



AGPT  
Australian  
General  
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Training

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2015 Handbook

# A Day in the Life of an AGPT Registrar

Dr David Chessor, AGPT Registrar, Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service

2013 GPET Registrar of the Year; Chair – General Practice Registrars Australia; Chair – GP Registrar Medical Educator and Supervisor Networks; Chair – GPRA Close the Gap Subcommittee; and Registrar Liaison Officer

 I love the variety and flexibility that working in general practice brings to your life.

Each day seeing patients brings a unique set of presentations that is ever changing, and means that I never get bored with my job.

Better than any other area of medicine, general practice gives you the opportunity to build long term relationships with patients, and focus on treating people rather than just medical conditions.

It's hard to describe a typical day because of how varied my different roles are.

One of the greatest things about general practice is the flexibility to pursue other interests as well. For me, this is partly work in medical education and registrar advocacy, and partly having that extra day a week to ride my bike and potter in the garden.

In any one single day, I can be guaranteed to see a mix of kids and adults, manage acute and chronic conditions, and do both procedural and non-procedural work.

The challenge of seeing medical problems from first presentation, and becoming an expert in undifferentiated illness, is something that will keep me interested for a lifetime.



# Australian General Practice Training Handbook 2015

Applications for the 2015 AGPT program open 14 April 2014



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# A Career in General Practice

There are many benefits when considering a career in general practice:

- Varied clinical work
- Continuity of patient care
- Dynamic, team-based medicine
- Flexible working hours.

More doctors are choosing general practice as a career for the many advantages it brings. General practice demands extensive medical knowledge and offers the opportunity to subspecialise and undertake procedural medicine. General practice allows for balance between work and family life, and the opportunity to be an integral part of a community.

## Getting Started

This *Handbook* provides an overview of the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program, the opportunities available and the important role each organisation plays in providing every AGPT registrar with quality, well-supported training.

To begin a career in general practice doctors need to:

- Check they meet the eligibility criteria
- Decide where they would like to train
- Apply online at [www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au) (applications open 14 April 2014)
- Undertake national testing and assessment as part of the AGPT selection process

If accepted into the AGPT program:

- Decide which college fellowship they wish to undertake (there are two colleges)
- Discuss with their regional training provider (RTP) which practice they would like to train in
- Set a personalised learning plan, with the help of their RTP, outlining interests and career goals
- Undertake training and college assessments to achieve fellowship and specialist (general practitioner) registration

**PLEASE NOTE:** The information in this *Handbook* is correct at the time of publication. Prospective applicants should regularly check the GPET website ([www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au)) and read the *2015 AGPT Applicant Guide* for updated information regarding eligibility and application requirements.

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# The Australian General Practice Training Program

## Training Overview

General practice is a recognised medical specialty and a doctor must undertake vocational training to become a qualified specialist general practitioner in Australia.

### What is the Australian General Practice Training program?

The Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program is a world-class vocational training program for medical graduates wishing to pursue a career in general practice in Australia. It is the leading training program for GP registrars in Australia.

The program involves a three- or four-year full-time commitment, which may be reduced with recognition of prior learning (RPL) (see page 13). During training, registrars acquire valuable practical experience in different training locations, including teaching hospitals, rural and urban practices, and specialised medical centres that provide health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people from socially disadvantaged groups. Registrars also acquire experience in extended skills/advanced specialised training, and can pursue other areas of relevant interest such as procedural general practice and academic posts.

Training is conducted within accredited medical practices and hospitals and is supervised and assessed by accredited general practitioners. The training includes self-directed learning, regular face-to-face educational activities and in-practice education. Relevant college assessments are undertaken throughout or at the end of training to achieve fellowship and eligibility for specialist (general practitioner) registration.

The Australian Government places a quota on the number of AGPT positions available, therefore entry into the program is competitive. For the 2015 training year 1200 training positions will be available within the AGPT program.

## Training Delivery

### How does general practice training differ from other medical specialty training programs?

General practice training is funded by the Commonwealth and managed by an independent organisation – General Practice Education and Training Limited (GPET) – unlike other medical specialty training programs which are run by the relevant professional college/s.

GPET is a not for profit company wholly owned by the Australian Government and responsible for managing the delivery of the AGPT program through regionally-based training providers.

GPET also manages the Prevocational General Practice Placements program (PGPPP) and the Overseas Trained Doctor National Education and Training (OTDNET) program. For more information on PGPPP and OTDNET, please refer to [www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au)

### What role do the GP colleges play in the AGPT program?

There are two professional general practice colleges in Australia – the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM). The two colleges are responsible for setting the curriculum and professional vocational training standards, assessment, certification and continuing professional development. The two colleges accredit regional training providers (RTPs) to deliver training in line with their curriculum and standards.

The colleges award the two vocational end points of the AGPT program – Fellowship of RACGP (FRACGP) and Fellowship of ACRRM (FACRRM), both of which lead to specialist (general practitioner) registration with the Medical Board of Australia. (See 'Training Qualifications' on page 8 for further details.)

### What is a regional training provider?

Regional training providers (RTPs) are contracted by GPET to provide registrars with the means to undertake the AGPT program. RTPs, together with the two colleges, are responsible for accrediting hospital posts, general practices and other medical facilities for the delivery of vocational training; and placing registrars with these facilities to undertake their training.

RTPs also provide:

- A personalised support and learning program
- Education and training events and activities
- Facilities and access to resources
- Networking opportunities
- Advice and support relating to the AGPT program and policy changes.

When applying for the AGPT program, applicants must consider their preferences for where they undertake their training and with which RTP. Applicants are encouraged to contact the RTPs they are interested in training with to assist in this decision making process (see page 19 for a list of RTPs).

Although transfers are available in some circumstances, registrars are required to remain with their selected RTP for the entirety of the training program. For further information regarding transfers, please read the *AGPT Registrar Transfer Policy 2010* at [www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au) in the 'About Us' section under 'Policies'.

## Training Eligibility

### When can doctors apply for the AGPT program?

Doctors can apply for the AGPT program as early as their intern year, to begin training the following year.

