

# The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice

**Guidelines for general practice registrars  
and practising GPs**



The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice: Guidelines for general practice registrars and practising GPs

#### **Disclaimer**

The information set out in this publication is current at the date of first publication and is intended for use as a guide of a general nature only and may or may not be relevant to particular patients or circumstances. Nor is this publication exhaustive of the subject matter. Persons implementing any recommendations contained in this publication must exercise their own independent skill or judgement or seek appropriate professional advice relevant to their own particular circumstances when so doing. Compliance with any recommendations cannot of itself guarantee discharge of the duty of care owed to patients and others coming into contact with the health professional and the premises from which the health professional operates.

Accordingly, The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Ltd (RACGP) and its employees and agents shall have no liability (including without limitation liability by reason of negligence) to any users of the information contained in this publication for any loss or damage (consequential or otherwise), cost or expense incurred or arising by reason of any person using or relying on the information contained in this publication and whether caused by reason of any error, negligent act, omission or misrepresentation in the information.

#### **Recommended citation**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice: Guidelines for general practice registrars and practising GPs. East Melbourne, Vic: RACGP, 2020.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Ltd  
100 Wellington Parade  
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

Tel 03 8699 0414

Fax 03 8699 0400

[www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au)

ABN 34 000 223 807

First published March 2016

Revised March 2018, October 2018, October 2019, May 2020, May 2023, December 2023

© The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners 2020

This resource is provided under licence by the RACGP. Full terms are available at [www.racgp.org.au/usage/licence](http://www.racgp.org.au/usage/licence). In summary, you must not edit or adapt it or use it for any commercial purposes. You must acknowledge the RACGP as the owner.

*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and seas on which we work and live, and pay our respects to Elders, past, present and future.*

# Contents

1	Introduction
2	Rationale
2	Scope
3	The Five Domains of General Practice <b>Journey towards general practice</b>
5	FARGP pathway <b>General practice registrars</b> <b>Practising GPs – RPL</b>
7	FARGP requirements <b>General practice registrars</b> <b>Practising GPs</b> <b>Rural general practice experience</b> <b>FARGP learning plan and reflection activity</b> <b>Meeting with medical educators/mentors</b> <b>ARST</b> <b>Rural general practice community-focused project (optional)</b> <b>Emergency medicine module</b>
13	Training obligations – Roles and responsibilities
15	The FARGP assessment process
15	Guiding principles for suitable rural general practice training posts for the FARGP
16	FARGP withdrawal policy
16	FARGP time frame policy
17	Support and information



# 1. Introduction

The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) is a qualification awarded by The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) in addition to the vocational Fellowship (FRACGP). The FARGP cannot be undertaken as a stand-alone qualification. From 1 July 2022, the Rural Generalist (RG) Fellowship replaced the FARGP and enrolments are no longer being accepted. These guidelines are for candidates who are currently completing their FARGP qualification.

The FARGP aims to develop additional rural skills and broaden options for safe, accessible and comprehensive care for Australia's rural, remote and very remote communities. The FARGP has pathways designed for both general practice registrars and experienced rural general practitioners (GPs):

- General practice registrars undertake a program where they will gain knowledge, skills and experience. Registrars may be granted exemption from requirements that have been completed prior to their enrolment in the FARGP.
- Practising GPs complete a recognition of prior learning (RPL) process where they provide evidence of their knowledge, skills and experience that match the requirements for the FARGP.

All GP registrars completing the FARGP have six years from their training start date in which to complete the requirements. The FARGP offers the greatest benefits to registrars when completed over the full registrar training program, well before final FRACGP examination preparation begins.

The FARGP interactive learning program is accessed and delivered via the RACGP's *gplearning* website. The FARGP online learning platform gives candidates access to all course materials, learning and assessment tools. Candidates can also upload certificates and other relevant documents, receive ongoing feedback from their medical educator or mentor, and submit work for assessment via the learning platform.

These guidelines provide information on the FARGP to general practice registrars, practising GPs and the Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS). The system of using medical educators and mentors is designed to support candidates and their supervisors through the process of completing their FARGP.

## 2. Rationale

Rural and remote communities rely on appropriately trained healthcare professionals to meet their varying healthcare needs. In many rural and remote communities across Australia, GPs with additional rural skills training (ARST) provide the only access that communities have to ongoing non-GP specialist medical services such as emergency medicine, mental health services, anaesthesia and obstetrics.

