

Incentivised placement guidelines

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Registrar financial support for training in incentivised placements

Key information for registrars and training locations

What are incentivised placements?

To complement the AGPT grant that funds GP training, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) provides funding for the RACGP to provide continuing professional development for supervisors, and address specific needs to build capacity and support training in areas of workforce need.

Financial incentives are intended to encourage registrars to undertake placements in an area of identified workforce need, and to alleviate the additional cost of relocation. The amount of financial support available is dependent on the band allocated to the incentivised placement as per the [Flexible funds policy](#). This funding is offered in addition to the [National Consistent Payments \(NCP\)](#). The banding allocated to a GP catchment and the funding support available is reviewed annually and subject to change.

Incentives are paid in full regardless of whether the registrar is training full-time or part-time. If a registrar needs to leave the incentivised placement early, they can only claim costs incurred up to their departure date.

How does the RACGP determine the incentivised placement locations?

Areas experiencing GP workforce shortages or where the population's need for healthcare is not being met are known as 'areas of workforce need'.

The RACGP reviews Australia's GP catchments to identify high priority areas of workforce need where training is not currently occurring. This is informed by MMM data, DoHDA data (HeadS UPP), placement history and the Workforce Planning and Priority Organisation (WPPO) reports.

RACGP workforce planning is done at the level of GP catchments.

We consider factors such as:

- registrar placement data for the entire GP catchment, not just individual training sites
- evidence that the GP catchment will not attract or retain registrars without funding incentives
- availability of accredited training sites and supervisors to allow training to take place
- existing barriers to attracting a registrar (rental costs, availability of childcare, safety and wellbeing)
- other relevant data, including WPPO ranking, population of GP catchment, and MMM (remoteness).

Why should a registrar consider a placement in a prioritised area?

- To benefit from the breadth and depth of clinical experience available in regional, rural and remote settings.
- To experience diverse primary health contexts across Australia.
- To contribute to the health and wellbeing of communities that need more primary health care services.
- To demonstrate flexibility, curiosity and a sense of adventure to prospective future employers.

Which locations in my state have been incentivised?

A summary of all incentivised locations around Australia is available on the [placement incentives page](#).

The incentivised locations are set for 12 months. In semester two, new locations may be added but no incentives will be removed or changed in existing incentivised locations.

How will identified placement locations be incentivised?

Financial subsidies will be provided to registrars on top of existing NCP payments in the areas identified on the [placement incentives page](#).

Placements are incentivised according to the four bands outlined in the below table.

Current bands for 2025.2

2025.2 financial support		Activity
\$	Band 1 Up to \$5k	1. Relocation costs 2. Housing rental assistance 3. Placement childcare and education costs
\$\$	Band 2 Up to \$15k	4. Additional relevant training 5. Travel for personal health care or wellbeing (respite)
\$\$\$	Band 3 Up to \$25k	6. Internet connectivity
\$\$\$\$	Band 4 Up to \$45k	

Funding for incentivised placements will be changing in 2026.1.

Please click [here](#) for more information

Registrars who elect to train in accredited GP training sites that have been incentivised will be able to submit claims for reasonable expenses up to the maximum amount within the allocated band.

A list of approved activities is provided in Appendix 1.

Funds will be paid in arrears and can be claimed using the [registrar claim form](#) on the Training Management System (TMS). Your training coordinators will be able to assist with any questions you may have.

Eligibility:

Financial support can be claimed by registrars who are:

- undertaking community general practice training terms (GPT1, GPT2, GPT3, extended skills), extension assessment and additional rural skills terms in community general practice in an **incentivised placement**
- residing within the same GP catchment as the incentivised placement for a minimum of three nights in a calendar week, or if there is no available accommodation within the GP catchment within 80km of the placement; or if they are working in a pre-determined unique training location where residing within the GP catchment is not suitable.

Notes:

- Registrars who commence a semester in an extension awaiting fellowship term will not be eligible for incentives.
- If a registrar commences the training term in GPT3 or extended skills and progresses to extension awaiting fellowship during the term, they can continue to claim expenses until the date the censor approves their fellowship.
- If a registrar is in a remediation term or is moved to a remediation term, they can claim the incentives for the placement.
- If a registrar commences in an eligible term and then progresses to a leave term, they can claim expenses incurred up to the date of leave.
- If a registrar is in a mandatory elective term they can claim incentives for the placement.
- Financial support is intended to offset the cost of relocating for the placement and is not intended to cover normal everyday living expenses. Furniture and vehicle expenses are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Claims can relate to one or more of the six identified claim categories.
- When claiming accommodation related expenses, registrars must confirm that the accommodation has not been provided or subsidised by any other party at the time of claim.
- The total amount that can be claimed across all categories is limited to the maximum level of the band identified for the incentivised placement.
- **Refer to Schedule 5 of the Flexible funds policy** for all travel expenses.
- Expense claims must be reasonable; claims deemed excessive may only be partially reimbursed.
- A detailed guide to claimable items and required evidence is included in **appendix 1**.