## How can a doctor determine if they are eligible to apply?

To self-assess eligibility to join the AGPT program, check Diagram 5: *Program Eligibility Guide – AGPT 2015* inside the back cover fold out.

Doctors who are eligible for the program and are overseas-trained (also known as OTDs) or foreign graduates of an accredited medical school (FGAMS) will need to check their pathway eligibility and whether or not they are subject to section 19AB of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*. Doctors can self-assess their pathway eligibility using Diagram 4: *General/Rural Pathway Eligibility Guide – AGPT 2015* on page 32.

Doctors applying for the AGPT program must nominate to train on either the general or rural pathway. However, doctors who are subject to section 19AB can only train on the rural pathway (see page 16).

### What is section 19AB of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*?

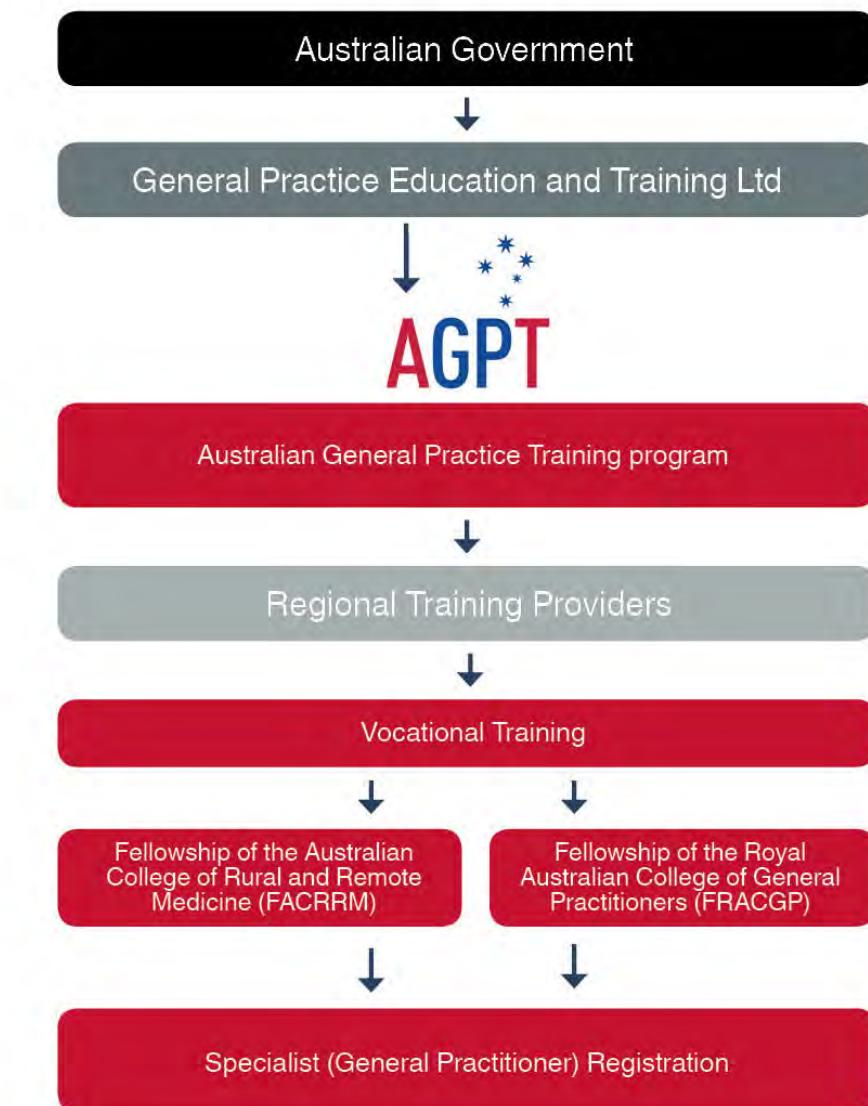
Section 19AB of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, prescribes a 10-year moratorium for some doctors seeking to practice in Australia. This Australian Government policy restricts access to Medicare benefits and requires OTDs and FGAMS to work in a district of workforce shortage for 10 years in order to access Medicare arrangements.

Section 19AB applies for a period of 10 years (and may be scaled to five years depending on remoteness) starting from the date a doctor first gains medical registration in Australia, which includes provisional or limited registration.

For more information visit [www.doctorconnect.gov.au](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au) go to 'First steps' and click 'Medicare provider number legislation' or contact the Department of Health at [19AB@health.gov.au](mailto:19AB@health.gov.au)



Diagram 1: General Practice Training Landscape



# Training Qualifications

The AGPT program supports three fellowships, outlined below, two of which (FACRRM and FRACGP) lead to specialist (general practitioner) registration.

## FACRRM/FRACGP

The AGPT program is primarily designed to prepare registrars to undertake the Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM) and/or the Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP).

The FACRRM is specifically designed to prepare registrars to practise competently and confidently in rural and remote medicine, often in locations of relative professional isolation. Registrars undertake the majority of their training in rural and remote settings and are able to complete their assessments at these locations.

The FRACGP curriculum is designed to prepare registrars to competently deliver unsupervised general practice services in any urban, regional, rural or remote general practice setting.

Both fellowships lead to specialist (general practitioner) registration and the ability to work independently as a GP anywhere in Australia.

Prerequisites for the FACRRM and FRACGP are:

- Satisfactorily completing the required period of training, three years of training for the FRACGP and four years for the FACRRM (see Diagram 2: *Australian General Practice Training 2015*, page 9)
- Satisfactorily meeting the education requirements of training
- Passing the ACRRM or RACGP assessments.

For further information on the FACRRM or FRACGP visit the respective college website: [www.acrrm.org.au](http://www.acrrm.org.au) or [www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Deciding which fellowship to undertake is a personal decision. GPET recommends that doctors considering applying for the AGPT program contact both colleges, as well as their preferred RTP, to discuss options and determine the best fit for their learning style, career goals and the skill set they wish to attain.

