



RACGP
Royal Australian College
of General Practitioners

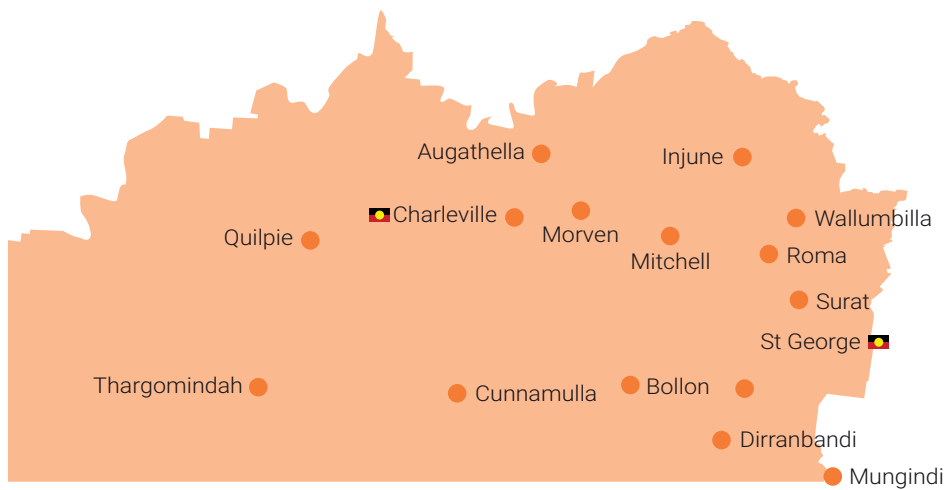
Explore general practice training in South West Queensland

Discover the charm of rural
South West Queensland

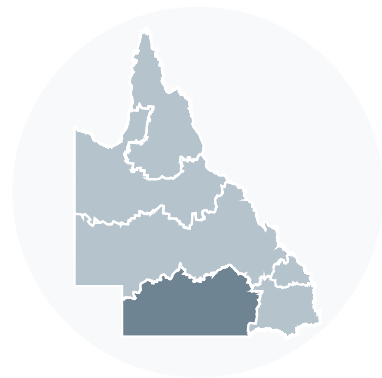


Discover the charm of rural South West Queensland

Welcome to south-west Queensland, where The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) invites you to embark on a transformative training experience amid the charm and challenges of rural Australia. Discover why Charleville, Roma, St George, Cunnamulla and the communities that surround them are not just fulfilling training locations, but vibrant communities brimming with opportunities.



Learn more about this region here:
<https://southwestqueensland.com.au/beourguest>



Training in the south-west region

Complete all your training in the region or come for a six-month placement to try it out - you may find you don't want to leave. The region spans over 319,808 square kilometres and is considered remote.

The region is serviced by the South West Hospital and Health Service and other private services including general practices, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services, hospitals, multipurpose health services, community health centres and residential aged care services.

RACGP training opportunities include:

- core emergency medicine training
- Additional Rural Skills Training (ARST) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Small Town Rural General Practice
- general practice training
- maintenance of procedural ARST skills, including obstetrics, anaesthetics and emergency medicine.

Charleville hosts the southern Queensland base of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which provides another unique training opportunity.

The RACGP is continually looking at opportunities for training, so there is potential for other disciplines for ARST to be available in the region in future.

An example of a rural generalist training journey

Dr Jane Doe has completed her hospital training time and ARST in obstetrics at Toowoomba Hospital. Jane needs to complete core emergency medicine and general practice training, and also needs to maintain her obstetrics skills. Over the following two years Jane could undertake:

- 12 months' full-time equivalent (FTE) working across a hospital and general practice in Charleville, Roma or St George completing core emergency medicine training and general practice training
- 12 months' FTE working across a hospital and general practice in Charleville, Roma or St George completing general practice training and consolidating obstetrics skills.

