 9/10 Australian GPs, including 5600 registrars working towards RACGP Fellowship.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>With more than 16,600 rural members, RACGP rural registrars benefit from an established, well-supported program that meets their specific needs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flexibility</td>
<td>RACGP registrars have flexibility with the option to complete their training over two to three year period (subject to RPL). They have the option to undertake a further year in advanced rural skills and receive the additional FARGP qualification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>With more than 35,000 members, the RACGP has a powerful voice to advocate for registrar members at the highest levels of government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce</td>
<td>The RACGP provides dedicated support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registrars working towards RACGP Fellowship.</td>
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About FARGP

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

The FARGP intends to develop additional skills and broaden options for safe, accessible and comprehensive care for 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.

FARGP pathway offers:
• the FARGP learning plan and reflection activity
• 12 months in a rural general practice setting
• 12 months of advanced rural skills training in an accredited procedural or non-procedural training post
• a six-month ‘working in 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.


Why not combine FRACGP and FARGP over a four year program and achieve dual Fellowship?
The RACGP assessment comprises three segments: the Applied Knowledge Test (AKT), the Key Feature Problems (KFP), and the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

Academic Post
You can apply for an academic post after GPT1 – your first general practice term. The post is for 12 months and is undertaken concurrently with a general practice placement. The term counts towards the extended skills component of the training program or as an advanced rural skill.

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.

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 however 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 Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) will enable you to complete an additional 12 months of Advanced Rural Skills Training (ARST). 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 (see below).

Continuing Professional Development
- Journey to FRACGP:
  - Medical School (Four to Six Years)
  - Applying for General Practice Training
  - General Practice Training (Three Years)
  - RACGP Fellowship Examinations
  - Application for Fellowship
  - RACGP Fellowship
So you have finished your medical school training, completing either a postgraduate or undergraduate degree.

What's next?
Upon completion of your medical degree, you will receive your provisional registration allowing you to work as an intern or postgraduate year one (PGY1) doctor. This training is usually undertaken in a public hospital setting and has a duration of 47 weeks full-time.

General practice registrars must complete 12 months of hospital rotations, including adequate exposure to medicine, surgery, emergency medicine, paediatrics, and other rotations appropriate to the discipline of general practice. These hospital rotations must be completed before commencing your general practice terms in the AGPT Program.

Paediatric training may be obtained via other hospital experience, such as emergency medicine.

APPLYING TO SPECIALISE IN GENERAL PRACTICE

AGPT Program

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\(^1\), with an additional fourth year available to those who undertake the FARGP\(^2\).

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

Training locations vary for AGPT general practice registrars, including 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.

1 Full-time equivalent
2 Part-time training options are available
AGPT Program eligibility guide

Reproduced with permission from AGPT.
To use for eligibility process, dates for 2017 training placements.
Applying for the AGPT Program

RACGP will assume responsibility for selection of 90% of rural and metropolitan candidates into the AGPT Program, commencing with entry for the 2018 intake. Candidates choosing to undertake AGPT with the RACGP will apply directly through the RACGP website.

Candidates applying can select up to four training preferences. Training preferences can be a combination of training regions and can include rural and/or general pathways. The majority of training regions offer both general and rural pathways allowing candidates to make two nominations for the same training region.

First intake: applications open 10 April and close 8 May 2017.
Second intake: applications open 26 September and close 13 October 2017.

AGPT eligibility

Eligibility for the AGPT Program is determined by the Department of Health (DoH).


RACGP selection into GP training

Eligibility to enter the AGPT Program is assessed by the DoH. Progression after eligibility in the AGPT is determined through the Candidate Assessment Applied Knowledge Test (CAAKT), which is the national assessment. This assessment focuses on your current knowledge, skills and attitudes in relation to becoming a GP.

Enrolling into the CAAKT involves logging into an online portal (password-protected), paying the accompanying fee and selecting a preferred available assessment venue. Candidates will receive email confirmation of their payment and CAAKT venue booking. The assessment is undertaken by the RACGP via a third-party provider. A candidate’s CAAKT score will determine ranking, with a minimum score required to proceed further.

Assessment details

The CAAKT consists of two types of questions: knowledge test questions and situational judgement test questions.

Assessments are booked via a live online system. Candidates must ensure they have booked their assessment as soon as is practical in order to secure a preferred location. Candidates are able to select to undertake their assessments in any state or territory, subject to availability, when they book online. Any associated travel costs are the responsibility of the candidate.

