



AUSTRALIAN GENERAL PRACTICE TRAINING 2021

ELIGIBILITY GUIDE



Australian Government
Department of Health



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



The AGPT Program Eligibility Guidelines - 2021

This publication is a guide for doctors who wish to apply for the Commonwealth-funded Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program commencing in 2021. You will find important information on eligibility and selection to assist you with your application. The self-assessment flowchart in this document will assist you in determining your eligibility.

Applications for entry to the AGPT Program in 2021 open at 10 am AEDT* Monday 23 March 2020 and close at 10am AEST* Monday 11 May 2020.

This publication is a guide only. While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained is correct at the time of printing, changes are possible and applicants should refer to the electronic version of this guide on our website at acrrm.org.au/agpt.

Version 1.2

CONTACT US

Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

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Telephone: 1800 223 226

Website: www.acrrm.org.au/agpt

*AEDT: Australian Eastern Daylight Savings Time

*AEST: Australian Eastern Standard Time

Table of Contents

About AGPT	4
Key dates for applying	4
Member Story: Dr Rhys Harding	5
Application overview	6
Member Story: Dr Danielle Dries	8
Eligibility Overview	9
Eligibility	10
Further Conditions	11
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Applicants	11
Australian Defence Force (ADF) Applicants	11
Applicants applying for a Dual Fellowship	12
Training Region Preferences	13
Regional Training Organisations	14
Supporting Documentation	15
Next Steps	18
Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act 1973 (10-year Moratorium)	19
Guide to the Terminology Used	20

About AGPT

The Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program is a fully Commonwealth-funded Fellowship program with education and support delivered through Regional Training Organisations (RTOs). The AGPT Program has two pathways; the rural pathway and the general pathway. If you are applying for AGPT with ACRRM, you are applying for the rural pathway.

During the application process, registrars choose their preferred training region and upon being selected onto the program, train in the respective region for the duration of the program. Up to four training region preferences may be selected on the application. Supervision on the AGPT Program is undertaken primarily onsite.

Each RTO is responsible for a specific geographic region across Australia; 11 in total. As each RTO provides a different learning experience based on the local community needs, it is important to consider how your preferred training region will meet your career goals.



Key Dates for Applying

Applications open	10am AEDT Monday 23 March 2020
Applications and suitability assessment close	10am AEST Monday 11 May 2020
Application fee due	Monday 11 May 2020
Reports from Referees due	Tuesday 26 May 2020
Change of training region preference due	Monday 8 June 2020
Eligibility outcome released & Interview invitation sent to shortlisted candidates	Monday 22 June 2020
Multiple Mini Interviews*	Thursday 9 – Sunday 19 July 2020
Offers released	Monday 3 August 2020
Acceptance of offers due	Monday 10 August 2020

**Due to impacts relating to COVID-19, Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI) will be held via video conferencing.*

Member Story



ACRRM registrar Dr Rhys Harding has started the training placement experience of his lifetime in Antarctica. He reflects now on how his training in the Northern Territory (NT) prepared him for this adventure. Starting training with Northern Territory General Practice Education (NTGPE) in 2018, Rhys completed his advanced skills training in anaesthetics at Royal Darwin Hospital. Since then, he's worked in Nhulunbuy completing concurrent placements at Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation, as well as at the Gove District Hospital, where his work involves emergency medicine and anaesthesia.

"There's a lot of chronic disease in the Northern Territory – respiratory disease, renal disease and cardiovascular disease," Rhys says.

"My day might start by treating coughs, colds and wounds at the Aboriginal health service, and then see me doing resuscitations that evening in the emergency department or being on call for a caesarean in the middle of the night. It's quite varied, but that's what makes it so great.



Dr Rhys Harding. Image supplied by NTGPE.

"It's a very geographically, culturally and medically impressive place - the Northern Territory. There's no question that you just cannot get this anywhere else in Australia."

Growing up in Jervis Bay and starting his medical education in Wollongong, Rhys says he hadn't really ever thought of working up in the NT.

"When I first took the bait in 2015 to come to Nhulunbuy, that was it for me. I met some of the clinicians here – they're some of the most phenomenal Rural Generalists I've ever met – and I wanted to be a part of that. So that's what drew me into staying," Rhys says.

Since then, Rhys has travelled and worked in just about every corner of the NT, including GP/anaesthetics training in Darwin and Palmerston, emergency medicine in Alice Springs, and a couple of stints in Katherine. It's through his experience working in remote general practice that Rhys says he has developed his ability to make independent decisions and honed his acute care and procedural skills.