"There was a lot of flexibility from RACGP in tailoring the program based on my past experiences and training. They developed a program where I could complete core rotations in paediatrics and emergency through the local hospital in Saint George all while doing general practice at the same time. There are certain benefits to working in a rural environment. I love having a three-minute commute to work, instead of an hour and a half. I certainly see a lot more of my wife and kids now, which I absolutely love."

– Dr Craig Acton

Earn extra income and benefits by training rurally

Financial incentives are available to support you to work in a rural or remote location. These are generally based on the Modified Monash Model (MMM) of rurality. You could be earning an extra \$100,000 per annum or more, in addition to receiving housing support – just for choosing to work rurally.

Registrar additional National Consistent Payments (NCP) to support rural training per community general practice training term include:

- MMM 3–4 (Roma) – \$3425
- MMM 6–7 (St George, Charleville, Cunnamulla) – \$9250.

Some placements are incentivised to encourage you to consider a placement in a priority location of need. In recognition of the additional costs to undertake an incentivised placement, you can seek reimbursement for things like relocation expenses, rent assistance, childcare/education costs and certain travel expenses. Depending on the banding of the placement, there is up to \$45,000 available per term, as follows:

- Band 1 – \$5000
- Band 2 – \$15,000
- Band 3 – \$25,000
- Band 4 – \$45,000.

Further information about incentivised placements can be found on our [website](#).

Under the [Workforce Incentive Program \(WIP\)](#) you may be eligible for payments between \$8000 and \$60,000 per year, depending on activity levels and your history of working rurally. You may be eligible for additional payments up to \$10,500 per year under the [Rural Advanced Skills Stream](#) of the WIP if you've completed ARST and are using those skills.

Registrars working at least 0.5 FTE at one of the hospitals will receive accommodation support, which may include hospital-provided accommodation or reimbursement of costs associated with accommodation. Other benefits with Queensland Health include the workforce attraction incentive scheme for intrastate transfers (for those moving from an MMM 1–3 location to an MMM 4–7 location) – up to \$30,000 upon commencement, \$20,000 after 12 months and another \$20,000 after 24 months. There is also an inaccessibility allowance of up to \$13,800 per annum. These are all pro rata for part time.

Incentives are subject to change and information is correct as at August 2024.

Right: Dr Craig Acton with his patient Nilata, St George



Lifestyle in the south-west region



Immerse yourself in outback life by visiting a working cattle station, relaxing in a mud bath or hot spring, or fishing by a lazy river. The friendly locals will ensure you have a great time.



Outback Australia loves to celebrate. Discover the biggest, quirkiest and most unique outback festivals and events in south-west Queensland.



Explore the region to uncover unique animals and rare plant species that you won't find anywhere else on the planet.



Enjoy activities such as off-road driving, birdwatching, camping, farm stays, fishing and incredible bush walks.



Be part of an active and vibrant community and get involved in sporting groups including football, netball, running, squash, golf, tennis and more.



Weather



Spring: 10–30 °C



Summer: 17–35 °C



Autumn: 8–28 °C



Winter: 5–23 °C

Travel



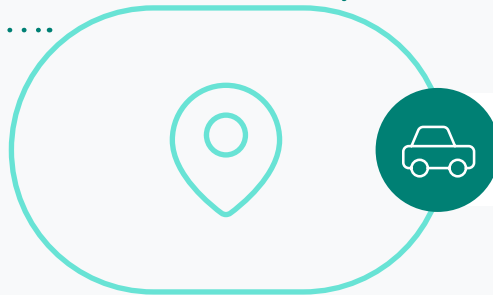
Roma to Brisbane
480 km
6 hours by car



Roma to Toowoomba
351 km
4 hours 10 mins by car



1 hour 15 minutes by plane



Roma to Gold Coast
535 km
6 hours by car



Weekly flights to Brisbane from St George and Cunnamulla. Daily flights to Brisbane from Roma and from Charleville four times per week. Residents have access to cheaper flights through the resident fare scheme.