The FRACGP–FARGP pathway is a recognition of the additional training undertaken to develop additional general practice skills specific to rural life in Australia. The FARGP program is designed to meet community needs and broaden options for safe, accessible and comprehensive care for Australia’s rural, remote and very remote communities.

The FARGP gives general practice registrars and practising GPs the opportunity to acquire or acknowledge new knowledge, skills and experiences, or further develop their existing knowledge, skills and experiences.

Rural and remote GPs often face challenges that are quite different to their urban-based colleagues, such as geographical and professional isolation, lack of or outdated resources and infrastructure, harsh environments, and lack of professional support. GPs are required to be creative, flexible, skillful and resourceful given the situations they encounter in rural and remote areas. They need diverse skills to deal with situations where they may be the only person able to provide the level of care needed to a patient.

The FARGP offers general practice registrars and practising GPs the opportunity to develop the additional skills that will assist them with the challenges of practising in rural and remote Australia. The FARGP provides the flexibility that allows GPs (at any stage in their professional journey) to undertake relevant, engaging and appropriate activities that meet their needs and those of the community in which they practise.

## 3. Scope

The FARGP program acknowledges that general practice registrars are already receiving high-quality general practice education and training within the framework of the RACGP curriculum. Delivered by their general practice training provider, this training enables them to practise unsupervised anywhere in Australia.

Practising GPs have already developed their knowledge and skills related to work in regional, rural and remote Australia. With this in mind, the FARGP offers each candidate the opportunity to focus on community needs-based rural general practice through activities that encourage reflective practice, action research and self-determined learning – three contemporary practices in adult education.

The FARGP fits seamlessly into the training of a general practice registrar and the life of a practising GP. It also provides a rural lens through which the registrar and the GP can view their practice and their community.

All activities and processes have been designed to engage registrars and GPs, and to provide the opportunity to gain relevant knowledge, skills and insights. Regular contact with medical educators, mentors and supervisors is built into the process. Peer contact is also encouraged.

## 4. The Five Domains of General Practice

The Five Domains of General Practice represent the critical areas of knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for competent unsupervised general practice. They are relevant to every general practice patient consultation.

**Domain 1 – Communication skills and the patient–doctor relationship** (including communication skills, patient centeredness, health promotion, whole person care)

**Domain 2 – Applied professional knowledge and skills** (including physical examination and procedural skills, medical conditions, decision making)

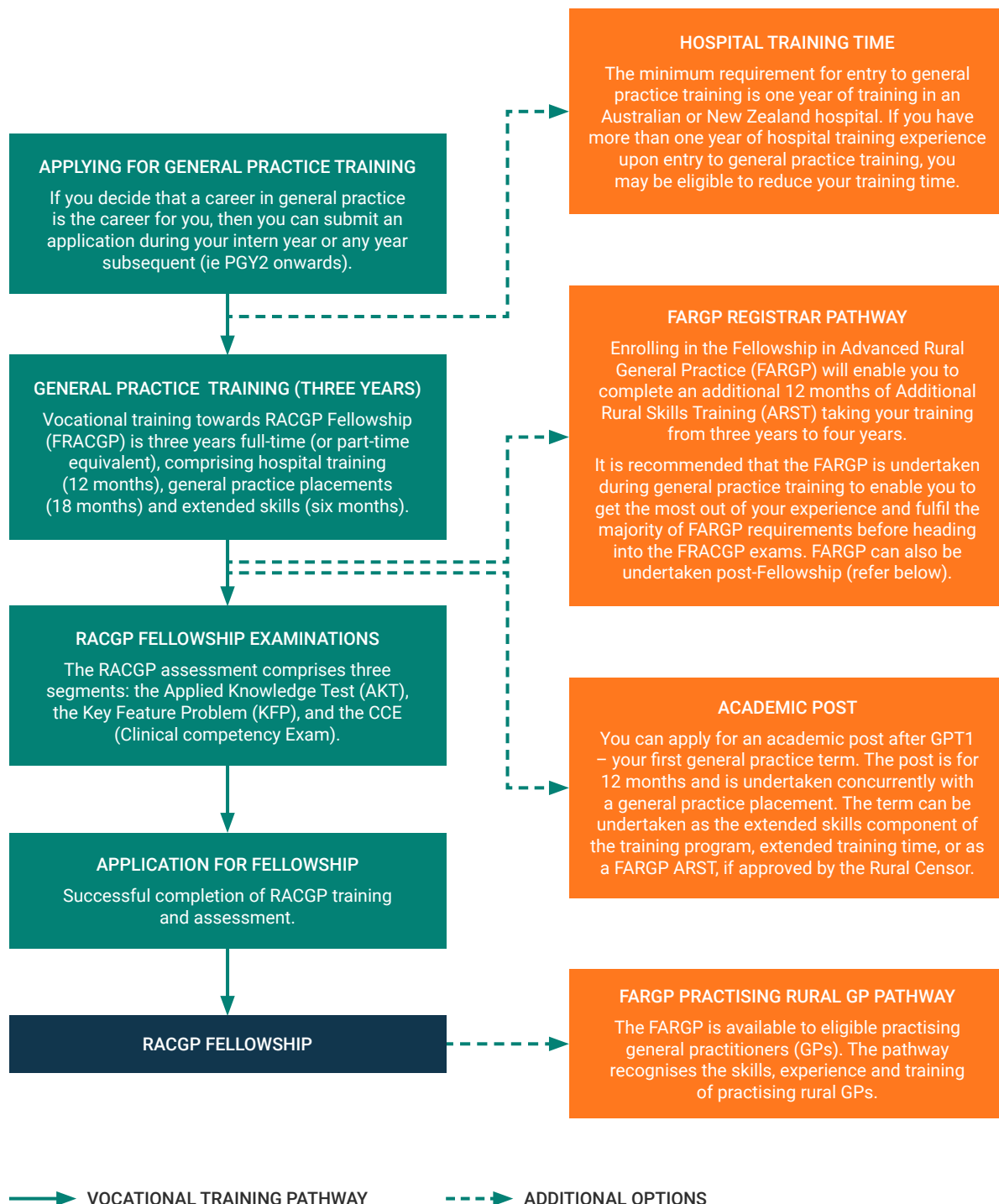
**Domain 3 – Population health and the context of general practice** (including epidemiology, public health, prevention, family influence on health, resources)