"Working in remote parts of the NT, you quickly grow your professional resilience and ability to work independently. But I think that's what leads you into becoming a great generalist," Rhys says.

Rhys is now in a cooler climate undertaking his placement in Antarctica for 12 months, where he is the sole doctor on one of the research stations. During the winter, temperatures at Australia's coastal Antarctic station can plummet to -30 degrees Celsius; a big change from the tropical climate of Nhulunbuy.

"I am the ship's doctor aboard the Aurora Australis Icebreaker where it took two weeks just to reach the station," Rhys says.

"I am working as the GP, dentist, anaesthetist, surgeon, nurse, radiographer, laboratory scientist and the whole allied health department," Rhys says. "But the Antarctic Division provide intensive training and upskilling for this role.

"I think working out in Nhulunbuy has definitely helped me prepare for this experience. As opposite as the climates are, the medical and personal challenges of living and working in a remote, isolated environment are paralleled."

Story originally published by NTGPE. Visit ntgpe.org.

Application Overview

ACRRM's application and selection process for the AGPT Program includes the following steps:

- 1. Online application – including certified supporting documents and application fee of \$700**
- 2. Suitability Assessment**
- 3. Referee Reports**
- 4. Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs)**



Online application

Applications for the AGPT Program open at 10am AEDT on Monday 23 March 2020. To begin your application please visit our website acrrm.org.au/agpt. The application portal will guide you step by step through the application process.

The following information is required as part of the application:

- personal details
- mandatory supporting documentation
- referee details
- training region preferences.



Suitability Assessment

The suitability assessment requires you to answer five essay-style questions by stating how your interests and experience directly relate to selection criteria. The assessment is graded and used to shortlist applicants for the final stage of the selection process.

Selection Criteria

Candidates are selected based on the following criteria:

- demonstrated commitment to a career as a specialist General Practitioner working in rural or remote Australia

- demonstrated capacity and motivation to acquire abilities, skills and knowledge in the ACRRM domains of practice
- demonstrated connection with rural communities
- demonstrated commitment to meeting the needs of rural and remote communities through an extended scope of practice
- possesses the personal characteristics associated with a successful career in rural or remote practice.



Referees

You are required to supply the names and contact details of two referees. Referees are provided with a short online survey to complete and must be able to confidently judge you:

- current skills and abilities
- experience and work performance
- suitability for training based on the selection criteria.

Your referees should be medical practitioners who have directly supervised you for a period of four weeks or longer within the past three years. Please contact our selection team on 1800 223 226 if you are unable to nominate referees who meet this criterion.

Suitable referees may include:

- staff specialist
- medical superintendent
- Visiting Medical Officer (VMO)
- hospital registrar
- General Practitioner.



Multiple Mini Interviews

Shortlisted candidates who are identified as suitable will be invited to the Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) stage. MMIs are a series of six short interviews where applicants have two minutes to read a scenario and eight minutes to respond to it.

The questions are designed to allow applicants to display their ability to think logically about a topic and communicate ideas effectively.

Applicants can prepare for MMIs by reading the selection criteria and relating their experiences to the key elements of the selection criteria.

If you have any questions about the AGPT Program eligibility, application, or selection, please contact the College on 1800 223 226.

Terms and conditions

Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants who experience problems submitting their online application should check all required fields are completed.

Once an application is submitted, applicants will be unable to change the details on the application form. If any changes need to be made to an application, email the ACRRM selection team at agpt@acrmm.org.au with the relevant details.

The selection team will notify applicants once the changes have been applied.

Note: The AGPT Program will transfer from the Department of Health to the GP Colleges by 2022. The ACRRM training program and standards will not change however, policies and guidelines of the AGPT Program may be subject to change during and following the transition period. Applicants are required to adhere to the policies and guidelines of the AGPT Program, and agree to adhere to the policies of the AGPT Program as varied from time to time when submitting their application.



Member Story



Dr Danielle Dries (Dani) is a Kurna Aboriginal woman from South Australia. After finishing school, she moved to Albury, NSW to study physiotherapy. It was after completing multiple rural placements she chose to study medicine at the Australian National University in Canberra. Dani is now a registrar on the AGPT Program with ACRRM.

"I fell in love with the country. I fell in love with the people, the community, the teamwork involving multiple different health professionals and disciplines, working to improve patient-centred care and ultimately the health of the whole community," Dani says.

"I started looking for jobs where I could work in predominantly Aboriginal communities in remote locations and I was disappointed there was not much work in the allied health sector.