## Dual Fellowship

Registrars are able to undertake dual fellowships with both RACGP and ACRRM. The training must be concurrent and should only be pursued after discussions with a registrar's RTP. For further information potential applicants should contact their preferred RTP (see page 19 for list of RTPs).

## FARGP

RTPs also support training for the award of Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP), which is offered by the National Rural Faculty of the RACGP. This award aims to develop extended skills and better equip doctors beyond the FRACGP to practise independently and safely in rural and remote settings.

The FARGP is beyond the vocational FRACGP award and registrars must complete the additional requirements designated by the RACGP to be eligible for the conferment of this award. Visit [www.racgp.org.au/fargp](http://www.racgp.org.au/fargp) for more information.

**Diagram 2: Australian General Practice Training 2015**



There are instances where training time and experience for one fellowship may be recognised towards another or subsequent fellowship. Please refer to the relevant college or RTP.

\*Leading to specialist (general practice) registration

# Training Time Frames and Options

The AGPT program generally takes three to four years to complete, depending on which fellowship a registrar wishes to obtain. Training time can be reduced through a successful application of recognition of prior learning (RPL) see page 13.

- FACRRM requires a four-year, full-time or equivalent training commitment
- FRACGP requires a three-year, full-time or equivalent training commitment
- FARGP requires a one-year, full-time or equivalent commitment additional to the three year training requirement for FRACGP.

All policies below are available on the GPET website [www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au) in the 'About Us' section under 'Policies'.

## Commencement of Training

The AGPT program begins in January or February each year; start dates are determined by the individual RTPs.

There are limited circumstances where a registrar can defer commencement of training; these exceptional circumstances are detailed in the *AGPT Leave Policy 2010*.

## Part-time Training Provision

Doctors are accepted into the AGPT program as full-time registrars. Registrars can apply to their RTP to undertake all or part of their training on a part-time basis. Although the hospital year is normally undertaken full time, all other components of AGPT may be undertaken on a part-time basis, subject to approval by a registrar's RTP and GPET. For further information see the *AGPT Full Time Equivalence Policy 2010*.

## Leave from Training

Leave from the program is restricted and subject to RTP approval. Potential applicants are encouraged to read the *AGPT Leave Policy 2010* and consider the restrictions that apply.

## Vocational Training Outside the AGPT Program

Registrars are able to engage in training outside the AGPT program after successful completion of any of the following AGPT terms:

- Six-months of core general practice training
- Six-months primary rural and remote training
- Six-months extended skills training
- Six-months advanced skills training.

(See Diagram 2: *Australian General Practice Training 2015*, for further information on AGPT program training units.)

A registrar's secondary vocational training must:

- Not compromise their AGPT program training
- Be approved in advance by their RTP
- Be supported by their medical educator
- Complement their learning needs and career aspirations.

Further information on concurrent training can be found in the *AGPT Training Outside of AGPT policy*.



# Training Requirements

## General Requirements

Successful applicants will be expected to commence active training with their nominated RTP at the beginning of the training year (calendar year). Prospective applicants are advised to contact their preferred RTP for advice about potential placements for 2015, particularly if they wish to commence training in general practice placements.

AGPT registrars are required to participate in a range of educational activities and regularly receive feedback on their progress.

More information about the training requirements and curriculum of both colleges is available on their respective websites at [www.acrrm.org.au](http://www.acrrm.org.au) and [www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au)

### Mandatory Hospital Rotations

Certain hospital rotations must be completed by doctors in their PGY 1 and 2 years, or later.

These mandatory hospital rotations do not have to be completed before application and entry into the AGPT program.

Where possible, all rotations should be completed prior to the second year of the AGPT program when registrars begin working in the general practice setting (see 'Year Two' Diagram 2: *Australian General Practice Training 2015*, page 9).

The following is a guide to the rotations required.

| <b>PGY 1 – Rotations required to achieve general registration</b>  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicine</li> <li>• Surgery</li> <li>• Emergency</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>PGY 2 or later – Rotations required by the colleges as part of the college fellowship requirements</b>                                      |  |
| <p>RACGP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paediatrics</li> <li>• Three rotations of choice relevant to general practice</li> </ul> | <p>ACRRM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paediatrics</li> <li>• Obstetrics and gynaecology</li> <li>• Anaesthetics</li> </ul> |

Prospective applicants should refer to the relevant college documents below and discuss with their preferred RTP for more detailed information:

- ACRRM – *Core Clinical Training Policy* at [www.acrrm.org.au/operational-policies](http://www.acrrm.org.au/operational-policies)
- RACGP – *General Practice: Connecting the dots for students and junior doctors* at [www.racgp.org.au/becomingagg/students/](http://www.racgp.org.au/becomingagg/students/)

**PLEASE NOTE:** If a rotation is not achieved, please contact your preferred RTP or the relevant college for further information on various alternatives to gain these skill sets as you progress through training.

## Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is assessed on an individual basis and can reduce a registrars' overall time in the AGPT program.

RPL applications are assessed and approved by the relevant college censors (ACRRM/ RACGP) not GPET. RTPs will generally assist registrars to complete their RPL applications.

Applications for RPL should be made in the first year of the AGPT program, not prior, and submitted to the relevant college censors for assessment.

## Australian Defence Force Doctors

All RTPs can accommodate Australian Defence Force (ADF) doctors.

ADF doctors apply for the AGPT program in the same way as non-ADF doctors and are required to meet the same general educational requirements as other AGPT registrars once enrolled in training. ADF registrars are required to undertake a period of full-time civilian general practice training. Other training can be undertaken in a combination of civilian and military posts.

ADF doctors applying for the AGPT program are encouraged to speak to their preferred RTP to discuss training options. Because of the service demands on ADF registrars, it is recommended that where possible they undertake a full-time, civilian core general practice or primary rural and remote training unit (see Diagram 2: *Australian General Practice Training 2015* page 9) during their post-intern year. Ideally, to meet the general service requirements placed on ADF registrars, this unit would be undertaken in a rural setting to provide the registrar with more exposure to the differing responsibilities rural general practice and/or rural and remote medicine entails, including:

- Decision-making
- Leadership
- Autonomy
- Teamwork
- Coordination skills
- Procedural skills.