**Domain 4 – Professional and ethical role** (including duty of care, standards, self-appraisal, teacher role, research, self-care, networks)

**Domain 5 – Organisational and legal dimensions** (including information technology, records, reporting, confidentiality, practice management)

The Five Domains of General Practice provide a comprehensive, robust framework for ensuring that the key skill areas of general practice are included in education and training. These domains need to be addressed when completing the FARGP learning plan and reflection activities.

## Journey towards general practice





## 5. FARGP pathway

### 5.1 General practice registrars

General practice registrars can complete the FARGP requirements at any stage of their general practice training. It is recommended that the FARGP be undertaken during general practice training to gain the greatest benefits. This will enable a general practice registrar to complete the majority of the FARGP requirements well before preparing for the final FRACGP examinations.

#### 5.1.1 FARGP requirements

To complete the requirements of the FARGP, you must satisfactorily complete:

- the FARGP learning plan and reflection activity
- 12 months in a rural general practice setting (MMM3–7)
- 12 months of ARST in an accredited procedural or non-procedural training post
- a six-month community-focused project (mandatory for those completing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health ARST and optional for those completing other ARSTs)
- emergency medicine module

### 5.2 Practising GPs – RPL

The FARGP Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) pathway enables experienced rural GPs to gain the FARGP qualification via recognition of the relevant experience and skills already acquired.

GPs must have completed at least 12 months full time equivalent (FTE) of rural general practice experience (MMM3–7) as either a general practice registrar or a practising GP in the last four years. The 12 months of rural general practice experience must have been completed while living and working in MMM3–7. Requests for special circumstances will need to be submitted to the Rural Censor for consideration.

Candidates who enrolled prior to 1 January 2018 who have completed their rural general practice experience in an MMM2 equivalent setting will be accepted. This is to accommodate the FARGP setting definition change from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard-Remoteness Area (ASGS-RA) to the Modified Monash Model (MMM) on 1 January 2018. Requests for special circumstances will need to be submitted for consideration and fees may apply.

The 12 months must be completed either in one continuous block or in two six-month terms. Locums and defense personnel may not be eligible but are encouraged to contact the RACGP to discuss their circumstances.

The FARGP RPL pathway respects and recognises the existing knowledge, skills and qualifications of experienced rural GPs by offering the opportunity to submit evidence demonstrating how they meet the specific criteria of the FARGP.

Full or partial RPL is determined following assessment of the GP's level of existing knowledge, skills and experience. The RPL process is a formal, yet straightforward, process that is completed via the FARGP online learning platform. RPL will be granted if the submitted evidence is deemed sufficient for the FARGP requirements. In some cases, GPs may be required to undertake additional activities to meet the full FARGP requirements.