Assessment schedule information

First intake: the CAAKT will be held on Saturday 22 July 2017.
Second intake: the CAAKT will be held 13–17 November 2017.

The CAAKT will take approximately 2.5 hours to complete.

The table on page 21 outlines the core skills the RACGP will assess in the CAAKT.
### RACGP Education framework – Core skills

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Domain 1 – Communication and the doctor–patient relationship</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CS1.1</strong> General practitioners communicate effectively and appropriately to provide quality care.</td>
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<td><strong>CS1.2</strong> Through effective health education, general practitioners promote health and wellbeing to empower patients.</td>
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<th>Domain 2 – Applied professional knowledge and skills</th>
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<td><strong>CS2.1</strong> General practitioners provide the primary contact for holistic and patient-centred care.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CS2.2</strong> General practitioners diagnose and manage the full range of health conditions in a diverse range of patients, across the lifespan through a therapeutic relationship.</td>
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<td><strong>CS2.3</strong> General practitioners are informed and innovative.</td>
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<td><strong>CS2.4</strong> General practitioners collaborate and coordinate care.</td>
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<th>Domain 3 – Population health and the context of general practice</th>
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<td><strong>CS3.1</strong> General practitioners make rational decisions based on the current and future health needs of the community and the Australian healthcare system.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CS3.2</strong> General practitioners effectively lead to address the unique health needs of the community.</td>
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<th>Domain 4 – Professional and ethical role</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CS4.1</strong> General practitioners are ethical and professional.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CS4.2</strong> General practitioners are self-aware.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CS4.3</strong> General practitioners mentor, teach and research to improve quality of care.</td>
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<th>Domain 5 – Organisational and legal</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CS5.1</strong> General practitioners use quality and effective practice management processes and systems to optimise safety.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CS5.2</strong> General practitioners work within statutory and regulatory requirements and guidelines.</td>
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Want to know what skills and knowledge is required at the completion of the FRACGP? Refer to the Competency profile of the Australian general practitioner at the point of Fellowship

Visit [www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au) and search ‘competency profile’ for further information.
**RACGP 2018 AGPT selection flowchart**

**STAGE 1**

**STEP 1** AGPT application


Submit online to The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), including supporting documentation, referee details and up to four training region preferences.

**STAGE 2**

**STEP 2** Eligibility

- First intake: October 2017
  - DoH will review applications and determine eligibility for Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program.

**STAGE 3**

**STEP 3** Notification of application and eligibility

- First intake: 30 June 2017
  - DoH will notify candidates of the outcome of their submission.

**STAGE 4**

**STEP 4** Selection fee due

- First intake: July 2017
  - Fee due for RACGP selection assessment into AGPT Program.

**STAGE 5**

**STEP 5** National assessment

- First intake: 22 July 2017
  - A 2.5-hour Candidate Assessment Applied Knowledge Test (CAAKT). Candidates' score will determine ranking. Candidates must obtain a minimum score to proceed further.

**STAGE 6**

**STEP 6** RTO interview

- First intake: 12–27 August 2017
  - Second intake: 25 November – 4 December 2017

Successful candidates will be invited to attend an interview at one of their preferred Regional training organisations (RTOs).

**STAGE 7**

**STEP 7** RTO placement decisions

- First intake: 23–28 August 2017
  - Second intake: 5–10 December 2017

RTOs will decide which candidates will be offered training placements and will notify the RACGP.

**STEP 8** First round offers

- First intake: 31 August – 7 September 2017
  - Second intake: 5–11 December 2017

The RTO (in conjunction with the RACGP) will make a written offer to successful candidates.

**STEP 9** Candidate acceptance

- First intake: September 2017
  - Second intake: 12–15 December

Candidate has 7 days from receipt of offer to accept or decline in writing to the RTO.

**STEP 10** Membership

Complete RACGP membership requirements and enjoy a great range of member-only benefits.

**STEP 11** Training

Complete three year GP training in the 2019 AGPT Program with selected RTO. Undergo the VTP or the RTO-approved Training Fellowship of the RACGP.

**STEP 12** (optional) FARGP

The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) comprises an additional 12 months of advanced rural skills training, providing registrars the opportunity to enhance their skills and give their rural community an advantage.

**STEP 13** RACGP Fellowship exams

Following the successful completion of exam eligibility requirements, apply to sit the RACGP Fellowship exams.

**STEP 14** Fellowship

The combination of RTO approved completion of the AGPT Program and passing of the RACGP exams provides access to Fellowship. Once Fellowship is confirmed, an application for recognition as a specialist general practitioner can be made.