For more information regarding general practice in the ADF see *Training for Registrars who are Full-time Members of the Australian Defence Force Policy 2008* at [www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au) in the 'About Us' section under 'Policies' or contact:

### Medical Officer Career and Professional Development Committee (MOPCDC)

Joint Health Command

CP3-6-160, Campbell Park Offices

PO Box 7912

CANBERRA BC, ACT 2610

E: [mopcdc.secretariat@defence.gov.au](mailto:mopcdc.secretariat@defence.gov.au)

## Rural Generalist Doctors

Doctors enrolled in a rural generalist program are required to apply for the AGPT program in the same way as non-rural generalist doctors and must select the rural pathway (see page 16) in their online application. AGPT training positions are not guaranteed for rural generalist doctors.

If successful in obtaining a place in the AGPT program rural generalist doctors are required to meet the same education and training requirements as other AGPT registrars.

For further information about rural generalist programs please contact the relevant state health department or your employer.



# Training Pathways – General and Rural

Doctors applying for the AGPT program elect to train on either the rural pathway or the general pathway. These pathways determine the area where a registrar will train, not the content of their general practice training. Most RTPs offer both general and rural pathways with no difference in the training given to either group. However, rural pathway registrars have some restrictions as to where they can be placed during their training.

The pathway system assists GPET to meet the Australian Government's requirement to ensure at least fifty per cent of the AGPT program is delivered in rural and remote areas, to meet community need. The Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Areas (ASGC-RA) system determines what constitutes urban, regional, rural and remote areas (see page 17).

A registrar's training pathway has no implications on where they can later work as a fellowed GP with specialist (general practitioner) registration.

Training locations, distribution of training placements and registrar allocation to those placements across an RTP region is managed by the local RTP. This ensures appropriate workforce outcomes are achieved.

## General Pathway

The general pathway is for doctors who wish to train primarily in urban areas. However, such a choice does not preclude a change in career direction, which has often occurred after registrars have worked in and enjoyed general practice in rural areas. Doctors on the general pathway can train in all Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Areas (RA) 1-5 locations (see page 17).

General pathway registrars are required to fulfil a 12-month general pathway training obligation as part of their training. This is done by electing one of the following options:

1. 12-months training in a rural location classified as RA2-5
2. 12-months training in an outer metropolitan location
3. 12-months training in a non-capital city classified as RA1

Or

4. 12-months training comprising two of the following:
  - Six-months training in a rural location classified as RA2-5
  - Six-months training in an outer metropolitan location
  - Six-months training in a non-capital city location classified as RA1
  - Six-months training in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training post in an Aboriginal medical service.

## Rural Pathway

The rural pathway is for doctors who wish to undertake the majority of their training in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia. Doctors who elect the rural pathway are required to undertake their training in rural locations classified as RA2-5 (see page 17). The rural pathway offers a range of benefits and opportunities commensurate with the work of rural general practice for example, access to procedural training. Doctors undertaking the rural pathway can pursue FRACGP and/or FACRRM training.

Overseas-trained doctors (OTDs) and foreign graduates of an accredited medical school (FGAMS) who are subject to section 19AB of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* (the 10-year moratorium) must train on the rural pathway and are ineligible for the general pathway.

For more information visit [www.doctorconnect.gov.au](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au) go to 'First steps' and click on 'Medicare provider number legislation' or contact the Department of Health at [19AB@health.gov.au](mailto:19AB@health.gov.au).

*"After working long hours during my residency and losing the focus I had on learning during medical school, GP training has provided both the time, and the structure needed to really focus on improving my skills every day, rather than just doing my job."*

- Dr David Chesson – AGPT Registrar, 2013 GPET GP Registrar of the Year



# Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Areas

The Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Area (ASGC-RA) system was introduced on 1 July 2010.

The ASGC-RA has been developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics using 2006 census data and is widely used by Commonwealth and state agencies.

The ASGC-RA divides regions that share remoteness characteristics into RA groups. RA 1 is major cities and can be defined as urban locations; RAs 2-5 are grouped in progressively more remote locations, and can be defined as regional or remote.

Registrars on the general pathway may train in RA1-5 locations.

Registrars on the rural pathway must train in RA2-5 locations.

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**RA 1** Major cities of Australia

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**RA 2** Inner regional Australia

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**RA 3** Outer regional Australia

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**RA 4** Remote Australia

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**RA 5** Very remote Australia

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For more information about ASGC-RA please go to:

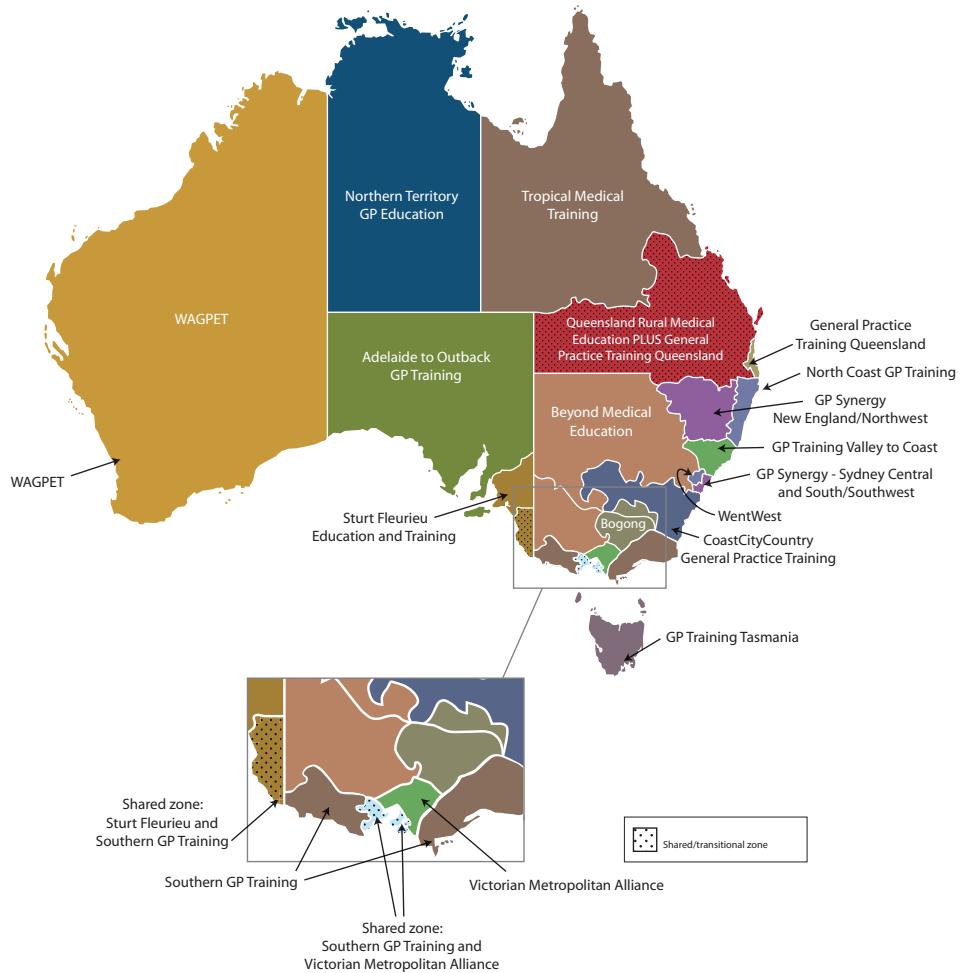
[www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/Publishing.nsf/Content/RA-intro](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/Publishing.nsf/Content/RA-intro).