"I decided I could promote the benefits of allied health by being a doctor, working in the area, promoting it among colleagues as well as policy makers, and Commonwealth stakeholders."

When asked why she chose to train with ACRRM, for Dani it came down to one question: "Where can I have the greatest impact on my community?"

"I loved my surgical terms and thought of becoming a surgeon. I worked with amazing consultants in gastroenterology and emergency medicine and considered becoming an obstetrician and gynaecologist. I love doing everything, so I realised being a Rural Generalist would be the perfect job for me. There is always something new each week - rural general practice is so broad," she says.

"I find it a real privilege to listen to the stories of where people come from and how they got to that moment in my room.

"I have met some incredibly resilient people who have shared with me their stories and journeys so far in their health. Some of my most cherished moments have been the unique journeys at the end of a life. It's a difficult time for a person and their family, and it is so special that this is shared with a doctor who they trust to respect their last wishes," Dani explains.

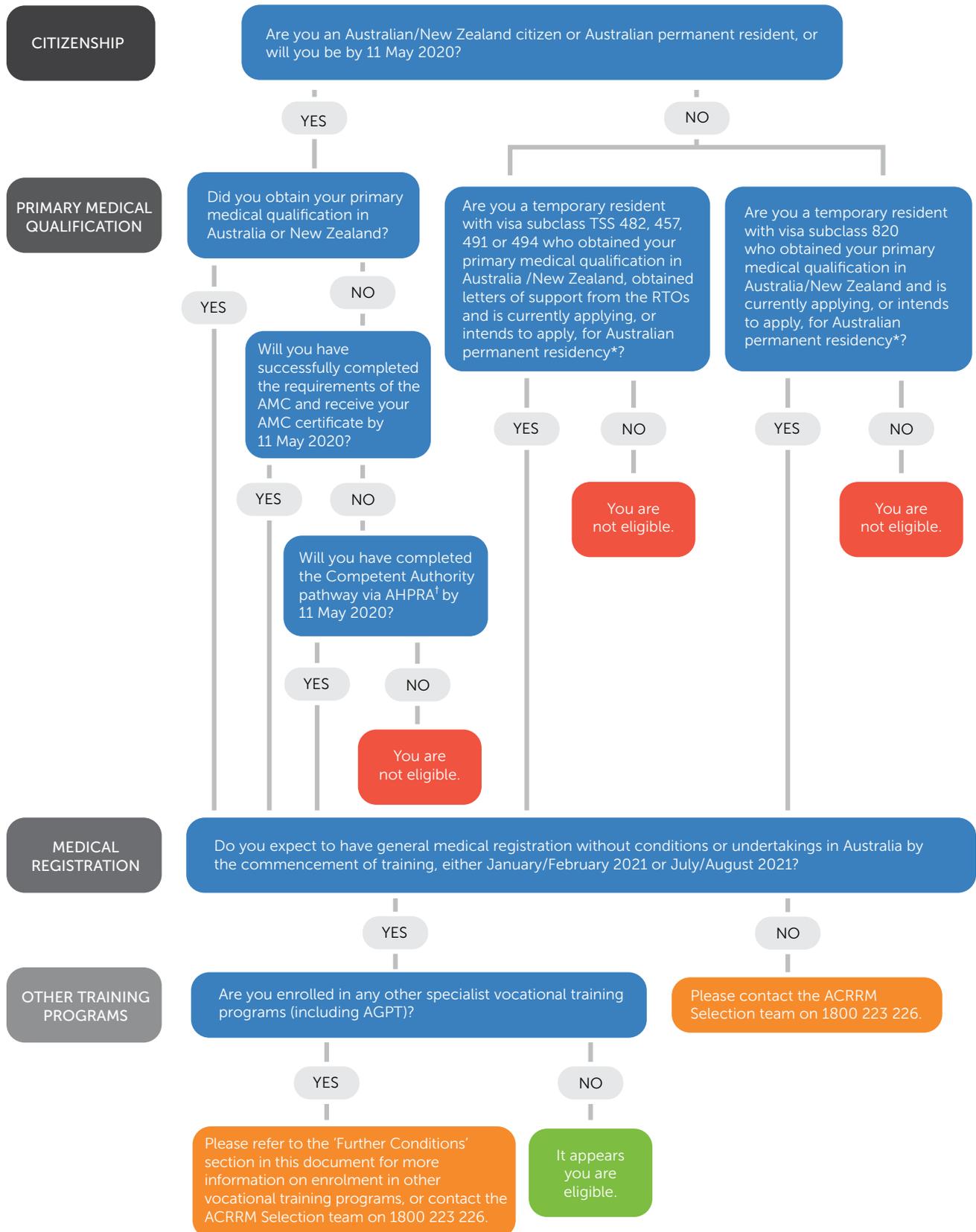
What does the future hold for Dani?

