General practitioners (GPs) play a vital role in educating and training medical students and graduates who are preparing to enter the Australian medical workforce. In order to ensure GPs are well placed to teach medical students, it is important that they are appropriately supported.

The RACGP has developed this information sheet to provide a brief overview of some of the support systems and incentives that may be available to teaching GPs.

**Financial incentives**

The Commonwealth Government Practice Incentives Program (PIP) – Teaching Payment is designed to compensate general practices for a reduction in practice revenue/patient consultations as a result of the extra time it takes to teach medical students.

Practices can currently claim a maximum payment of $100 for each three-hour teaching session, with a maximum of two sessions per GP and student, per day. However, even if more than one student is present for a teaching session, practices can still only claim a maximum of $100 for that session. Commencing in 2015, the PIP Teaching Payment will increase from $100 to $200 per session. Practices in rural and remote areas are also eligible for a rural loading, which is added to their payment.

PIP Teaching Payment Guidelines and eligibility requirements can be accessed via the Medicare website, at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/incentives/pip/forms-guides.jsp#N10068

Over the next three years, some rural and remote general practices will also be eligible for Rural and Regional General Practice Teaching Infrastructure Grants to allow for additional consultation rooms and space for teaching and training. Grants will be capped at $300,000 and successful practices will be required to match the Commonwealth’s commitment.

Further information can be accessed at www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Listing+of+Tenders+and+Grants-1

**University support for teaching GPs**

In addition to the PIP Teaching Payments, some universities may offer additional support and incentives to GPs who teach medical students. The type of support available will vary depending on the university, but may include:

- access to teacher training events
- access to the university library, including e-journals and e-textbooks
- participation in research activities
- opportunities to supervise medical students’ research projects
- access to expert advice in areas such as ethics and clinical studies
- assistance with completing the administrative requirements of PIP
- additional financial assistance and/or remuneration.

**Additional university payments**

GPs who take on specific roles in teaching (lectures/tutorial groups) may also receive additional payments as detailed in the university’s existing enterprise bargaining agreement.

**Further information**

If you are considering teaching in your general practice, contact your local university’s school of medicine for additional information on support and incentives that might be available.