

NSW RURAL GENERALIST MEDICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

MENTAL HEALTH PATHWAY

What is the NSW Rural Generalist Medical Training Program?

The NSW Rural Generalist Medical Training Program is for doctors who join General Practice (GP) Training and wish to obtain an advanced skill in a medical discipline. The Program is integrated with the GP training pathway and is generally up to four (4) years in duration (depending on the year of entry).

The Program aims to provide junior doctors with a supported training pathway to a career as a rural generalist providing primary care in the rural general practice setting, and an advanced skill for the benefit of their rural community.

The Program is managed by the Health Education and Training Institute.

The Program includes a foundation year (which may be in either a hospital setting or in general practice), a year of advanced skills training and up to two years of support to consolidate advanced skills while training in a rural or remote general practice.

Rural Generalist Mental Health Pathway

The Rural Generalist Mental Health Pathway aims to increase the number of GPs with advanced skills in Mental Health who may work in rural and remote NSW communities.



Rural Generalist Mental Health Training

Training will initially be determined by the services in the training location, while allowing for flexibility in regional and/or rural training experiences. A trainee may undertake mental health learning opportunities including inpatient care, on call or after-hours services, outpatient and community based care.

Pre-requirement for Advanced Skills Training

During the Rural Generalist Foundation Year trainees are not required to be enrolled on a general practice training pathway. However trainees must have made application or be enrolled prior to being considered for Advanced Skills Training.

Proof of enrolment is required prior to commencement of the Advanced Skills Training Year. The trainee needs to show proof of enrolment with their GP College. In addition Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) trainees need to show enrolment in the Fellowship of Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP). Trainees must also be enrolled in a training scheme, either:

A) Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) AGPT

Note: If enrolled in the AGPT trainees are required to be enrolled with GP Synergy in NSW. Further details may be accessed at: gpsynergy.com.au

B) Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS) rvts.org.au

OR

C) Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) Independent Pathway acrrm.org.au

Mental Health Curricula

RACGP and ACRRM curricula include pre-requisites prior to commencing Mental Health training. It is advised that trainees considering this pathway seek clarification and approval from both the Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and College for any variations prior to commencing advanced skills training.

Trainees should also seek advice from their respective college regarding the relevant curriculum and training for their proposed Fellowship.

RACGP curriculum for Advanced Rural Skills - Mental Health available at: racgp.org.au

ACRRM curriculum for Advanced Specialised Training Mental Health available at: acrrm.org.au

For further information contact the respective general practice colleges.

Additional Education

It is recommended that trainees complete additional education in mental health, such as relevant courses or professional development subjects from the Health Education and Training Institute Applied Mental Health Studies or equivalent courses, to support their experiential learning. For further information <https://heti.edu.au/our-courses/applied-mental-health-studies>

Locations for Training

Training on the Mental Health Pathway may be undertaken in a combination of regional and rural NSW Health facilities and community general practice.

Locations for Advanced Skills Training are determined each year in consultation with rural local health districts and are dependent on availability and vacancies. The Health Education and Training Institute cannot guarantee a specific post will be available.

How do I Apply?

Entry to Program: Recruitment to the Program is conducted annually. Applications for the Rural Generalist Foundation Year open mid-September each year. For information on dates and to register for updates, visit the Program website: heti.nsw.gov.au/rgtp

Subsequent vacant posts: Rural Generalist Foundation Year trainees are allocated to advanced skills training positions in June each year. Vacant posts available following the Rural Generalist Foundation Year allocation are advertised for eligible general practice trainees through the NSW Junior Medical Officer Recruitment Campaign opening in late July. See health.nsw.gov.au

Note: the information in this brochure is in regard to the NSW Rural Generalist Medical Training Program. For information on all other aspects of GP training please refer to the respective college or training organisation.