**PLEASE NOTE:** The ASGC-RA system is under review. If there are changes to the system which impact on AGPT program registrars, then information will be provided on the DoctorConnect and GPET websites.

# Regional Training Providers

## Diagram 3: Map of Regional Training Providers

GPET contracts with RTPs across Australia. Each RTP is responsible for managing registrars' training, training locations and the distribution of training placements across their region.



**PLEASE NOTE:** Some areas of Australia are designated 'shared' or 'transitional' zones. These areas are currently shared by or in transition between RTPs. For further information on training in these areas please contact the relevant RTPs directly.

## Regional Training Provider Contacts

### Australian Capital Territory /New South Wales

Beyond Medical Education (NSW and Victoria)

W: [www.beyondmedical.com.au](http://www.beyondmedical.com.au)

T: (02) 6334 4359 or (03) 5441 9300

E: [info@beyondmedical.com.au](mailto:info@beyondmedical.com.au)

Bogong Regional Training Network (NSW and Victoria)

W: [www.bogong.org.au](http://www.bogong.org.au)

T: (02) 6057 8600

E: [bogong@bogong.org.au](mailto:bogong@bogong.org.au)

Coast City Country General Practice Training (ACT and NSW)

W: [www.ccctraining.org](http://www.ccctraining.org)

T: (02) 6923 5400

E: [admin@ccctraining.org](mailto:admin@ccctraining.org)

General Practice Training Valley to Coast (NSW)

W: [www.gptvc.com.au](http://www.gptvc.com.au)

T: (02) 4968 6753

E: [gptraining@gptvc.com.au](mailto:gptraining@gptvc.com.au)

GP Synergy (Sydney and northern NSW)

W: [www.gpsynergy.com.au](http://www.gpsynergy.com.au)

T: (02) 9818 4433

E: [info@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:info@gpsynergy.com.au)

North Coast GP Training (northern NSW)

W: [www.ncgpt.org.au](http://www.ncgpt.org.au)

T: (02) 6681 5711

E: [info@ncgpt.org.au](mailto:info@ncgpt.org.au)

WentWest (western Sydney)

W: [www.wentwest.com.au](http://www.wentwest.com.au)

T: (02) 8811 7100

E: [wentwest@wentwest.com.au](mailto:wentwest@wentwest.com.au)

### Northern Territory

Northern Territory General Practice Education Ltd

W: [www.ntgpe.org](http://www.ntgpe.org)

T: (08) 8946 7079

E: [reception@ntgpe.org](mailto:reception@ntgpe.org)

### Queensland

General Practice Training Queensland\*

W: [www.gptq.qld.edu.au](http://www.gptq.qld.edu.au)

T: (07) 3552 8100

E: [gptq@gptq.qld.edu.au](mailto:gptq@gptq.qld.edu.au)

Queensland Rural Medical Education

W: [www.qrme.org.au](http://www.qrme.org.au)

T: (07) 4638 7999 or (07) 4151 4777

Tropical Medical Training

W: [www.tmt.org.au](http://www.tmt.org.au)

T: (07) 4729 5000

### South Australia

Adelaide to Outback GP Training Program

W: [www.adelaidetoooutback.com.au](http://www.adelaidetoooutback.com.au)

T: (08) 8366 3100

E: [info@adelaidetoooutback.com.au](mailto:info@adelaidetoooutback.com.au)

Southern GP Training

W: [www.southerngptraining.com.au](http://www.southerngptraining.com.au)

T: (03) 5132 3100 or (03) 5562 0051

E: [east@sgpt.com.au](mailto:east@sgpt.com.au) or [west@sgpt.com.au](mailto:west@sgpt.com.au)

Sturt Fleurieu Education and Training

W: [www.sfet.com.au](http://www.sfet.com.au)

T: (08) 8172 7600

E: [sturt.fleurieu@sfet.com.au](mailto:sturt.fleurieu@sfet.com.au)

### Tasmania

General Practice Training Tasmania

W: [www.gptt.com.au](http://www.gptt.com.au)

T: (03) 6215 5000

E: [enquiries@gptt.com.au](mailto:enquiries@gptt.com.au)

### Victoria

Beyond Medical Education (Victoria and NSW)

W: [www.beyondmedical.com.au](http://www.beyondmedical.com.au)

T: (03) 5441 9300 or (02) 6334 4359

E: [info@beyondmedical.com.au](mailto:info@beyondmedical.com.au)

Bogong Regional Training Network (Victoria and NSW)