"Ultimately, I would love to see improved health outcomes for my people and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

"I hope to see my children live and grow in a community where they have equality in health care and opportunity. I would love to see more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the health workforce.

"I also really hope to see a strong Rural Generalist pathway and community," Dani says.

Eligibility Overview



*Please refer to the visa information in this guide for more details on visa eligibility.
 † AHPRA: Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Eligibility

Eligibility for the AGPT Program is determined by your citizenship status, medical qualification and medical registration. All applicants must have Australian Medical Council (AMC) recognised medical qualifications to be eligible for training.

Citizenship Details

Applicants must provide details and documentation of their current Australian or New Zealand residency status. New Zealand permanent residents are required to have a valid Australian working visa.

Primary Medical Qualification

Applicants must provide the following details of their primary medical degree:

- country where degree was obtained
- university name
- final year of medical school.

Australian Medical Council (AMC) Details

Overseas Trained Doctors (OTDs), applicants must provide details of their current AMC status. In order to be eligible for the AGPT Program in 2021, applicants must have completed all aspects of the AMC requirements and received their certificate by the close of applications.

Medical Registration

Applicants must provide details of their current Australian medical registration status including any details of conditions and/or undertakings.

To be eligible for the AGPT Program, applicants must hold or expect to hold general medical registration by either the commencement of the training term in January/February 2021 or July/August 2021.

Applicants who currently hold provisional or limited registration are able to apply, however training offers to these applicants will be conditional on the applicant receiving general registration before the commencement of training. If general registration is not received, the training place offer may be withdrawn.

If applicants are unsure of their registration status, they should contact the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Registrars are responsible for maintaining medical registration that enables them to remain on the AGPT Program.

General medical registration with conditions and/or undertakings

If an applicant has, or anticipates having, conditions and/or undertakings on their general medical registration at the commencement of the 2021 training year, they must upload conditions/undertakings as part of their application.

Applicants with conditions and/or undertakings on their medical registration will be treated on a case-by-case basis and reviewed as per the Guidelines for the Assessment of Applicants with Conditions and/or Undertakings attached to their General Medical Registration. Applicants who have conditions and/or undertakings that prevent them from fully participating in the AGPT Program will be deemed ineligible.

ACRRM may require clarification regarding the conditions and/or undertakings from the Medical Board of Australia or the applicant. If clarification cannot be obtained then the application for entry to the AGPT Program will be deemed ineligible.

If conditions and/or undertakings are set after the AGPT application has been submitted, applicants must contact the College and update their application.

Applicants who do not disclose medical registration conditions and/or undertakings and obtain a position on the AGPT Program may have their training place offer withdrawn.

Further Conditions

Current AGPT registrars

AGPT registrars currently enrolled with another GP college wishing to apply for the AGPT Program with ACRRM are required to resign from the program and provide confirmation of resignation from their RTO.

Enrolment in other vocational training programs

Applicants will need to indicate whether they are currently enrolled in other vocational training programs. Applicants with a current enrolment in the following 3GA programs must provide a statutory declaration stating they will resign from their training program if accepted onto the AGPT Program:

- ACRRM Independent Pathway
- RACGP Practice Experience Pathway (PEP)
- Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS).

Applicants are able to engage in additional alternative specialist vocational training outside the AGPT Program if:

- prior approval is gained from the RTO in their training region before they commence their AGPT Program training
- it is identified in their AGPT learning plan at the commencement of the 2021 training year
- it does not compromise their AGPT Program training, as determined by their RTO.

Applicants should also be aware:

- if you hold Fellowship of another GP college in Australia, you are not eligible to apply for the AGPT Program
- deferral of the AGPT Program training will not be approved to pursue other specialist training outside of the AGPT Program
- if category two leave is required to undertake secondary training, this will reduce the registrar's leave allowance*.

- extensions for the AGPT Program training cannot be approved for registrars because they are pursuing other specialist training outside of the AGPT Program*

*For further information, refer to the AGPT Program Leave Policy and the AGPT Extension of Training Time Policy at agpt.com.au.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

There is no guarantee that applicants with conditions and/or undertakings attached to their medical registration will be employed by hospitals, training practices or other training posts, despite their eligibility for entry to the AGPT Program.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Applicants

Applicants select whether they wish to identify as a doctor of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin and are eligible to join the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA).