**Note:** Depending upon needs, the RACGP will conduct subsequent rounds of placements.
I chose AGPT with the RACGP

‘The RACGP has provided support all the way through the training program, including access to online resource libraries that I use day-to-day in my practice.’

I chose RACGP Fellowship because …

‘It is a well-established specialist qualification that is recognised both nationally and overseas. The flexibility in the training program also appealed to me in that it encouraged practising in multiple areas, both rural and metropolitan. I also like the support and advocacy it provides for its registrars and Fellows.

‘The RACGP has provided support all the way through the training program, including access to online resource libraries that I use day-to-day in my practice. The RACGP also puts on exam preparation workshops that are invaluable in preparing for the written and viva Fellowship exams.’

I chose general practice because …

‘[Of] the diversity of patients and medical presentations. You never know what might be coming in the door and consequently get to apply all of the knowledge you learnt in medical school, rather than just a small part of it. You can be managing someone’s chronic disease one minute and a toddler with anaphylaxis the next.

‘There are also many opportunities to develop special skills in areas of general practice that interest you. As well as the intellectual challenge, I have found general practice really rewarding. As a GP, you have the opportunity to develop long-term relationships with patients as you treat them and their families over their lifespan.

‘Registrar training has been really enjoyable. It has provided a supportive environment where I can manage my own patients and problem solve independently, I can easily access advice from more senior GPs. I have especially liked working in a large practice, as it is also very social.’
An RTO is an organisation that delivers education and training within a specific geographical region. Funded by the DoH, RTOs are accredited every three years against the RACGP’s Standards for general practice training through the bi-college accreditation process.

General practice registrars in the AGPT Program will complete their training at one of the RTOs listed on page 25.

**Shortlisting**

Candidates who meet the minimum score for the CAAKT assessment will be ranked to determine RTO interview placements in accord with their geographical and pathway preferences. First intake: shortlisting will take place by 1 August 2017. Second intake: shortlisting will take place by 24 November 2017.

**Interviews**

Candidates who progress to the RTO interview will be interviewed at their assigned RTO. Candidates may attend one RTO interview only from their priority-listed preferences.

RTOs will hold interviews either in a multiple mini interview format or a singular interview format. The format will be conveyed to each candidate prior to the interview. The interview will consist of up to eight questions.

**Placement process**

Following the RTO interview, scores for each candidate are forwarded from the RTOs to the RACGP with a determination as to which candidates will be offered a training placement.

Candidates are advised of the successful placements through a joint RTO/RACGP letter, and a written response must be received from the candidate to the RTO within seven days of notification.

Unsuccessful candidates may be able to renominate for any subsequent rounds and may be invited to attend further interviews.

It is the intention of the RACGP to support placement of all candidates meeting the minimum CAAKT score.

---

**Regional training organisations**

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RTO contact details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>RTO name</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Eastern NSW</td>
<td>GP Synergy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gpsynergy.com.au">www.gpsynergy.com.au</a></td>
<td>1300 477 963 or +61 2 8321 4000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:applicant@gpsynergy.com.au">applicant@gpsynergy.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Eastern NSW</td>
<td>GP Synergy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gpsynergy.com.au">www.gpsynergy.com.au</a></td>
<td>1300 477 963 or +61 2 8321 4000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:applicant@gpsynergy.com.au">applicant@gpsynergy.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western NSW</td>
<td>GP Synergy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gpsynergy.com.au">www.gpsynergy.com.au</a></td>
<td>1300 477 963 or +61 2 8321 4000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:applicant@gpsynergy.com.au">applicant@gpsynergy.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Territory</td>
<td>Northern Territory General Practice Education (NTGPE)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ntgpe.org">www.ntgpe.org</a></td>
<td>+61 8 8946 7079</td>
<td><a href="mailto:reception@ntgpe.org">reception@ntgpe.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Western Queensland</td>
<td>Generalist Medical Training JCU Australia (GMT)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gmt.edu.au">www.gmt.edu.au</a></td>
<td>1300 823 874</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gmt.communications@jcu.edu.au">gmt.communications@jcu.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Eastern Queensland</td>
<td>General Practice Training Queensland (GPTQ)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gptq.qld.edu.au">www.gptq.qld.edu.au</a></td>
<td>+61 7 3552 8100</td>
<td><a href="mailto:applicant.enquiries@gptq.qld.edu.au">applicant.enquiries@gptq.qld.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>GPEx</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gpex.com.au">www.gpex.com.au</a></td>
<td>1300 473 972 or +61 8 8490 0400</td>
<td><a href="mailto:admin@gpex.com.au">admin@gpex.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>General Practice Training Tasmania (GPTT)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gptt.com.au">www.gptt.com.au</a></td>
<td>+61 3 6215 5000</td>
<td><a href="mailto:enquiries@gptt.com.au">enquiries@gptt.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Victoria</td>
<td>Murray City Country Coast GP Training (MCCC)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mccc.com.au">www.mccc.com.au</a></td>
<td>1300 622 247</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@mccc.com.au">info@mccc.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Australia</td>
<td>Western Australia General Practice Education and Training (WAGPET)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wagpet.com.au">www.wagpet.com.au</a></td>
<td>+61 8 9473 8200</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gpcareers@wagpet.com.au">gpcareers@wagpet.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Medicare provider numbers