## 5.2.1 FARGP requirements

To complete the requirements of the FARGP as a practising GP, you must:

- complete the FARGP learning plan and reflection activity
- provide evidence of 12 months of ARST in an accredited procedural or non-procedural training post, or of sufficient time and experience gained spent in rural general practice to develop additional skills as a rural GP
- complete the rural general practice community-focused project (mandatory for those completing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health ARST and optional for those completing other ARSTs) or provide sufficient supporting evidence for an exemption
- complete the FARGP emergency medicine module, which includes a series of case studies, clinical skills audits, and two advanced emergency skills courses.

## 5.2.2 The RPL process

You will be provided with login details for the FARGP online learning platform and step-by-step instructions.

The RPL comprises five parts:

1. A self-assessment checklist
2. Learning plan and reflection activity
3. Collection of appropriate supporting evidence
4. Completion of questions relating to your knowledge, skills and experience
5. Submission of all evidence for assessment

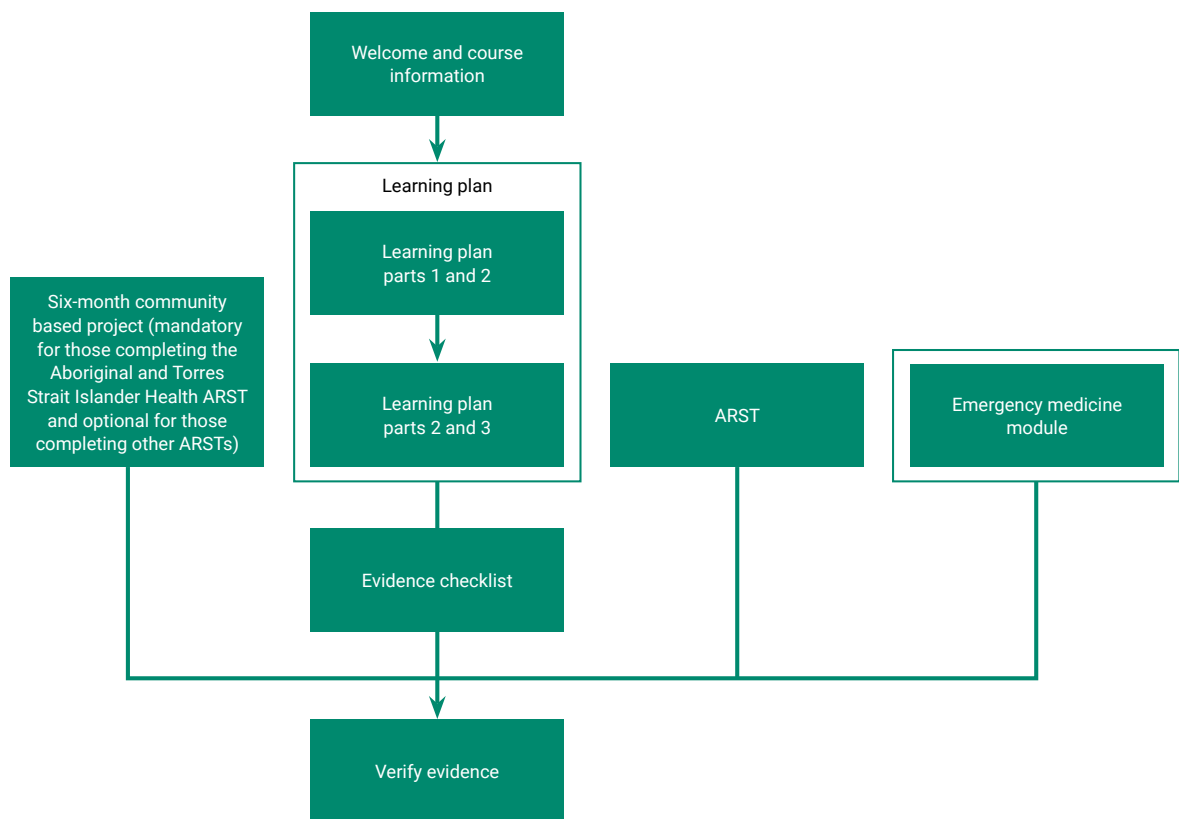
There are three possible outcomes for your FARGP RPL application:

1. You will be granted full RPL and awarded the FARGP OR
2. You will be granted partial RPL and advised about the requirements you need to complete to be awarded the FARGP OR
3. Your RPL is denied. In the unlikely event that RPL is denied, you will be provided with advice on how best to complete the FARGP requirement.