Australian Defence Force (ADF) Applicants

ADF applicants applying for the AGPT Program are required to:

- confirm they are a full-time serving ADF member
- provide their service (i.e. Navy/Army/Air Force)
- notify the ADF Medical Officer Professional and Career Development Committee (MOPCDC) Secretariat of their intention to apply for the AGPT Program by emailing mopcdc.secretariat@defence.gov.au

ADF applicants are required to nominate training region preferences in the region they expect to be posted to from commencement of training.

Applicants who will cease full-time service in the ADF before commencement of training will be processed as a non-ADF applicant.

Applicants applying for a Dual Fellowship

Applicants for the AGPT Program wishing to pursue Fellowship with both the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) must indicate this in the application and be successful in both colleges' selection processes in the same year.

Dual fellowship applicants must:

- nominate identical training region preferences on the rural pathway
- pay both colleges' application fee (non-refundable)
- successfully complete all colleges' assessments.

Dual fellowship applicants can only be accepted onto the AGPT Program as dual fellowship applicants if they are offered a training place in the same training region and on the rural pathway with both colleges. If not, they will train towards one college fellowship only.

Contracts and deeds of agreement

This section applies to applicants who have entered into a contract, including:

- a contract of employment with an employer (only contracts that will not cease before commencement of training in early 2021 should be included)
- a deed of agreement, such as a Department of Health bonded scholarship
- a former/current recipient of a scholarship.

Please note: Some contracts may affect an applicant's ability to fulfil their training requirements. Applicants must include details of the contracts and/or agreement on the application.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss further with the RTO if they are unsure whether the contract will impact their ability to meet training requirement.



Training Region Preferences

Applicants will be asked to nominate training region preferences when completing their online application form. Applicants are encouraged to speak to the Regional Training Organisation (RTO) in their preferred training region with questions related to placements or training on the AGPT Program.

Before nominating training region preferences and submitting an application, applicants are encouraged to:

- become familiar with individual training regions
- contact the RTO in their preferred training region/s to discuss what professional challenges and opportunities the training regions may offer
- familiarise themselves with the training region's services and amenities such as medical, educational, community, cultural, religious and recreational facilities
- determine the impact of moving into a particular locality upon themselves, their partner and other family members, if applicable
- ensure that the decision to train in a particular locality is understood by, and has the support of their partner/family, if applicable
- familiarise themselves with the expectations and commitment required to undertake the AGPT Program including the AGPT Program Policies and the local policies of the RTO in their preferred training region (Please note: AGPT Program Policies are available at agpt.com.au and are updated regularly)

IMPORTANT NOTE:

ACRRM positions are rural pathway positions.

Training Regions

The training regions are outlined in the map below. RTOs are responsible for managing registrars' training in line with the College curricula, training locations and the distribution of training placements across the RTOs' training region/s.

Applicants are encouraged to research each training region to determine the area in which they would like to train. The RTO responsible for each training region can provide information regarding training, including the extended skills and academic posts available.



Regional Training Organisations

Australian Capital Territory/New South Wales

Western New South Wales

Lower Eastern New South Wales

North Eastern New South Wales

GP Synergy

W: gpsynergy.com.au

T: 1300 477 963 (Int: +61 2 8321 4000)

E: applicant@gpsynergy.com.au



Victoria

Eastern Victoria

Eastern Victoria GP Training

W: evgptraining.com.au

T: 1300 851 753

E: enquiry@evgptraining.com.au



Western Victoria

Murray City Country Coast GP Training Ltd

W: mccc.com.au

T: 1300 622 247

E: info@mccc.com.au



Queensland

North Western Queensland

James Cook University GP Training

W: jcugp.edu.au

T: (07) 5373 4413

E: gpselections@jcu.edu.au



South Eastern Queensland

General Practice Training Queensland

W: gptq.qld.edu.au

T: (07) 3552 8100

E: gptq@gptq.qld.edu.au



South Australia

GPEX

W: gpex.com.au

T: 1300 473 972 or (08) 8490 0400

E: selection@gpex.com.au



Northern Territory

Northern Territory General Practice Education

W: ntgpe.org

T: (08) 8946 7079

E: registrar@ntgpe.org



Tasmania

General Practice Training Tasmania

W: gptt.com.au

T: (03) 6215 5000

E: enquiries@gptt.com.au



Western Australia

Western Australian General Practice Education and Training

W: wagpet.com.au

T: (08) 9473 8200

E: gpcareers@wagpet.com.au



Supporting Documentation

As part of your application, you will be required to upload clear, colour original scans or photographs of your supporting documentation. If your documents are in *black and white* they must be certified by an authorised officer (see below). Documents certified by medical practitioners will not be accepted.