W: [www.bogong.org.au](http://www.bogong.org.au)

T: (02) 6057 8600

E: [bogong@bogong.org.au](mailto:bogong@bogong.org.au)

Southern GP Training

W: [www.southerngptraining.com.au](http://www.southerngptraining.com.au)

T: (03) 5132 3100 or (03) 5562 0051

E: [east@sgpt.com.au](mailto:east@sgpt.com.au) or [west@sgpt.com.au](mailto:west@sgpt.com.au)

Victorian Metropolitan Alliance

W: [www.vma.com.au](http://www.vma.com.au)

T: (03) 9822 1100

E: [Sharon.butler@vma.com.au](mailto:Sharon.butler@vma.com.au)

### Western Australia

Western Australia General Practice Education and Training

W: [www.wagpet.com.au](http://www.wagpet.com.au)

T: (08) 9473 8200

E: [admin@wagpet.com.au](mailto:admin@wagpet.com.au)

*\*Formerly Central and Southern Queensland Training Consortium (CSQTC)*

## Extended Skills/Advanced Specialised Training

A set period of skills training is required by both RACGP and ACRRM for registrars undertaking vocational training through the AGPT program. Skills training is generally undertaken as an extended skill and/or advanced specialised training term.

The following is a list of just some of the skills training options available to AGPT registrars, subject to regional availability:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- Academic general practice
- Anaesthetics
- Palliative care
- Mental health.

For a full list of skills training options and requirements for each college fellowship visit the ACRRM and RACGP websites and speak to your preferred RTP.

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Training

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is an important aspect of general practice training. GPET, together with the RTPs and colleges, works in consultation with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) sector to contribute to the Council of Australian Government's 'Closing the Gap' initiatives.

All AGPT registrars must meet the requirements of the Aboriginal Health Curriculum Statement (contained in the ACRRM and RACGP curricula) to complete the AGPT program. However, AGPT registrars are encouraged and supported to undertake further dedicated training in this area.

Registrars can choose to undertake an AGPT accredited Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training post at any time during their training, after the initial hospital year.

These posts are located in Aboriginal community controlled health services and state and territory government health services, in metropolitan, rural and remote areas.

### Benefits of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training post

- The opportunity to experience a unique training environment within the context of comprehensive holistic primary health care
- Gain 'real world' clinical experiences by treating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients presenting significant common and uncommon conditions which exemplify general practice
- Work towards becoming a clinically and culturally competent GP
- Experience a unique cultural immersion
- Focus on population-based public health
- Make a difference to a community.

To find out more about these posts visit the 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health' section of the GPET website ([www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au)) or speak to an RTP (see page 19).

*"Working in an Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) has allowed me to experience a strength of community that I thought perhaps didn't exist anymore in modern Australia."*

- Dr David Chessor – AGPT Registrar,  
2013 GPET GP Registrar of the Year



## Academic Posts

The everyday practice of GPs is based on evidence. GPs and GP registrars need to be able to filter, critically appraise, interpret and apply the myriad of information available to them. The AGPT program appreciates this need and seeks to up-skill registrars in the areas of research and critical thinking.

The AGPT program offers the opportunity to undertake salaried training for a period of 12 months part-time, in an academic post.

During an academic post, AGPT registrars develop skills in research, teaching, project work and critical evaluation of research relevant to the discipline of general practice. These skills will be of use throughout their careers and will contribute to knowledge exchange and development.

**Some examples of previous academic post projects include:**

- *Transient Ischaemic Attacks in Community Settings: consultation patterns, risk factor recognition and management in twelve-months prior to TIA and minor stroke*
- *Cochrane Systematic Review: What is the impact of psychological interventions delivered within the health setting upon the quality of life and mental health of female victims of intimate partner violence?*
- *Introduction of meningitis B vaccine into primary healthcare - a survey of knowledge, attitudes and factors affecting immunisation practices among South Australian GPs*
- *Cross cultural training of GP registrars - Who is responsible? Assessing the perceptions and training needs of GP Supervisors in Western Sydney*
- *What factors influence the provision of Intra-Uterine Devices (IUDs) for contraception, in a rural area?*

**Academic posts offer the opportunity to:**

- Contribute to the evidence on which general practice is based
- Acquire quality, supported experience in research and teaching
- Attend funded workshops and conferences
- Publish work in professional journals and present at conferences
- Help build the foundation to become a GP academic supervising university research, become a medical educator, or undertake a PhD.

To find out more about academic general practice visit the GPET website at [www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au) or contact the Education Research and Development team at [academic@gpet.com.au](mailto:academic@gpet.com.au)

*“I wanted to do an academic post because I had never tried research before and wanted to give it a go in a supported environment. I was fortunate enough to find a department and supervisor who would support my area of interest – youth health – so this was very encouraging. The academic post was a great way to break up the week so that I was regularly doing something new and learning new skills. I felt refreshed starting a day in clinic and refreshed again starting a day in uni.”*

- Dr Deepthi Iyer, AGPT Registrar and 2013 GPET Registrar Research and Development Officer (RRADO)



Image courtesy of General Practice Registrars Australia.

# Remuneration and Incentives

## Remuneration During Training

During the first year of hospital-based training within the AGPT program, registrars are paid through the relevant state or territory health department according to the appropriate awards for junior medical officers.

During the first 12 months of community-based training, registrars are employed by training practices and the terms and conditions of employment are outlined in a document entitled *National Minimum Terms and Conditions (NMTC) for GPT 1 and GPT 2 Registrars*. This document is developed by General Practice Registrars Australia (GPRA), General Practice Supervisors Australia (GPSA) and the Australian Medical Association (AMA). It is available on the GPRA website at [www.gpra.org.au](http://www.gpra.org.au)

After successfully completing the first 12 months of community-based training, registrars are able to negotiate their own terms and conditions as part of the transition towards becoming independent practitioners.

While registrars are responsible for negotiating their own terms and conditions, registrars who feel they need assistance can seek advice from registrar liaison officers, their RTP or GPRA before approaching practices.

GPET is unable to provide further advice on training remuneration; further questions should be directed toward preferred RTPs and/or GPRA.