A Medicare provider number will be required once you have been accepted into the AGPT Program while undertaking training placements. This enables you to:

- claim Medicare rebates, or having them claimed on your behalf by their employer or patients, for your services
- refer patients to other specialists through the Medicare system
- request services on behalf of your patients.

RTOs will submit applications on behalf of general practice registrars if they have previously held a Medicare provider number (either as an intern, hospital medical officer or temporary resident working in general practice). Once the registrar has completed the AGPT placement form for their RTO, the Medicare provider number application will be made. RTOs will also submit on behalf of general practice registrars who have not previously had a Medicare provider number. An ‘Application for an initial Medicare provider number for a medical practitioner’ must also be completed and submitted to the Department of Human Services (DHS).


RTOs will advise general practice registrars if there are any processing time frames to which they must adhere.

All AGPT placement forms need to be completed, paying particular attention to:

- any section 19AB (3) restrictions
- pathway selection (general or rural)
- whether the placement is an extended skills/advanced specialised training term.

Medicare provider numbers will be provided within 28 days of receipt of a correctly completed application.

If this information is not provided, the form is not able to be processed electronically, thereby causing a delay.


Please note: A Medicare provider number does not allow a general practice registrar to prescribe medicines; they will require a separate prescriber number to perform this function.
Terms and conditions, remuneration and 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 completion of the first year of the program, community-based training is undertaken and general practice registrars 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 (GPSA).

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 either the GPRA website www.gpra.org.au or the GPSA website www.gpsupervisorsaustralia.org.au

Registrar liaison officers, your RTO or the GPRA are available to provide advice to general practice registrars who are seeking assistance regarding employment arrangements before approaching practices. General practice registrars are also encouraged to discuss opportunities available during their two years of community-based training with their RTO; there is a range of organisations and business types, including in rural and remote Australia.

Remuneration

Remuneration in general practice varies depending on the practice’s cost structure and the value the individual GP brings to the practice, financially and non-financially. Cost structures also vary depending on the commitments of the practice.

As trainees, general practice registrars must be employed according to the NTCER and can expect to be paid a base salary (starting at $74,215 per annum in term one of their training, increasing to $95,295 per annum by term three). This base salary is topped up with the difference between the general practice registrar’s base salary and a percentage of billings or receipts (no less than 44.79% + 9.5% superannuation).

Incentives

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

GPs 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 from $12,000–$60,000 per annum.

AGPT register remuneration when working in general practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General practice term one</td>
<td>$74,215</td>
<td>$6184.58</td>
<td>$1427.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>General practice term two</td>
<td>$89,226</td>
<td>$7435.50</td>
<td>$1715.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General practice term three and beyond</td>
<td>$95,295</td>
<td>$7941.25</td>
<td>$1832.60</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Source: National Terms and Conditions for the Employment of Registrars 2017 and 2018

Incentives for working in rural and remote locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year-level service</th>
<th>One</th>
<th>Two</th>
<th>Three</th>
<th>Four</th>
<th>Five-plus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modified Monash category</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$4500</td>
<td>$7500</td>
<td>$7500</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$8000</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$17,000</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Six</td>
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<td>$16,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.ruralhealthaustralia.gov.au
RACGP membership joins you to a vibrant community of more than 35,000 members, dedicated to supporting you throughout your general practice journey. Membership provides you with tailored offerings based on the guiding principles of education, advocacy, support and collegiality.