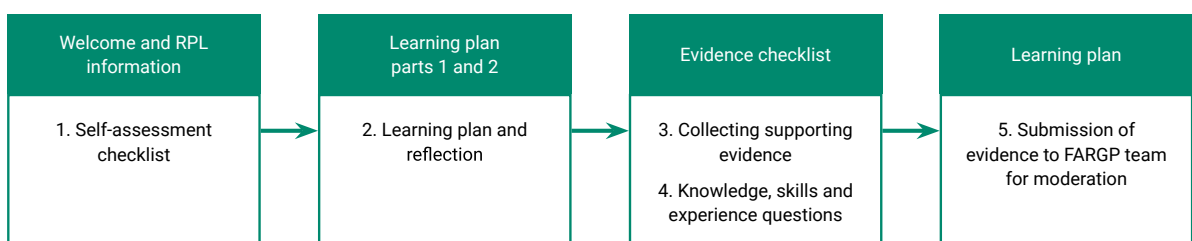
## 6. FARGP requirements

The following section explains in detail the individual requirements of the FARGP.

### 6.1 General practice registrars



### 6.2 Practising GPs via the RPL pathway



## 6.3 Rural general practice experience

### 6.3.1 General practice registrars

All general practice registrars must spend 12 months in a rural general practice setting. When considering options for suitable training posts, the 'Guiding principles for suitable rural general practice training posts for the FARGP' (section 9 of these guidelines) should be followed.

### 6.3.2 Practising GPs

All practising GPs must have completed at least 12 months FTE of rural general practice experience (MMM3–7) as either a general practice registrar or a practising GP in the last four years before they can enrol in the FARGP.

## 6.4 FARGP learning plan and reflection activity

All FARGP candidates, whether they are general practice registrars or practising GPs, must complete the learning plan and reflection activity. This stage is a series of online multiple choice questions designed to assess areas of strength, including areas in which you require further knowledge, skills and experience.

Following completion of this activity, you may be required to undertake a series of further activities (depending on your answers) in order to fill the gaps in your training. You will then be required to upload evidence of having acquired these new skills to the FARGP online learning platform.

## 6.5 Meeting with medical educators/mentors

### 6.5.1 General practice registrars

General practice registrars are required to meet with their medical educators four times during the course of undertaking the FARGP. The purpose of these meetings is for registrars to reflect on their progress and review this with their medical educator.

It is recommended that the review dates should be set after the learning plan is completed, as this provides a time frame for completing the various requirements.

The four meetings need to be at least six weeks apart and can be conducted either face to face or through other means, such as phone or videoconferencing.

### 6.5.2 Practising GPs

Practising GPs are required to nominate a mentor when they enrol in the FARGP. A mentor for the FARGP can be any Fellow of the RACGP. A mentor is required to review the learning plan once it is completed. Mentors do not need to have the FARGP nor live or work nearby, as the process is completed online, however they do need to be familiar with the context.

The RACGP requires only the mentor's name and RACGP member number, which are submitted via the relevant FARGP enrolment form. The time commitment for mentors will be approximately two to three hours in total.

## 6.6 ARST

A core requirement of the FARGP is completion of at least 12 months of Additional Rural Skills Training (ARST), which can be undertaken in a broad range of disciplines that address the needs of rural and remote communities.

ARST can be completed as part of the registrar training program or, alternatively, evidence can be submitted for suitable programs previously completed for RPL.

### 6.6.1 General practice registrars

General practice registrars are required to complete an ARST in an accredited training post. Registrars are free to choose which additional skill(s) they wish to complete. It is recommended that the needs of the community also be taken into account when making this choice.

FARGP ARST curricula currently exist for the following disciplines:

- anaesthesia
- obstetrics
- surgery
- emergency medicine
- adult internal medicine
- child health
- mental health
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- academic post
- palliative care.

The FARGP ARST curricula and logbook (where required) can be viewed and downloaded from the **Essential FARGP and ARST curriculum** information webpage. Several ARSTs are completed via approved third-party arrangements (approved by the RACGP Rural Education Committee and RACGP Rural Censor).

Examples include:

- Diploma of Rural Generalist Anaesthesia Curriculum
- Conjoint Committee for the Diploma of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (CCDOG), Diploma of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists (DRANZCOG) and DRANZCOG Advanced
- Australian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) Emergency Medicine Certificate (EMC). EMC, Diploma Emergency Medicine and Advanced Diploma Emergency Medicine.

The table below lists a summary of the duration and optional qualifications possible for the various ARSTs.