Certification requirements

Only documents certified correctly **within 18 months of submitting your application** can be accepted.

Authorised certification officers:

- Justice of the Peace (JP)
- Commissioner for Affidavits or Declarations or Oaths
- Bank Manager or Credit Union Branch Manager
- Pharmacist*
- Clerk of the Court
- Barrister or Solicitor
- Judge of the Court
- Postal Manager
- Police Officer (all ranks)
- Dentist*
- Physiotherapist*
- Chiropractor*
- Optometrist*
- Australian Consular Officers.

*Certification must include their registration number.

The authorised officer must certify each document by writing:

'I certify this is a true and full copy of the original document sighted by me'.

All certifying officers must also include:

- Signature (on same page as statement)
- Full name
- Contact telephone number
- Profession or occupation (including AHPRA registration number, if applicable)
- Date certified.

NOTE: Documents without all mandatory details written by the certifying officer will not be accepted and applicants will be required to resubmit newly certified documents.

- The certifying officers listed to the left must be citizens of Australia or New Zealand and currently reside in Australia or New Zealand. Documents certified outside Australia or New Zealand will only be accepted if they are certified by an officer at the Australian Consulate.
- Photocopies of certified copies will not be accepted.
- Double-sided documents must be certified on both sides.

Previously certified documents

While it is recognised that some birth certificates or university degrees have been certified by a Births, Deaths and Marriage registrar or an official at the university at the time of printing, for the purposes of the AGPT Program this does not constitute full certification. Upon request, applicants who submit documents without certification from an authorised officer will be required to resubmit newly certified supporting documents and their application will not progress until the documents are received.

The College reserves the right to request any documents be certified by an authorised officer for verification. Applicants who upon request do not produce correctly certified copies of their supporting documents may be deemed ineligible.

Mandatory Documents

Applications for entry to the AGPT Program in 2021 are only considered complete when the online application is submitted before the deadline of 10am AEST Monday 11 May 2020 and all mandatory documents are submitted correctly and certified in full, if required.

1. Recent colour photo

Applicants must provide a recent photograph taken within the past 12 months of their head and shoulders facing the camera.

If applicants do not have a digital photo to upload they will be unable to submit their online application.

The photo must be in a compatible format: JPG, JPEG, PDF, PNG or GIF and:



- must be in full colour, sharp and sufficiently detailed to be identifiable
- must be less than 12 months old
- must be of the applicant's head and shoulders only
- must be looking directly at the camera
- photos cropped from official documents, e.g. copies of passports or driver licences, will not be accepted.

2. Proof of photo identification

Applicants must provide a clear, colour, original scan or photograph of one of the following:

- Australian passport (current or expired by up to two years)
- International passport
- Australian drivers licence or proof of age card.

3. Evidence of current residency status

Applicants must have Australian permanent residency, or citizenship of Australia or New Zealand. Applicants who were born overseas and obtained their primary medical degree in Australia or New Zealand may be eligible to apply with Australian temporary residency. Refer to the information related to temporary visa holder applicants in this document.

New Zealand permanent residents will be assessed on their current Australian visa. All New Zealand permanent residents must have a valid Australian visa allowing them to work in Australia.

New Zealand citizens are granted a Special Category Visa (SCV). The SCV allows a New Zealand citizen to live, work or study in Australia lawfully as long as that person remains a New Zealand citizen.

More information is available from the Department of Home Affairs by searching '444' at immi.homeaffairs.gov.au

Applicants must provide a clear, colour, original scan or photograph of one of the following:

- Australian/New Zealand citizenship certificate
- current Australian/New Zealand passport
- current international passport with Australian permanent residency visa label
- visa grant letter from the Department of Home Affairs confirming permanent residency status (must be accompanied by original scan of current international passport)
- Australian birth certificate
- New Zealand birth certificate.

Documents to be uploaded, if applicable:

1. Evidence of name change

If an applicant's name is stated differently across their mandatory documents, applicants must provide a clear, colour, original scan or photograph of one of the following:

- marriage certificate (if original is not in English, both original and English translation required)

- deed poll
- name change certificate
- statutory declaration stating your known names are of the same person.

2. Enrolled in other training programs

If you are currently enrolled in the AGPT Program with another college, you must provide confirmation of resignation from the current vocational training program provider.