## Incentives

The following incentives promote careers in outer metropolitan, rural and remote areas.

### General Practice Rural Incentives Program

The General Practice Rural Incentive Program (GPRIP) aims to promote careers in rural medicine and increase the number of doctors in rural and remote communities in the long term. The GPRIP comprises of three components: a registrar component, a GP component, and the Rural Relocation Incentive Grant (RRIG). The registrar component provides incentive payments to registrars on the AGPT program (rural or general pathway).

All registrars practising in RA2-5 locations, after the mandatory hospital year, are eligible for the registrar component of the GPRIP. Incentive payments are scaled depending on the length of time a registrar trains in a rural location, the remoteness of the location and the full time equivalence of services provided.

Upon fellowship, registrars may receive incentive payments under the GP component of the GPRIP if they continue to practise in rural locations.

For more information about the GPRIP call the Medicare Australia Helpline: 1800 010 550 or visit the Rural and Regional Health Australia website at [www.ruralhealthaustralia.gov.au](http://www.ruralhealthaustralia.gov.au) go to 'RHWS Incentives' and click on 'General Practice Rural Incentives Program'.

### Outer metropolitan incentives

Outer metropolitan incentives are available for general pathway registrars undertaking at least 12 months training in an outer metropolitan location.

To find an outer metropolitan location visit [www.doctorconnect.gov.au](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au) and click on 'Search the map'.

For further information regarding outer metropolitan incentives read the *Training Location Obligations and Incentives Policy 2010* available on the GPET website: [www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au) in the 'About Us' section under 'Policies'.

### HECS Reimbursement Scheme

Participants in the HECS Reimbursement Scheme are able to apply to have their HECS fees, for the study of medicine, reimbursed for each year of training undertaken or service provided in designated rural and remote areas of Australia. Eligible areas are RA 2-5 locations as defined under the Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Area system (see page 17).

Payments to eligible participants will be scaled by remoteness according to the RA classification of the locality they are training or providing services in.

The following is a guide to the HECS Reimbursement Scheme.

| ASGC-RA                         | No. of years to receive full reimbursement entitlement |
|---------------------------------|--|
| RA 2 - Inner regional Australia | 5 years  |
| RA 3 - Outer regional Australia | 4 years  |
| RA 4 - Remote Australia         | 3 years  |
| RA 5 - Very remote Australia    | 2 years  |

**PLEASE NOTE:** Some recipients of scholarships may be ineligible for the HECS Reimbursement Scheme.

Application forms and guidelines can be obtained from the HECS Reimbursement Scheme webpage at [www.health.gov.au/hecs](http://www.health.gov.au/hecs) or by calling Medicare on 1800 010 550.

### Other grants or incentive programs

Other grants or incentive programs may be available to registrars via the colleges, for more information visit [www.acrrm.org.au](http://www.acrrm.org.au) and/or [www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au)

*"I arrive at work and don't know what the day will hold — and that's what I love about going to work... I fell into general practice because I like all parts of medicine and in general practice I get to practice all forms of medicine, acute and preventative; medical and surgical. Whilst I may not know what patient or problem will walk through my door, I do know that I have an amazing support system in the form of my GP supervisors and other practice staff who help me manage sometimes really tricky patients and diagnostic dilemmas."*

- Dr Amanda Wijeratne, AGPT Registrar



# Application and Selection Process to Commence Training in 2015

Applications for the 2015 AGPT program open Monday 14 April 2014 and close Friday 9 May 2014.

Below is a summary of the 2015 AGPT program application and selection process and some useful tips to help applicants prepare. Please note this is only a guide, it is recommended applicants refer to the GPET website or the *2015 AGPT Applicant Guide* (available at [www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au) in March 2014) for the most up to date information.

The AGPT application and selection process is made up of three stages.

## STAGE 1

### Application and eligibility check

1

Applicants submit an online application, supporting documentation, referee details and up to four preferences for the RTPs they would like to train with. Applications and supporting documents will be checked to establish eligibility for the AGPT program.

Applicants who are ineligible will be notified by email.

If eligible

## STAGE 2

### National assessment

↓

Applicants will be emailed and requested to attend two assessments at two different venues:

1. An online Situation Judgement Test (SJT) held at a National Testing Centre (NTC) from 26 May to 16 June 2014.
2. Face-to-face Multi Mini Interviews (MMIs) held at a National Assessment Centre (NAC) from 6 to 29 June 2014.

**Please note:** NTC and NAC dates vary by city, please check the GPET website for details.

The standardised results of these assessments will determine applicants' total AGPT selection scores. After receiving their total AGPT selection score applicants will have the option to change their RTP preferences.

Depending on their total AGPT selection score and RTP preferences it will be established whether they can be shortlisted to an RTP.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome by email.

If shortlisted

## STAGE 3

### Regional training provider selection and placement offers

↓

The RTP will examine shortlisted applications. They may ask applicants for additional information, an interview, or make a decision based on the total AGPT selection score.

The RTP will decide which applicants will be offered training places in the 2015 AGPT program, and will notify applicants.

Written acceptance of an RTP's offer of an AGPT place, within seven days of the offer being made, will confirm selection into the 2015 AGPT program.

The three-stage application and selection process will run from the opening of applications in April through to August 2014 when applicants will be informed as to whether or not they have been offered a place in the 2015 AGPT program.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to read the *2015 AGPT Applicant Guide* for detailed instructions on how to fill out the online application form and an overview of the selection process.



# Preparation for Application

There are a number of things applicants can do to prepare for application:

## Eligibility

Potential applicants should self-assess their eligibility to join the AGPT program using Diagram 5: *Program Eligibility Guide – AGPT 2015* inside the back cover fold out.

If eligible, doctors who are OTDs or FGAMS should then check their pathway eligibility using Diagram 4: *General/Rural Pathway Eligibility Guide – AGPT 2015* on page 32; to determine which pathway they can apply for – general or rural.