<b>FARGP ARST curriculum statements</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Optional qualification obtained on completing the ARST (additional enrolment required)</b>
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health	12 months	N/A
Adult internal medicine	12 months	N/A
Anaesthesia	12 months	letter of satisfactory completion from JCCA completion from JCCA or DRGA
Child health	Six months or 12 months	Graduate Certificate in Child Health and Graduate Diploma in Child Health  Sydney Children's Hospital Network (SCHN)  University of Sydney program plus 6-12 months of relevant extra Paediatrics experience
Obstetrics	Six months	Diploma of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists (DRANZCOG)
Obstetrics	12 months	Advanced Diploma of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists (DRANZCOG Advanced)
Emergency medicine	Six months or 12 months	Emergency Medicine Certificate, Diploma Emergency Medicine, Advanced Diploma of Emergency Medicine, Australasian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM)
Mental health	12 months	N/A
Palliative care	12 months	N/A
Surgery	12 months	N/A

Please note, while you are free to choose your desired additional skill(s), it is a core requirement of the FARGP to undertake 12 months total additional skills training in an accredited training post.

Other ARST disciplines, such as population health and sexual health, need to be prospectively approved by the RACGP Rural Censor. Applications to the RACGP Rural Censor should be made prior to commencing the training post. Complete applications will be reviewed and a response provided within six weeks of receipt. Applications will be assessed on a broad range of criteria, including but not limited to:

- sufficient clinical placement time to provide the appropriate volume of patients
- supervision by an appropriate specialist in the discipline

- completion of a recognised curriculum (such as an Australian Qualification Framework [AQF] approved university postgraduate certificate or diploma program)
- details of the assessment criteria and assessment process
- a learning plan that provides details of how the learning objectives will be met and assessed
- an explanation of the rural general practice context of the program
- a training post.

Applications should be discussed with your medical educator and submissions emailed to the RACGP Rural Censor at [fargp@racgp.org.au](mailto:fargp@racgp.org.au)

General practice registrars who have completed a relevant training program before enrolling in the FARGP and believe it covers one of the FARGP ARST areas, can have their training assessed to see whether it meets the FARGP requirements.

## 6.6.2 Practising GPs

Practising GPs are required to provide evidence of having completed at least 12 months of ARST or, alternatively, having spent sufficient time in Australian rural general practice to develop additional skills as a rural GP.

In the event that you do not have an additional skill or have had your RPL for the additional skill denied, you have the following two options for completing this requirement:

Select an additional rural skills discipline that interests you and is needed by your community, find an appropriate training post and complete the training. You will be liable for any costs if the training post is not funded.

Currently, the RACGP does not have the resources to support GPs who undertake this option.

## 6.7 Rural general practice community-focused project

The community project provides a valuable opportunity to get to know your community and improve health outcomes. Completed over 6-12 months during your time in a rural community, it includes a quality improvement activity undertaken within a general practice with the primary purpose to monitor, evaluate or improve the quality of healthcare delivered by the practice.

Please note it is mandatory for those completing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Additional Rural Skills Training (ARST) to complete the Community Project but optional for other ARSTs. If you are completing other ARSTs and wish to undertake the community project, please discuss with your training coordinator and or the FARGP team.

It is recommended that general practice registrars complete this requirement during one or more of their rural GP placement terms, as the project needs to relate to a rural general practice setting. Practising GPs can complete this activity in their own community.

The project is not a full-time commitment, but it must be conducted over a minimum of six months. The project report will need to demonstrate the ability to complete a community needs assessment; identify needs or gaps in the community; and demonstrate skills in planning, carrying out, evaluating and presenting a 'project report-style concept'. The project can be on any topic you choose related to a needs assessment of your community.

You may be eligible for an exemption from this FARGP requirement if you have previously been involved in a similar style project or if you have completed a university postgraduate qualification that included a project of this type.

You can apply for an exemption if you have completed one of the following:

- university postgraduate studies in public health, such as a Master of Public Health
- university postgraduate studies in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, health promotion or a similar public/population health course that included a community-focused needs assessment project
- authored a research-based journal article or conference paper that has been peer-reviewed and published

To apply for an exemption, you will need to complete the 'Application for exemption form' and submit it with supporting evidence (eg course parchments and academic transcripts, or published article details) to the RACGP Rural Censor via email at [fargp@racgp.org.au](mailto:fargp@racgp.org.au)

### Further information

For more information, refer to the [Guidelines for rural general practice community-focused project](#) on the RACGP [website](#).

