

## GP TRAINING TRANSITION UPDATE – February 2022

The Department of Health, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) remain committed to working with the sector to ensure a smooth transition of the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program to a college-led model. We have made significant progress in the transition of the AGPT program, and work undertaken by the GP training sector has been extensive.

### *College-led training*

The Department released the College-Led GP Training grant opportunity guidelines on Friday, 3 December 2021. The guidelines provide information about the activities the GP colleges will be required to deliver. The activities and key performance indicators outlined in the grant opportunity guidelines are based on the GP Training Outcomes framework developed by the GP training sector.

The grant opportunity closed on 21 January 2022. The Department is currently assessing the grant applications. A requirement of the grant application is the development of transition maps that illustrate "on-the-ground" changes that will impact registrars, supervisors, and training practices. Once finalised, these maps will be useful in assisting with the transition process.

### *Workforce planning and prioritisation for GP training*

The Department released the GP Workforce Planning and Prioritisation grant opportunity guidelines on 9 December 2021. The funding will assist in planning and prioritisation of GP training placements to meet current and future GP workforce needs. It will inform distribution targets set in grant agreements with the ACRRM and the RACGP.

The Department sought feedback on essential elements of this activity through an open consultation process which closed on 17 November 2021. This open competitive grant opportunity will close on 16 February 2022.

### *Regional Training Organisations*

The existing network of Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) have entered into agreements with the Commonwealth to deliver the AGPT Program for the 2022 training year, providing continuity for registrars currently in training.

The RTOs, GP colleges and the Department have commenced monthly transition meetings to work through the mechanics of the transition process on the ground and to ensure minimal disruption for registrars, supervisors and practices. RTOs have a wealth of expertise and experience in delivering high-quality GP training – their current models provide a solid basis for the colleges to implement their programs.

RTOs and the GP colleges continue to collaborate on the marketing campaign to attract applicants for the AGPT program in 2023. Selection dates have been finalised with applications for the first intake opening in Mid-March 2022.

#### *AGPT Aboriginal health training funding*

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander GP Training Advisory Group has been convened and met twice in November. It has discussed the approach to the administration and governance of the Salary Support Program. The program provides funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health settings to host GP registrar placements

The group also considered the Strategic Plans Program, which promotes innovation and growth in GP training in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health settings, and the National Cultural Educator/Cultural Mentor Network.

The ACRRM and RACGP continue to collaborate on a national approach to coordinating and delivering of these programs.

We anticipate that the Advisory Group will recommend a preferred approach for the Salary Support following their third meeting on 11 February 2022.

#### *National Consistent Payments Framework*

The Department has finalised the National Consistent Payments Framework for registrars, supervisors and training practices to support College-led training.

The Department is grateful for stakeholder engagement and feedback received in developing this framework.

This framework will provide a streamlined approach to the support available through the AGPT program. It will ensure a transparent and consistent national method and tiered additional support for training in rural and remote locations.

Further information on the framework is in Attachment A.

#### *Continued Governments support*

The Australian Government continues to invest in GP Training with funding to develop a payment system through Services Australia to deliver support payments to registrars, supervisors and practices. The Government has also provided funding to explore options for portable employment conditions to better align conditions with those available for hospital-based doctors. These measures were announced in the 2021-2022 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook in December 2021.