



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



Australian Government  
Department of Health



RACGP

## GP TRAINING TRANSITION UPDATE – September 2021

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Department of Health continue to work collaboratively to transition the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program to a College-led model.

Both Colleges recently met with Ministers Hunt and Gillespie and shared their plans for transitioning the AGPT Program to a College-led model. Colleges have also undertaken significant stakeholder consultation and intensive planning for transitioning to a College-led model in February 2023.

The Government remains committed to Colleges delivering training from selection to Fellowship and has confidence in the Colleges' ability to deliver models that will meet the outcomes expected from the significant Government investment in the AGPT Program.

To achieve this, the Department will advertise a Grant Opportunity for College-led AGPT later this year. This Grant Opportunity will invite both Colleges to put forward their models for the AGPT and will include linking models to the Outcome Framework that stakeholders contributed to over the past few years - as well as implementation plans and proposed budgets. The Outcomes Framework has now been endorsed by Government and will be used as the basis of the ongoing evaluation of the AGPT Program.

In parallel to this process, the Department is planning to advertise a Grant Opportunity for workforce planning and prioritisation activities to assist in targeting the distribution of AGPT training to meet community needs. This open, competitive Grant Opportunity will seek organisations that are best placed to use local knowledge of general practices in a region, and leverage available data, to recommend GP training prioritisation at the GP Catchment Area level. The organisations will be expected to work with other Government funded organisations active in the region they manage - including Primary Health Networks and Rural Workforce Agencies - to ensure that planning and interaction with General Practices is both efficient and not duplicative.

### *Regional Training Organisations*

The Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) have been offered grant agreements that extend their funding through to 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2023 to continue provision of services and supports to registrars and supervisors. The Department, RTOs and Colleges will meet in early October to discuss transition arrangements including agreeing on transition principles, resource and information sharing arrangements.

### *Training Distribution*

As advised in the July 2021 Communique the current distribution processes will not change immediately in 2023 – the Department will provide allocations to the Colleges by existing RTO boundaries to fulfil training placements. At a national level this is 50% MM1 and 50% MM2-7, with existing levels of training in MM2-7 in each region continuing to support rural and remote communities across Australia. Colleges and RTOs will work together to select registrars for the 2023 training year.

For 2024 onwards the Department will provide targets for AGPT Program placements by GP Catchment Areas and these will be informed by the organisations funded to undertake workforce planning and prioritisation activities as well as the [Health Demand and Supply Utilisation Patterns Planning Tool](#).

#### *Nationally Consistent Payments*

Work continues on the development of a nationally consistent payments framework aimed at increasing transparency and consistency of payment structures for the program. This has taken longer than anticipated due to the complex nature of this work.

A fourth payments workshop to discuss the final proposed model will occur next month.

The Department is working with key stakeholders, including through the General Practice Training Advisory Committee (GPTAC), to identify opportunities to make GP training more attractive to junior doctors. GPTAC has provided useful advice to Government particularly on AGPT parental leave reform.

#### *AGPT Aboriginal Health Training funding*

The Department and the Colleges remain committed to maximizing the outcomes of the funding allocated to encouraging and improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Training within the AGPT. The Strategic Plans Program funding allocation of \$9.0 million and \$27.0 million Salary Support funding will continue and we look forward to working with key partners such as the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to build stronger outcomes as part of the transition.

To this end, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander General Practice Training Advisory Group will be established to provide advice on the transition of these programs in the context of a College-led training model. This group will feed into the Transition to College-led Training Advisory Committee to ensure the processes align and will be co-chaired by the National Rural Health Commissioner and the CEO of the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association.