Roma

Location

Roma is a thriving rural centre, which is situated on the Bungil Creek, a six-hour drive or a one-hour and 15-minute flight from Brisbane. With a population of approximately 7000 people, Roma is home to a variety of industries including agriculture, natural resources and manufacturing.

Amenities

Roma offers a lively country lifestyle with excellent, city-style conveniences. With two supermarkets, five coffee shops, 17 hotels/motels and numerous restaurant options, this community will keep you well fed and ready for any social event.

Other amenities include:

- **Shopping and amenities:** Several clothing and homeware boutiques, 15+ restaurants, five coffee shops, two gyms, three sports complexes, one 50-metre swimming pool, 10+ hairdressers, five beauty salons and a library
- **Health and education:** 22-bed hospital, two GP clinics, several schools including Roma State College and St John's Catholic School
- **Housing:** Median house price \$260,000; rentals from \$255 to \$330 per week.

Community

Whether you are into swimming, clay shooting, lawn bowls, golf, netball, touch football, tennis, rugby

league, cricket or working out in the gym, Roma has it all. With different sporting competitions running every day of the week, this small community will keep you and your family active and connected with the local community.

If sport isn't your cup of tea, the Maranoa Gardening Club, Roma Performing Arts, Maranoa Music Association and Roma on Bungil Gallery will provide you with different cultural experiences throughout the year.

For the adrenaline junkies, there are multiple speedway, motocross, rodeo and horse racing events throughout the year.

Natural beauties and attractions

Enjoy a quiet morning checking out the Sculptures Out Back exhibition along the banks of Bungil Creek, a coffee and brekkie burger at Moorelands Bush Nursery, a sunset gin at Western Queensland Spirit distillery or a beautiful walk around the Roma Bush Gardens. These beautiful attractions are all within a five-minute drive.

Should you prefer a weekend away camping and hiking, a 1.5-hour drive north of Roma to the Carnarvon Gorge will have any naturalist excited!

Learn more about Roma here:

<https://romarevealed.com.au/discover-the-region/towns/roma-qld/>



St George

Location

St George is a compact rural town with a population of approximately 3000 people. This means getting to and from work is no longer a chore! You can get anywhere in town within 10 minutes, leaving you more time to do the things you love.

Amenities

Situated on the Balonne River, 493 km south west of Brisbane, this town provides a scenic rural lifestyle with an abundance of outdoor activities. It is a major agricultural region of wheat, sheep, cotton, cattle, table grapes, wineries and other horticultural crops.

St George's Victoria Street provides an impressive display of colour in spring when the Bauhinia and Jacaranda trees bloom. St George offers a relaxed country lifestyle, ideal for the outdoor enthusiast.

Other amenities include:

- **Shopping and amenities:** Two grocery stores, several cafes, gym facilities, aquatic centre, golf club, tennis club and rugby league club
- **Health and education:** 19-bed hospital, two general practice clinics, several schools including St George State School and St Patrick's Catholic School
- **Housing:** Median house price \$220,000; rentals from \$245 to \$270 per week.

Community

St George is jam-packed with diverse sporting activities. From Dragon Boat racing on a Sunday morning, to Rugby Union, triathlon, cricket, squash and tennis clubs, your evenings and weekends can be filled with an abundance of sporting events.

Natural beauties and attractions

Spend your day at either the Beardmore Dam or the Jack Taylor Weir water-skiing, jet-skiing, fishing or canoeing. The parklands at the Beardmore Dam have public amenities and a boat ramp as well as picnic and BBQ areas, making it a great spot for families and groups of friends.

As the 'inland fishing capital', St George's many waterways flow with various species of fish, attracting anglers Australia-wide. If you prefer dry land, the riverside walk is also a great place to view the river scenery, listen to the birdlife, and witness the most beautiful sunrises and sunsets.

