



Australian College of
Rural & Remote Medicine
WORLD LEADERS IN RURAL PRACTICE



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care



RACGP

GP TRAINING TRANSITION UPDATE – September 2022

The Department of Health and Aged Care (the department), the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) are working to transition the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) to a college-led model from 1 February 2023.

The department hosted the GP Training Transition Forum (the Forum) on 9 August 2022 which brought together GP training stakeholders to inform the sector of progress on the transition. The Forum included a presentation by the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler, who highlighted the importance of a smooth transition to college-led training.

College-Led Training

Grant agreements between the Department and both GP colleges are now executed. These agreements and associated funding will support the colleges to operationalise their college-led training models.

The department and the GP colleges are working together, and with the sector, to ensure communication is clear, and collaborative, and that it supports those most affected by the changes, primarily registrars, supervisors and practices.

For more information on college-led training please refer to the GP colleges websites:

ACRRM: <https://www.acrrm.org.au/college-led-training>

RACGP: <https://www.racgp.org.au/education/college-led-general-practice-training/the-transition-to-college-led-training/college-led-training>

The department and GP colleges continue to work with Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) to finalise transition in/out planning. The ACRRM has completed the early transition of registrars in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory who were training with GP Synergy. This early transition has provided useful insights to ensure a successful further transition of training in the coming months. ACRRM and General Practice Training Tasmania have announced the early transition of registrars from Tasmania to occur by 1 October 2022.

To support end-to-end training in North Queensland, the GP colleges will contract James Cook University to deliver their college-led training models in that region. Delivery of training undertaken by James Cook University will be consistent with each college's national training and education program and will provide training participants with the same models of delivery as will be accessed elsewhere across the country.

National Consistent Payments Framework

For training terms commencing in semester one 2023, eligible AGPT registrars, supervisors and practices will receive support payments at the rates articulated in the National Consistent Payments Framework. This Framework ensures transparent and consistent support payments paid through the AGPT program.

Over the coming months, communication activities will commence to ensure registrars, supervisors and training practices are aware of the support payments they will receive through the AGPT under the NCP framework. These payments will be made via a Services Australia payment system and participants will receive information and guidance regarding payment system registration and Services Australia enrolment support.

The GP colleges will provide additional funding, known as 'flexible funding' to registrars, supervisors and training practices to support their training models. Funding available through the GP colleges will provide support for supervisor professional development, and support for complex training placements including areas of workforce need.

Aboriginal Health Training

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander GP Training Advisory Group (ATSIGPTAG) was established in late 2021 to provide advice on the delivery of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health components of the AGPT program under a college-led training model. This includes consideration of a new funding mechanism for the Salary Support program and the development of future governance arrangements to maximise outcomes for this element of the program.

Salary Support payments will be provided through the Services Australia payments system. Aboriginal Health Training (formerly strategic plans) funding and activity has been included in the college-led grant agreements. The RACGP and the ACRRM have committed to continuing the agreed current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Training Strategic Plan strategies for 2023 and to the employment of Cultural Educators and Mentors through a joint approach.

GP Workforce Planning and Prioritisation

GP Workforce Planning and Prioritisation (GP WPP) organisations will provide analysis and advice on GP registrar need across regions, informing colleges in their prioritisation of GP registrar allocation. This work will inform planning to meet current and future GP workforce needs and is a part of the broader transition to a college-led training model, which will formally commence in February 2023.

The WPP activity has now commenced, with Agreements executed with the following Lead Entity organisations:

Lead Entity	Consortium partners
Murray PHN Limited	Murray Primary Health Network (PHN) Eastern Melbourne PHN Gippsland PHN North Western Melbourne PHN South Eastern Melbourne PHN Western Victoria PHN
Partners 4 Health Limited	Brisbane North PHN Brisbane South PHN Gold Coast PHN Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN Western Queensland PHN Northern Queensland PHN

HRplustas	HRplustas (Rural Workforce Agency Tasmania) Health Network Northern Territory Ltd (RWA NT and Northern Territory PHN)
GPEX Limited	GPEX SA Department of Health and Wellbeing Adelaide PHN
WA Primary Health Alliance Limited	WA Primary Health Alliance manages the three PHNs in Western Australia: Perth North PHN, Perth South PHN and Country Western Australia PHN
Capital Health Network Ltd	Australian Capital Territory PHN Central and Eastern Sydney PHN Hunter New England and Central Coast PHN Murrumbidgee PHN Nepean Blue Mountains PHN North Coast PHN Sydney North PHN South Eastern NSW PHN South Western Sydney PHN Western NSW PHN Western Sydney PHN

On 18 August 2023, the department held a workshop with the GP colleges, GP WPP organisations and other key stakeholders to plan the implementation of this function. A Prioritisation Framework to underpin this work is currently under development and has been disseminated for sector consultation. This framework will bring together qualitative and quantitative information to guide prioritisation of GP registrar placements under a college-led model. The analysis will guide our understanding of the characteristics of the GP catchments, including GP workforce supply and demand.

The GP WPP organisations will provide a Workforce Needs Report in November 2022 as their first deliverable. This will be followed by a Training Capacity Report in February 2023. The scope of these reports will be scaled up over 2023 as more data becomes available.

The department will continue working with GP colleges on how GP WPP advice will guide registrar distribution and enable success related to the location and distribution of training settings to be measured. The distribution approach deliberately provides a level of flexibility in how registrar distribution is achieved to ensure that placement decisions support a safe and positive registrar experience. The GP colleges remain responsible for defining arrangements for regional training and for AGPT selection and placement decisions, based on providing safe, quality care and training, and prioritising allocation to areas of greatest community need.