For more information or answers to any specific questions you have related to the rural general practice optional community-focused project, call the FARGP team on 1800 636 764 or email [fargp@racgp.org.au](mailto:fargp@racgp.org.au)

## 6.8 Emergency medicine module

All FARGP candidates, whether they are a general practice registrar or practising GP, must complete the FARGP emergency medicine module. This includes a series of case studies, a clinical skills audit and the satisfactory completion of two advanced emergency skills courses; one within three years and one within five years of FARGP portfolio submission.

Both of the advanced emergency medicine courses must:

- be at least two days each in duration
- be relevant to rural general practice
- have an assessed component.

Appropriate courses include:

- Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS)
- Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO)
- Early Management of Severe Trauma (EMST)
- Advanced Life Support 2 (ALS2)
- Emergency Management of Anaesthetics Crises Course (EMAC)
- Rural Emergency Skills Training (REST).

Other courses that meet these requirements may be approved by the RACGP Rural Censor upon application.

Exemption from the FARGP emergency medicine module may be granted if you have:

- completed the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) – Emergency Medicine Certificate (EMC)
- completed the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) – Emergency Medicine Diploma (EMD).

Exemption from the case studies component of the FARGP emergency medicine module may be granted if you have attended the RACGP Rural simulation workshop at the annual RACGP conference for general practice in the last three years (subject to evidence of attendance).

To apply for an exemption, you will need to complete the 'Application for exemption form' and submit it with supporting evidence.



## 7. Training obligations – Roles and responsibilities

Registrar candidates are responsible for:

- completing the FARGP requirements prior to completing their FRACGP or within 12 months of their RACGP Fellowship date
- starting their community-focused project as soon as possible and ensuring that it is relevant to rural general practice setting (this relates to the Five Domains of General Practice)
- Booking and completing their emergency medicine courses
- arranging their ARST
- ensuring they are enrolled in the FARGP to undertake ARST (section 5.1.3 of the AGPT Training Obligations Policy 2020)
- applying for RPL as per the requirements, time frames and process specified
- answering all written exercises with as much detail as possible pertaining to the community they are in, rather than providing generic answers
- providing as much documentary evidence as possible, including a curriculum vitae for the assessment on the FARGP portfolio
- notifying the RACGP of any issues or extenuating and unforeseen changes in personal circumstances that may affect their FARGP journey
- actively managing their wellbeing and any fatigue (section 11.1.1 of the AGPT Training Obligations Policy 2020)
- requesting withdrawal (if applicable) in writing via email to [fargp@racgp.org.au](mailto:fargp@racgp.org.au)

Medical educators are responsible for:

- encouraging registrars to consider being a rural GP as a career of choice
- maintaining regular contact with their assigned candidates
- assessing all activities and stages in the FARGP online learning platform upon email notification relating to their assigned candidates as promptly as is reasonably possible (two weeks maximum)
- arranging and attending four meetings, at least six weeks apart, conducted face to face, by phone or by videoconferencing
- notifying the RACGP of any issues or special circumstances relating to their assigned candidates.

Local RACGP GP Training teams are responsible for:

- assisting registrars in completing enrolment and exemption forms
- assisting registrars in applying for RPL as per the requirements, time frames and processes
- accreditation of all ARST posts prior to the registrar's placement – in cases where this is not possible and retrospective accreditation may be required, approval must be requested from the RACGP Rural Censor prior to the registrar completing their placement

- ensuring processes are in place to manage registrar fatigue and assessing registrar workloads (section 11.2.7 of the AGPT Training Obligations Policy 2020)
- managing registrar training time to ensure that training is completed within the training time cap specified in Clause 5.14 (section 11.2.6 of the AGPT Training Obligations Policy 2020)
- ensuring that registrars understand the benefits of FRACGP and FARGP accreditation
- assisting registrars in all aspects of the FARGP where required, until FARGP completion

Practising GP candidates are responsible for:

- completing the FARGP requirements within four years FTE of their enrolment date
- nominating a mentor who is prepared to review their learning plan once completed
- applying for RPL as per the requirements, time frames and processes specified
- starting their community-focused project as soon as possible and ensuring that it is relevant to rural general practice setting (this relates to the Five Domains of General Practice)
- completing their emergency medicine courses
- arranging their ARST
- notifying the RACGP of any issues or extenuating and unforeseen changes in personal circumstances that may affect their FARGP journey.

Mentors are responsible for:

- reviewing their assigned candidates' learning plan, including the 'initial reflection' and 'write your plan' exercises (this exercise involves no more than a two-hour commitment).