Claims process:

Claims can be submitted through the payment claims module in the TMS.

Claim timeframes:

Registrars can submit claims for expenses:

- upon commencement in the incentivised placement.
- up to four weeks following the end of the semester.
- claims for the previous semester will not be accepted after the week 4 deadline.

Further queries about incentivised placements can be directed to your training coordinator.

APPENDIX 1: Claimable items by category

Refer to Schedule 5 of the Flexible funds policy for all travel expenses.

Relocation costs

What is covered	Required evidence
Relocation costs to take up the placement	Tax invoice/receipt
Relocation costs at the end of the placement	Tax invoice/receipt
Vehicle relocation	Tax invoice/receipt or km claim
Storage costs	Tax invoice/receipt
Car hire	Tax invoice/receipt
What is not covered	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments to non-professionals to assist in moving 	

Housing rental assistance

What is covered	Required evidence
Placement rental costs (including up to two weeks prior and/or one week post placement)	<p>Lease arrangement: Rental agreement, receipts in registrar's name</p> <p>Share house/room rental arrangement: Statutory declaration/roommate agreement, receipts or bank statement showing regular payment</p>
Connection fees and utilities in placement location	Tax invoice/receipt or bill/statement in registrar's name
What is not covered	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rental costs relating to a period more than two weeks prior and/or one week post placement • Rental bond • Purchase of furniture or electrical goods for rental property • Mortgage payments 	

Placement childcare and education costs

What is covered	Required evidence
Childcare facility fees (for days of work only)	Tax invoice/receipt
Before/after school care (for days of work only)	Tax invoice/receipt
School enrolment fees	Tax invoice/receipt
Babysitter/nanny (for days/times of work only)	Tax invoice/receipt Contract or statutory declaration
Boarding school fees – cost of boarding only (for children not relocating)	Tax invoice/receipt
Vacation care (for days of work only)	Tax invoice/receipt
What is not covered	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs related to children attending after-school activities General school fees (including educational component of boarding school fees) 	

Additional relevant training

What is covered	Required evidence
Examples of relevant courses completed up to four months prior to commencement that can be claimed are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALS/APLS/ROET/REST courses Cultural training or culturally specific activities X-ray courses 	Pre-approval; and Tax invoice/receipt; and evidence of course completion
Travel to exam location to sit RACGP exams	Tax invoice/receipt or km claim Plane/train/tickets/car hire and/or km claim
What is not covered	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courses completed more than four months prior to commencement of the placement 	

All courses should be confirmed by the medical educator and pre-approved for claiming by the local team. Registrars should attend courses at their nearest location unless extenuating circumstances apply.

Travel for personal health care or wellbeing (respite)

What is covered	Required evidence
Travel to regional town/home/city for purposes of receiving medical care	Plane/train tickets/car hire and/or km claim Tax invoice/receipt for accommodation
Travel home to visit family/friends/support network; Travel of family/friends to visit registrar	Plane/train tickets/car hire and/or km claim Tax invoice/receipt for accommodation
Time away with family	Plane/train tickets/car hire and/or km claim Tax invoice/receipt for accommodation
What is not covered	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel overseas for respite (note: grant funding does not allow for overseas travel) • Cost of activities/attendance at events during respite eg. concert tickets, guided tours, etc. • Stays at all-inclusive resorts, or cruises • Meals (other than breakfast) and drinks 	

Internet connectivity

What is covered	Required evidence
Mesh system for home internet (with pre-approval)	Pre-approval Tax invoice/receipt
Starlink (with pre-approval)	Pre-approval Tax invoice/receipt
Wifi extender/booster (with pre-approval)	Pre-approval Tax invoice/receipt
Modem/router	Tax invoice/receipt
Monthly internet cost (in placement location)	Tax invoice/receipt
What is not covered	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camera/webcam • Laptop • Printer • Mobile phone • iPad/tablet 	

Note: Items not included within the guidelines should be discussed with the training coordinator or regional operations manager. There is no guarantee that additional items outside of the guidelines will be approved for payment.

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