

The implementation of Portfolio Committee No. 2 recommendations relating to workforce issues, workplace culture and funding considerations for remote, rural and regional health

Supplementary Questions

1. Has your organisation been consulted about the review of GP/VMO credentialing?

RACGP has not been consulted in the review of GP/VMO credentialing, however, RACGP welcomes all opportunities to participate in the GP/VMO process in the future.

2. Please detail how many doctors are training in rural GP in NSW currently and the stages of training?

The number of applicants who accepted a training position to start the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program in the rural stream for 2023 in New South Wales totalled 171. That figure includes 78 from North Eastern New South Wales, 57 from Lower Eastern New South Wales, and 36 from Western New South Wales. For the last intake of the Practice Experience Program (PEP), RACGP had 115 registrars in New South Wales. 97 of those were MM3 – 5 (rural/regional). In the last intake of RACGP's Fellowship Support Program (FSP), there were 66 registrars in New South Wales. Of that total, 59 were MM3 – 5 (rural/regional).

For further details of what terms AGPT registrars in New South Wales are currently in, please refer to the below table for further details. Please note that this table does not include FSP or PEP figures.

Unit	HC Registrar
Advanced Academic	2
Advanced Rural Skills Training	7
Extended Skills	122
Extension - Assessment	46
Extension Awaiting Fellowship	9
GPT1	29
GPT2	88
GPT3	82
Hospital	87
Induction	123
Leave - Category 1 (Types Prescribed by Law)	37



Leave - Category 2	26
Mandatory Elective	1
Remediation	4
Total	493

3. How many doctors have commenced training in rural GP in 2022 and 2023?

In 2022, 471 registrars commenced training in the rural pathway with RACGP. This year, RACGP has had 377 registrars commence the rural training pathway. This is national data, demonstrating the intake numbers from across Australia in each respective period.

4. What steps has your organisation taken to promote rural GP to your members and potential trainees in the past five years and what actions are you planning to take?

Ensuring the rural GP workforce is bolstered through professional support and has the resources to understand the benefits of rural training pathways is a key strategic initiative of the RACGP. The College has taken many steps to promote rural pathways to our membership over the past five years including the following initiatives.

College-Led Initiatives

RACGP has developed the Practice to Practice program. This program links practices and GPs working in different MMM areas to encourage a range of professional opportunities including coaching and mentoring, skills development, peer support, and locum opportunities. The program allows participants to experience the diverse challenges that are accompanied by working as a rural GP and develop their skillsets while expanding their professional network to include rural communities, ultimately resulting in further career opportunities.

RACGP has also recently undertaken activities to promote the transition to rural generalism to Fellows for free as a part of its joint initiative with the National Rural Health Commissioner and ACRRM to promote the recognition of the rural generalist title. This is a key measure in supporting general practitioners to engage in rural pathways and promoting the uptake of rural pathways for potential trainees.

Faculty-Led Initiatives

As a Faculty, RACGP Rural continuously advocates for and promotes the value of the rural GP pathway to members of the organisation and potential trainees. RACGP Rural regularly contributes to the RACGP President's newsletter with a particular focus on advocacy and policy wins and opportunities impacting rural members. Communicating these important messages about how the Faculty and the College are actively supporting rural general practice is an integral part of engaging and supporting current and future rural general practitioners. RACGP takes every opportunity to engage with members and potential members and candidates to actively support rural pathways and the value of rural general practice. Staff, Council members, Committee representatives and Faculty members take pride and actively promote rural pathways in their interactions with members, members of the public, industry committees, and the media. RACGP Rural promote rural pathways and encourages participation in the membership and the wider workforce through attending various stakeholder meetings, conferences, and forums. RACGP Rural continuously collaborates with both professional and government agencies including Rural Generalist Coordinating Units (RGCUs), RDAA, National Rural Health Commissioner, GPSA, and GPRA.



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The Faculty hosts member meet-up events, education events and workshops (including rural emergency medicine and point-of-care ultrasound) and communicates directly with members via RACGP Rural's Facebook page and the Rural Pulse Messenger page. RACGP actively engages with universities to establish collaborative relationships to create a dedicated training pipeline to focus on rural engagement.