## 8. The FARGP assessment process

The FARGP assessment process is both formative and summative. Candidates complete the FARGP requirements through the online learning platform, and then submit them for assessment to their medical educator or mentor.

Once a candidate completes an activity in the learning platform, an email will be sent to their medical educator or mentor notifying them of the completion. Candidates will receive a return email to indicate whether the activity is approved or if additional information is required. Once the medical educator or mentor has marked an activity or stage within the FARGP assessment process as satisfactory, the candidate will no longer be able to edit their work.

Once a candidate's FARGP portfolio has been approved by their medical educator or mentor, the portfolio is escalated to the FARGP assessment team for review. Following successful assessment, all portfolios are required to be reviewed and endorsed by the RACGP Rural Censor and ratified by the Censor in Chief.

Note: the FARGP is only awarded when the FARGP requirements are met.

## 9. Guiding principles for suitable rural general practice training posts for the FARGP

The information in this section was developed by the RACGP Rural Education Committee and released in 2014. It was developed to help general practice registrars determine which rural general practice placements are suitable to meet the requirements of the FARGP.

The healthcare needs of rural communities shift frequently in accordance with changes in policy, infrastructure availability, disease burden and population profile. Rural and remote GPs must be able to respond and upskill in order to meet the patient driven health needs of their community.

As of 1 January 2018, all FARGP candidates must complete at least 12 months (FTE) of rural general practice experience in an MMM3–7 setting, as either a general practice registrar or a practising GP, within four years from their FARGP enrolment date.

Candidates who enrolled prior to 1 January 2018 who have completed their rural general practice experience in an MMM2 equivalent setting will be accepted. This is to accommodate the FARGP setting definition change from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard – Remoteness Area (ASGS-RA) to the Modified Monash Model (MMM) on 1 January 2018. Requests for exemption owing to special circumstances will need to be submitted to the RACGP for consideration and fees may apply.

The 12 months must be completed either in one continuous block or in two six-month terms. Locums and defense personnel may not be eligible but are encouraged to contact RACGP to discuss their circumstances.

A general practice registrar should be able to demonstrate that each of the following principles have been met with regard to the FARGP requirement of 12 months in a rural general practice setting:

1. The practice is accredited for the vocational training of general practice registrars.
2. GPs from the practice provide emergency/trauma services at the local hospital or similar healthcare facility.
3. GPs from the practice provide other procedural and/or non-procedural services at the local hospital or similar healthcare facility.
4. The practice has no or limited access to local non-GP specialists, including hospitals with salaried medical specialists and inpatient–outpatient allied health services.
5. GPs at the practice provide after-hours services based on community needs.

If you have any questions or require assistance in relation to these guiding principles, please contact the RACGP on 1800 636 764 or email [fargp@racgp.org.au](mailto:fargp@racgp.org.au)

## 10. FARGP withdrawal policy

The FARGP withdrawal policy relates to any activities undertaken as part of the FARGP.

If the request to withdraw is received within seven days of the confirmation of enrolment and prior to the first login to the FARGP online learning platform, the candidate will be eligible to apply for a refund of the program fee less a \$300 withdrawal administration fee.

If the request to withdraw is received more than seven days following confirmation of enrolment or after the first login to the FARGP online learning platform, the withdrawal fee will be the entire program fee.

Requests for withdrawal should be submitted in writing via email to [fargp@racgp.org.au](mailto:fargp@racgp.org.au).

## 11. FARGP time frame policy

In most cases, FARGP candidates who are GP registrars are given a maximum of six years FTE to complete the FARGP and FRACGP requirements.

To assist registrars in completing the FARGP requirements during their general practice training, they are permitted a further 12 months from the date they achieved FRACGP to complete the non-clinical requirements as a registrar. After this time, candidates will be withdrawn from the FARGP and will need to re-enrol in the FARGP and FRACGP practising GP pathway.

A FARGP candidate will be withdrawn from the FARGP program should they:

- fail to complete the FARGP registrar requirements within six years of their GP training start date without requesting a special circumstances extension.

## 12. Support and information

The RACGP team is available to answer questions about the FARGP. Please contact the team via the details below. Alternatively, visit the website to download forms and other resources at <https://www.racgp.org.au/the-racgp/faculties/rural/rural-generalist-fellowship/arst-information-pre-2022>.

Freecall: 1800 636 764

Email: [fargp@racgp.org.au](mailto:fargp@racgp.org.au)

Healthy Profession.  
Healthy Australia.