If you are currently enrolled in the ACRRM Independent Pathway, the Practice Experience Program or RVTS you must provide a statutory declaration of intention to resign from the current vocational training program if accepted into the AGPT Program.

3. Pathway to Medical Registration

An Overseas Trained Doctor (OTD) who obtained their primary medical degree from a university outside of Australia or New Zealand and who is currently on limited or provisional registration must provide one of the following:

- AMC Certificate
- Competent Authority Pathway 12-month supervision assessment letter*.

*If the applicant completed the Competent Authority Pathway and currently holds general registration, no further documentation is required.

4. Evidence of active Australian permanent residency application or intention to apply for permanent residency

An overseas-born applicant who enrolled in and/or obtained their primary medical qualification in Australia or New Zealand, whilst a temporary resident must provide a clear, colour, original scan of one of the following:

- Statutory Declaration of intention to become an Australian permanent resident prior to the completion of the AGPT Program
- current and active Australian permanent residency application with the Department of Home Affairs.

5. Letter/s of support—Temporary Visa Holders: Temporary Skills Shortage (TSS) 482, 457, 491 and 494

If an applicant currently holds a temporary visa subclass TSS 482, 457, 491 or 494 and gained their primary medical degree in Australia or New Zealand, ACRRM will assess the application on the understanding that the applicant will only be considered by a training region if the applicant:

- submits letters of support from each of the RTOs within their preferred training region/s and submits a statutory declaration before close of applications, stating their intent to become a permanent resident in Australia by the completion of the AGPT Program, or
- submits letters of support from each of the RTOs within their preferred training regions and they provide proof of an active Australian permanent residency application before close of applications, or
- gains Australian permanent residency before close of applications.

Further information for applicants with temporary visa

Not all training regions support 820 and TSS 482, 457, 491, 494 visa subclass holders. Please contact your preferred RTO to discuss whether they can support these temporary visa subclasses and provide a letter of support to you. The availability of each region is shown on the next page. A letter of support must include information from your nominated RTO which confirms their capacity to support your training on the AGPT Program within the bounds of your visa restrictions (applicable to TSS 482, 457, 491 and 494 visa subclass holders only).

Letters of support do not guarantee the applicant will be considered or that the supporting RTO is obligated to offer a training place or assist the applicant in securing a training place on the AGPT Program. Applicants must be aware of and discuss their individual circumstances with the RTO in their nominated training region and agree on training arrangements.

Temporary visa cont.

The Department of Health, ACRRM nor the RTOs can sponsor TSS 482, 457, 491 and 494 visa subclass holders.

For additional information on visa conditions and restrictions, please refer to the Department of Home Affairs website at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Applicants on a TSS 482, 457, 491, 494 or 820 visa subclass who are successful in obtaining a training place on the AGPT Program in 2021 must obtain Australian permanent residency by the completion

of their training. They must forward documentation confirming their permanent residency to their RTO before completion of their training.

If permanent residency is not obtained, ACRRM and the RTO may withhold the registrar's certificate of completion and if applicable withdraw the registrar from the program.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The AGPT Program does not accept 485 visa holders.

Availability and support for temporary visa applicants

Regional Training Organisation	Visa Subclass TSS 482, 457, 491, 494	Visa Subclass 820
GPEX	Yes	Yes
NTGPE	Yes – 482, 457, 491 No - 494	No
WAGPET	Not accepting TSS visas	Yes
GP Synergy	Not accepting TSS visas	Yes
GPTT	Not accepting TSS visas	Yes
EVGPT	Not accepting TSS visas	Not accepting Visa Subclass 820
MCCC	Not accepting TSS visas	Not accepting Visa Subclass 820
JCU GP Training	Not accepting TSS visas	Not accepting Visa Subclass 820
GPTQ	Not accepting TSS visas	Not accepting Visa Subclass 820

Next Steps

After the online application and suitability assessment is assessed, applicants will be notified of their eligibility. All eligible shortlisted applicants will progress to the Multiple Mini Interviews stage of the selection process.

Further information about ACRRM's selection process, including assessment components and requirements can be found on the ACRRM website at acrrm.org.au/agpt

You can contact ACRRM by:

- telephone: 1800 223 226
- email: AGPT@acrrm.org.au
- website: acrrm.org.au/agpt

Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act 1973 (10-year Moratorium)

Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act 1973 (the Act) applies to some doctors seeking to practise in Australia, including overseas-trained doctors (OTDs) and foreign graduates of an accredited medical school (FGAMS). The Act restricts access to Medicare benefits and requires these doctors to work in a distribution priority area (for general practitioners) or a district of workforce shortage (for specialists) for a minimum period of ten years in order to access Medicare arrangements. These restrictions are referred to in this guide as a moratorium.