**Education**
Tailored education to suit your professional needs and learn in a format that suits you.

**Advocacy**
The RACGP strongly advocates 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.
Membership requirements

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

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


### Types of memberships and associated benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership type</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>• <em>Australian Medicines Handbook</em> – members receive $30 off this prescribed guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <em>Discovery tool</em> – unified search across RACGP library databases and resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident/intern</td>
<td>• <em>gplearning</em> – more than 300 hours of interactive online activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <em>check</em> – case studies consisting of multiple-choice questions and answers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General practice registrars</td>
<td>• <em>Australian Family Physician</em> – the RACGP’s evidence-based medical journal, aimed at assisting GPs in providing the highest quality patient care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Exam support online (ESO) – designed to give exam candidates practical experience of what to expect in the RACGP online exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Local pre-exam workshops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit [www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au) and search ‘membership’ for further information.
The vocational training pathway 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 a 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.

The essential components of vocational training towards FRACGP are described on the next page.
Hospital training (12 months)

Following on your 12 months of initial hospital training, you will be required to undertake another year of hospital placements. Refer to page 17 for further information on initial hospital training.

General practice placements (18 months)

Following the hospital year, general practice registrars are required to complete three six-month terms in a general practice, plus a fourth six-month term in an extended skills training post. General practice placements need to be completed in RACGP-accredited training practices. General practice registrars must also meet the DoH’s training obligations, detailed in the AGPT Training Obligations. Visit www.agpt.com.au and search ‘policies for further information.

Extended skills (six months)

The six months of extended skills training provides an opportunity to further develop your general practice skills and can be completed in a range of RACGP-accredited settings.

Recognition of prior learning

Candidates may apply to have some of their previous training in hospital and community posts recognised towards their training. Visit www.racgp.org.au and search ‘RPL’ for further information.

Taking leave from general practice training


General practice registrars may suspend RACGP membership during periods of approved leave that are three months or more in duration on provision of appropriate supporting evidence. It should be noted, however, that access to all RACGP member benefits (including eligibility to sit exams) is suspended during approved periods of leave. Visit www.racgp.org.au and search ‘registrar membership policy’ for further information.
Applying for FRACGP

General practice registrars can access the Fellowship application form upon successful completion of the three segments of the RACGP Fellowship Exams. The completed form is then submitted to the RTO (along with other information required by the RTO), after which the RTO submits a Fellowship portfolio to the RACGP on behalf of the general practice registrar.

Visit www.racgp.org.au and search ‘Fellowship vocational guidance’ for further information.
I chose AGPT with the RACGP

I chose RACGP Fellowship because …

‘I’ve always been attracted to general practice as my specialty and RACGP Fellowship offered me the resources, education and social support I needed to achieve this.

‘The RACGP have supported me throughout my general practice journey from information provided before enrolling into registrar training to educational activities, online resources such as the check program, exam preparation workshops and, of course, the RACGP conferences.’

I chose general practice because …

‘General practice appeals to me as it allows me to provide continuity of care and health promotion to patients from “cradle to grave”. I like that general practice offers me the opportunity to practice “good news” medicine, such as providing preventive care, immunisations and antenatal care.

‘In my registrar training, I have enjoyed making small, but also very important differences for my patients and their families’ health and wellbeing. I have felt very well supported by my registrar training with Sturt Fleurieu/GPEx, by my medical educator and supervisors.’
What is the Australian General Practice Training Program?
The Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program is an Australian government initiative which 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 in urban, regional and rural locations nationally.
It comprises hospital training, general practice placements and extended skills training.

What does the application and selection process entail?
See stages one to four of the AGPT selection flowchart, available at: RACGP 2018 AGPT selection

How much can I expect to earn as a FRACGP GP?
As a Fellow of The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP) GP, like other fellowed Australian general
practitioners (GPs) general practice 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 GPs 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 GPRA NTCER

The calculator is based on the earnings of a fellowed GP. Importantly, there is no difference in MBS patient rebates based
on what general practice fellowship has been obtained.

What is involved in the RACGP selection process?
There are two main phases in The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) selection process. The first is
undertaking the National Assessment which consists of the Candidate Assessment Applied Knowledge Test (CAAKT) and
the second is attending an interview at a preferred Regional Training Organisation (RTO). Please refer to the AGPT selection
flowchart, available at: RACGP 2018 AGPT selection

What is the Regional Training Organisation interview process?
Candidates attend an interview at their allocated RTO. Candidates can select up to four preferred RTOs. The interview process
considers your responses to between five and eight questions. Based on your performance at interview you may be offered a
placement at the RTO.
Can my prior learning and experience be recognised as part of the AGPT Program?

