



Policy Position Statement

Joint-College Policy Alignment

The Australian Government has determined that the general practice colleges will deliver the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program from 1 February 2023. This approach is consistent with other medical specialty training programs where the specialist college has responsibility for their training program.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) acknowledge this transition to College-led training involves a significant departure from the current training model where training is delivered by Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) under contract to the Department of Health. Both colleges are committed to collaborating together to reduce the impact of the transition for registrars, supervisors, training sites and the staff delivering training. With RTOs no longer delivering training, the RACGP and ACRRM will need to absorb the RTOs' operational capacity, including their policies and procedures.

ACRRM and the RACGP have undertaken a joint review of the current AGPT policies and procedures. This joint approach has had the goal of ensuring changes undertaken by either college do not disadvantage registrars on either or both pathways. This paper outlines a joint policy position by both colleges which is an outcome of this joint review.

Position

The core principles of the current Department of Health AGPT program policies will remain unchanged for 2023.

There will be no Department of Health AGPT program policies beyond January 2023. Therefore, both colleges will translate these policies into their own policy frameworks.

Both colleges will keep the same core principles for the AGPT program as determined by the current AGPT program policies. Key areas include the same leave and extensions allowances, access to the Academic Posts program and registrar training obligations throughout training.

These core principles will be housed in the respective college policy frameworks. They will be publicly available to all stakeholders from Q3 of 2022 – providing lead time before the policies become active on 1 February 2023.

The principles of selected RTO policies will be assimilated into each college's policy frameworks and processes for the delivery of training, requiring some changes to how these policies are managed and administered regionally.

From 2023, both colleges will deliver their own policy frameworks at a local and regional level. These frameworks will be informed by the RTO current policy frameworks and their underlying principles. The transition to two college nationally consistent frameworks will require some changes to the way specific policy areas are currently managed in individual training regions. There will also be administrative differences between the two colleges. Every effort will be made to reduce the impact of these differences on stakeholders. Areas identified to date where there may be differences between the colleges and the current RTO policies include disputes and appeals, complaints, part time training allowances, managing ADF registrars, and registrar transfers between training regions.

The two colleges recognise the need to retain regional differences in some areas. One example is the supported visas while on the AGPT program. Both colleges have committed to maintaining the current recommendations from each RTO for their region for 2023.



The RACGP and ACRRM will collaborate in specific policy areas to ensure minimum impact to stakeholders

We have identified alignment of a number of policy areas as being important for our stakeholders. These are: supervisor and training site accreditation; policy decision reviews and appeals; placement of registrars; and, transferring between the colleges AGPT programs.. The RACGP and ACRRM are working together to create policies in these areas that align with the policies of the other college. More information on these will be released as soon as possible.

Specific registrar training and policy decisions made prior to 2023 will be upheld following the transition to college led training.

Decisions and policy exemptions regarding a specific registrar's training made under current Department of Health and RTO policies will be honoured following the transition to college led training - 1 February 2023. Both colleges will support registrars to continue their progression to Fellowship taking these decisions into account.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact:

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