Section 19AB applies for a minimum period of ten years from the date a doctor first gains medical registration in Australia, which includes provisional or limited registration. The moratorium concludes at the ten-year mark, provided the doctor is a permanent resident or citizen of Australia. The moratorium will otherwise continue for a temporary resident, until such time as they become a permanent resident or citizen of Australia.

Doctors who are subject to Section 19AB are restricted from nominating the general pathway and must train on the rural pathway. All ACRRM training positions are on the rural pathway. Doctors who train on the rural pathway generally undertake all of their training in rural and remote areas of Australia (defined as Modified Monash (MM) 2-7). The MM model classification for any given area can be found by using the locator tool on the Department of Health website health.gov.au.

To apply for an exemption, or for further advice, please contact 19AB@health.gov.au

New Zealand doctors

Doctors who obtained their primary medical qualification from an accredited Australian or New Zealand university and were either a permanent resident or citizen of New Zealand from the date of enrolment for that qualification, are not subject to

Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act 1973 and may train on either the general or rural pathway.

Applicants unsure about their moratorium status should contact the Department of Health at 19AB@health.gov.au or search '19AB' at health.gov.au

Moratorium scaling

Moratorium scaling is a non-cash incentive offering OTDs and FGAMS the opportunity to reduce their moratorium period by working in an eligible location, and meeting a monthly Medicare billing threshold.

Further information on scaling is available at www.health.gov.au/health-workforce/medicare-billing-restrictions/10-year-moratorium-scaling

Applicants who believe they have received a scaling discount on their moratorium can check their revised end date through the Services Australia (previously known as the Department of Human Services) PRODA system at humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/services/medicare/proda as the Department of Health cannot provide this information.

Applicants requiring more detailed information about their individual circumstances in relation to Section 19AB, including eligibility and applications for an exemption, should contact the Department of Health, Access Programs Section by emailing 19AB@health.gov.au

Guide to the Terminology Used

ACRONYM	EXPLANATION
ACRRM	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine— acrrm.org.au
AEDT	Australian Eastern Daylight Saving Time
AEST	Australian Eastern Standard Time
AGPT Program	Australian General Practice Training Program
AHPRA	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency— ahpra.gov.au
AMC	Australian Medical Council
Dual fellowship	Fellowship of both ACRRM and the RACGP
FACRRM	Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
FGAMS	Foreign Graduate of an Accredited Medical School. An applicant born outside Australia or New Zealand, whose primary medical degree was obtained in Australia or New Zealand and who was a temporary resident at the time of university enrolment.
General registration	General registration is granted after provisional or limited registration to a doctor who has met all requirements set out by the Medical Board of Australia and/or the AMC.
General/rural pathway	The general pathway is for doctors who wish to train primarily in inner and/or outer metropolitan areas. Doctors on the general pathway can train in MM 1–7 areas. Doctors who train on the rural pathway generally undertake all of their training in rural and remote areas of Australia (defined as MM 2–7).
GP	General Practitioner
Medical Board of Australia	The Medical Board of Australia works in partnership with AHPRA. Key functions are to register medical practitioners, and develop standards, codes and guidelines for the medical profession.
MM	The Modified Monash model is a new classification system that categorises metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas, according to both geographical remoteness and town size. The system was developed to recognise the challenges in attracting health workers to more remote and smaller communities. The MM model classification for any given area can be found by using the locator tool on the Department of Health website— www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/health-workforce-locator .
OTD / IMG	Overseas-Trained Doctor (also referred to as an International Medical Graduate or IMG). Defined as an applicant whose primary medical degree was obtained outside Australia or New Zealand. The terms OTD and IMG are interchangeable.
Other vocational training programs	Other vocational training programs which lead to specialist medical registration outside the AGPT Program, including the Independent Pathway (IP), the Practice Experience Program (PEP), the Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS), and other vocational training programs such as Fellowship of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (FACEM).
RTOs	Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) are the organisations contracted by the Department of Health to deliver the AGPT Program. Each of the nine RTOs occupies one or more of the training regions throughout Australia.
Registrar	A doctor who is enrolled in the AGPT Program. Also referred to as a ‘GP registrar’.
Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act 1973	A statutory provision, which may be applicable to OTDs and FGAMS. For the purposes of the AGPT Program, applicants subject to Section 19AB are required to train on the rural pathway.
Training region	A training region is the geographical area in which an AGPT registrar undertakes their training. There are 11 training regions throughout Australia.