



**The Hon Greg Hunt MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the**  
**Public Service and Cabinet**

Ref No: <PDR number>

Mr Stephen Pincus  
Chair, Regional Training Organisation Network  
Level 3, Building 1  
Charles Darwin University  
Ellengowan Drive  
Casuarina NT 0810

Dear Mr Pincus

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hunt'.

I refer to your letter of 19 October 2020 concerning the transition of the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program to a college-led model.

As you know, my Department is taking the opportunity presented by this transition to examine how GP training supports key health strategies under development, including the 10 Year Primary Health Care Plan, and whether there are opportunities to strengthen rural workforce distribution outcomes across multiple workforce and training programs.

Discussions about these aspects of AGPT are continuing with both colleges and a joint communication to the sector is imminent.

As you would appreciate this work is complex and in some aspects goes beyond the immediate scope of the AGPT program. However, this is an important opportunity to explore reform opportunities to improve workforce distribution, and also to ensure we are providing the best possible support to GP registrars and supervisors, and that GP training is an attractive option for Australian doctors when compared with other specialties.

The disruption to GP training in 2020 due to COVID-19 and subsequent postponement of fellowship exams has added to an already complex transition. Following discussions with the colleges, I have agreed to extend the current contracts to deliver the AGPT program by 12 months, which will allow more time to plan transition to college-led training in consultation with the broader sector, and consider whether other reforms to support GP training would be beneficial as the new arrangements are implemented.

I expect that broader stakeholder consultation on these important issues will resume in coming weeks.

My Department will begin working with RTOs on extending current grant agreement arrangements through to the beginning of semester 1, 2023, subject to each RTO meeting governance and performance expectations.

There may be minor changes to the agreements to reflect the colleges taking on additional responsibilities as part of a continued phased transition, however registrars will continue to be managed through RTOs in 2022.

I encourage the RTOs to continue to support registrars, supervisors and training practices, and to assist in maintaining stability within the sector through this process. I acknowledge the support that has been in place to registrars through COVID-19.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a large loop and a trailing flourish.

Greg Hunt