Learn more about St George here:
www.stgeorgeregion.com.au/

Charleville

Location

Immortalised in Slim Dusty's song by the same name, Charleville is the largest town in Queensland's south west with a population of 2551 people. In the heart of 'mulga country', Charleville and surrounding pastoral properties are rich in history, flora and fauna.

Amenities

Charleville is home to south-west Queensland's largest Royal Flying Doctor Service base that serves remote communities as far afield as Birdsville, 900 km to the west. Charleville is famous for its Heinemann Bakery, The Lucky Elephant Thai restaurant and the National Bilby Day Festival.

Other amenities include:

- **Shopping and amenities:** Two grocery stores, several cafes, gym facilities, swimming pool, golf club, tennis club and Rugby League club, touch football, three sports complexes, several coffee shops, racecourse and bowling green
- **Health and education:** 15-bed hospital, two general practice clinics, several schools including Charleville State School and St Mary's Parish School
- **Housing:** Median house price \$167,000; rentals from \$195 to \$280 per week.

Community

When you're not attending the local footy or cricket competitions, your weekends will be filled with water skiing, fishing for yellowbelly, glamorous race days and festivals like the famous Big Skies Festival.

The Charleville community loves to celebrate all things rural. Take advantage of the artesian mud baths just down the road at Eulo, rodeos and polocrosse competitions.

Natural beauties and attractions

The Charleville Cosmos Centre provides an intimate look at the night sky. Every night, the Cosmos Centre rolls back the roof and allows local and visiting astronomers the opportunity to take in the outstanding sights of planets and constellations.

During daylight hours, take the time to learn about the iconic service at the Royal Flying Doctor Service Visitor Centre. Or participate in the 90-minute guided tour about the WWII Secret Base, once integral to the USA Air Force.

With all these attractions, don't forget to go for a walk along the Warrego River walkway. Read the signs about Mundagudda and the Rainbow Serpent along the path and view native trees and grasses. Enjoy the prolific birdlife in the early morning and later afternoon.

Learn more about Charleville here:
www.experiencecharleville.com.au/



Cunnamulla

Location

Cunnamulla, with a population of 1233, offers a tranquil lifestyle surrounded by the natural beauty of the outback.

Amenities

The mighty Warrego River is on the edge of town and provides the perfect opportunity to spend the afternoon fishing, kayaking or enjoying a bush picnic. Keen 'twitchers' will love discovering the region's birdlife in their natural environment, too.

Cunnamulla is best known for its wool growing and beef production; however, new industries like organic wheat, organic chickpea, goat and lamb production are now bringing new life into a historically old town.

Other amenities include:

- **Shopping and amenities:** Grocery stores, coffee shops, gym facilities, bowls club, swimming pool, regional art gallery and library
- **Health and education:** 17-bed Cunnamulla Multipurpose Health Service, two general practice clinics, several schools including Cunnamulla State School and Sacred Heart Parish Primary Schools
- **Housing:** Median house price \$131,500.

Learn more about Cunnamulla here:
<https://cunnamullatourism.com.au/>

Community

Immerse yourself in the true outback experience and attend the action-packed Cunnamulla Fella Roundup. This much-loved community event is jammed packed with bulls, broncos and live music.

Not action-packed enough? Then the Full Boar Gymkhana motorbike racing event is for you!

If you prefer less noise and more spectacular, pencil in the Outback River Lights Festival. This annual event provides a full immersion of lights, music, art and community. From food stalls offering regional delicacies to live performances, the festival is a celebration of the unique character and resilience of the Cunnamulla community.

Natural beauties and attractions

Steeped in history and surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty, Cunnamulla offers a blend of culture and adventure, from outback luxury glamping, to the Bowra Wildlife Sanctuary – and not forgetting the Cunnamulla hot springs! These hidden gems promise to be profoundly unique and unforgettable experiences.

For more information

Join us in exploring the heart of Queensland's outback, where opportunity and community go hand in hand!

Talk to your local training team to find out more or speak to the rural team at rg@racgp.org.au

Healthy Profession.
Healthy Australia.