Once you have been accepted into the AGPT Program you can work with your RTO to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). RPL is assessed in accord with the RACGP’s RPL policy.

If granted, RPL may reduce your training time.

Can I transfer between RTOs during my training?

Registrars on the AGPT Program remain in their training region for the duration of training. Applicants should not nominate a training region they are not willing to train in for the entire AGPT Program and if necessary, relocate to. While it is possible to transfer once training has begun, this needs to be approved by both RTOs involved. Transfers from rural to general pathways must be supported by evidence of exceptional circumstances that justify a pathway change, and be approved by the DoH.

Transfers between training regions and pathways are restricted and never guaranteed. For more information, please refer to AGPT Policies

How much does the AGPT cost?

The cost for the AGPT Program is the selection fee of $725.00. The Australian government funds all training and education costs. AGPT Program participants also receive a guaranteed salary while in training in accord with the National Terms and Conditions for the Employment of Registrars (NTCER) available at: GPRA NTCER

The only other costs are to sit your exams and membership fees.

Why is RACGP doing a second intake?

Not all training positions were filled in the first intake. A second intake allows new applicants to apply for one of the remaining positions.

Am I eligible to apply for the second intake?

The DoH is responsible for assessing an applicant’s eligibility for the AGPT Program. For further information on eligibility requirements to join the AGPT Program, please visit AGPT Program eligibility.
I applied for the first intake and passed the CAAKT, do I need to re-sit for the second intake?
No. If you passed the CAAKT during the first intake, you will not need to re-sit for the second intake. Your result from the first intake will be used.

I applied for the first intake and passed the CAAKT, may I re-sit for the second intake?
If you passed the CAAKT during the first intake you are not able to re-sit for the second intake. Your result from the first intake will be used.

I applied for the first intake but did not get a place, can I apply for the second intake?
Yes. All candidates who applied in the first intake and passed the CAAKT, but did not accept a position will be able to update their preferences for consideration in the second intake. Applicants who were interviewed in the first round, but did not receive an offer will not be shortlisted to the same training region and pathway in the second round. If you would like to be included in the second intake, please email selection@racgp.org.au

I applied for the first intake but did not get an interview, can I apply for the second intake?
Yes. All candidates who applied in the first intake and passed the CAAKT, but did not accept a position will be able to update their preferences for consideration in the second intake. If you would like to be included in the second intake, please email selection@racgp.org.au

I applied for the first intake but failed the CAAKT, can I apply for the second intake?
No. If you did not pass the CAAKT, you are not able to participate in the second intake for this year. You are welcome to reapply in 2018 for the 2019 intake year. Further information on how to apply will be available on the RACGP and AGPT websites later this year.

I applied for the first intake but did not sit the CAAKT, can I apply for the second intake?
Yes. You are eligible to apply for the second intake, but you must pay for and sit the CAAKT as part of the process. If you would like to be considered for the second intake and need to sit the CAAKT, please email selection@racgp.org.au

What are the key dates for the second intake?
Second intake opens: 10.00 am AEST, Tuesday 26 September 2017
Second intake closes: 10.00 am AEDT, Friday 13 October 2017
CAAKT enrolment period: Monday 23 October – Friday 10 November 2017
CAAKT assessments: Tuesday 14 – Friday 17 November 2017
Second intake RTO interviews: Saturday 25 November – Monday 4 December 2017
Second intake offers: Tuesday 5 December – Monday 11 December 2017
What is the difference between the rural pathway and general pathway with the RACGP?

The 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 utilised. Additionally, in the rural pathway the opportunity is available to develop further relevant 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?

The FARGP is a specialist twelve-month program for registrars wishing to specialise in rural general practice. It is recommended that the FARGP is undertaken during general practice training to enable you to get the most out of your experience and fulfil the majority of FARGP requirements before heading into the FRACGP exams. FARGP can also be undertaken post-Fellowship.

If I’m subject to the 10-year moratorium, what pathway do I need to go on?

The 10-year moratorium applies for a period of ten years from the date of your first registration, including provisional or limited registration. If you’re subject to the moratorium, you will be required to go on the rural pathway. You can find further information on this in the 2018 AGPT Handbook or on AGPT website.

Further information

Further information is available at www.racgp.org.au

For RACGP selection enquiries please email selection@racgp.org.au or call 1800 4RACGP | 1800 472 247.
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