## Supporting Documentation

Applicants are required to electronically upload **original, colour scans** of various official documents (for example, residency/citizenship proof) with their online application in order to meet a number of eligibility requirements. Should the AGPT Selection team (see page 33) have any doubts as to the validity of the document/s, they reserve the right to request certified copies of any or all supporting documents required.

Applicants **unable** to supply original, colour scans will be required to electronically upload certified copies of their documents. Applicants can prepare these documents prior to the opening of applications. A full document checklist is available in the *2015 AGPT Applicant Guide* (available on the GPET website [www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au) in March 2014).

## Referees

All applicants must provide the details of two referees in their online application. Referees ideally should be medical practitioners who have directly supervised the applicant for at least a period of four weeks within the past three years.

Applicants need to select referees who are able to confidently make judgements about the applicant's professional capabilities and suitability for general practice, and who can be contacted during the selection period.

Referees may be contacted by RTPs for their reference during stage 3 of the selection process (see page 27).

## Selecting a Preferred RTP

Applicants are encouraged to contact the RTPs they are interested in training with, prior to applying, to assist them in determining where they would like to train (see list of RTPs on page 19). Applicants should only consider RTPs they are willing to train with and, if necessary, relocate for.

## National Assessment

Please read carefully as the process has changed

Eligible applicants are required to undertake **two assessments at two separate venues**:

- The online Situational Judgement Test (SJT), which will be undertaken at National Testing Centres between 26 May and 16 June 2014  
**AND**
- Face-to-face Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs), which will be undertaken at National Assessment Centres between 6 and 29 June 2014.

Both the National Testing Centres and National Assessment Centres will be held in most capital cities and some large regional centres. A full list of locations, dates and times will be available on the GPET website ([www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au)) by 14 April 2014.

### What is an online Situational Judgement Test?

The online Situational Judgement Test (SJT) is an examination comprised of 50 multiple choice questions, which takes 120 minutes to complete including time for applicants to provide feedback.

The SJT assesses an applicant's:

- Ability to reason in a clinical situation
- Analytical/problem solving skills
- Professional/ethical attributes.

The structure of the SJT:

- Applicants are presented with a scenario based in a clinical context; a number of possible responses to the scenario are also presented
- Applicants are asked to either rank the responses in order of correctness, or select the most appropriate responses to the situation
- The SJT is then scored.

### What are Multiple Mini Interviews?

Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) involve applicants being rotated between interview stations (one for each standard interview question) with each interviewer asking the same question to each applicant individually.

Applicants will have two minutes to read the question before entering the interview room, then eight minutes to answer the question from the interviewer. The applicant is then rotated to the next interview station and the same process applies for the next question. Each interviewer gives the applicant a score out of seven based on standardised criteria.

Examples of SJT and MMI questions can be found within the 'New Applicants' pages of the GPET website at [www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au) under 'Junior Doctors'.

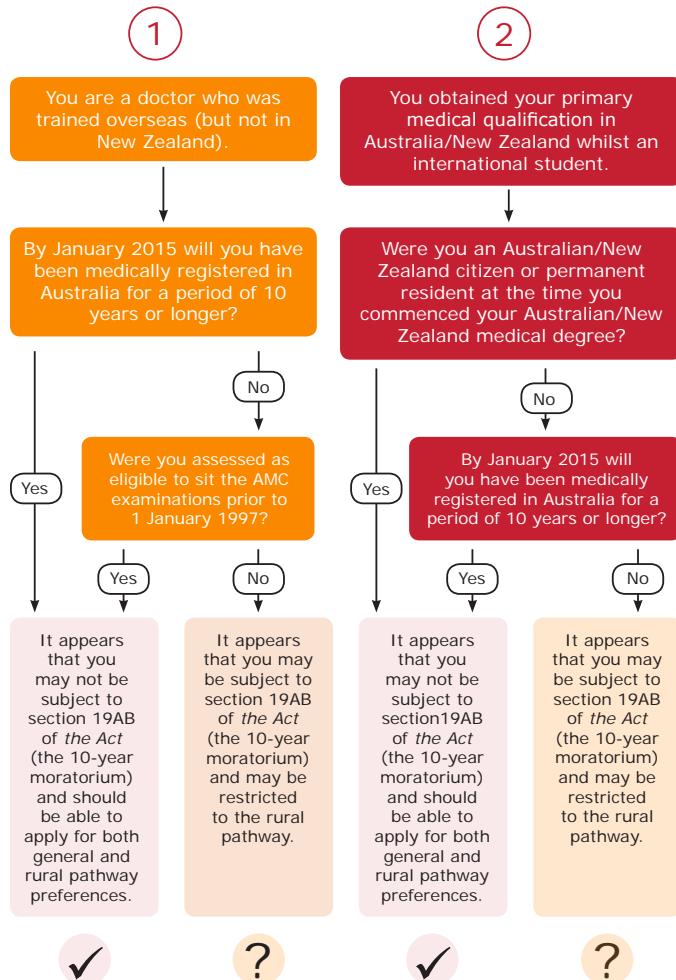
**PLEASE NOTE:** Unlike objective structured clinical examinations (OSCEs), MMIs do not involve patient presentations.



## Diagram 4: Rural/General Pathway Eligibility Guide – AGPT 2015

The following flowchart can be used as a guide to determine if overseas-trained doctors (OTDs) and foreign graduates of accredited medical schools (FGAMS) are subject to section 19AB of the *Health Insurance Act 1973 (the Act)*.

Potential applicants should identify which of the following two categories applies to them, and then follow the arrows to determine which pathway they are eligible to apply for.



Applicants should regard the above self-assessment process as a guide only.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For detailed information about the 2015 AGPT program application and selection process, including the key dates, required documentation and examples of SJT and MMI scenarios visit the GPET website at [www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au) and read the *2015 AGPT Applicant Guide* or contact the AGPT Selection team at the GPET office.

GPET's AGPT Selection team is responsible for managing the application and selection related processes for entry into the AGPT program.

### Contact information:

GPET

AGPT Selection team

Email: [selection@gpet.com.au](mailto:selection@gpet.com.au)

Telephone: 1800 DR AGPT (1800 37 2478)

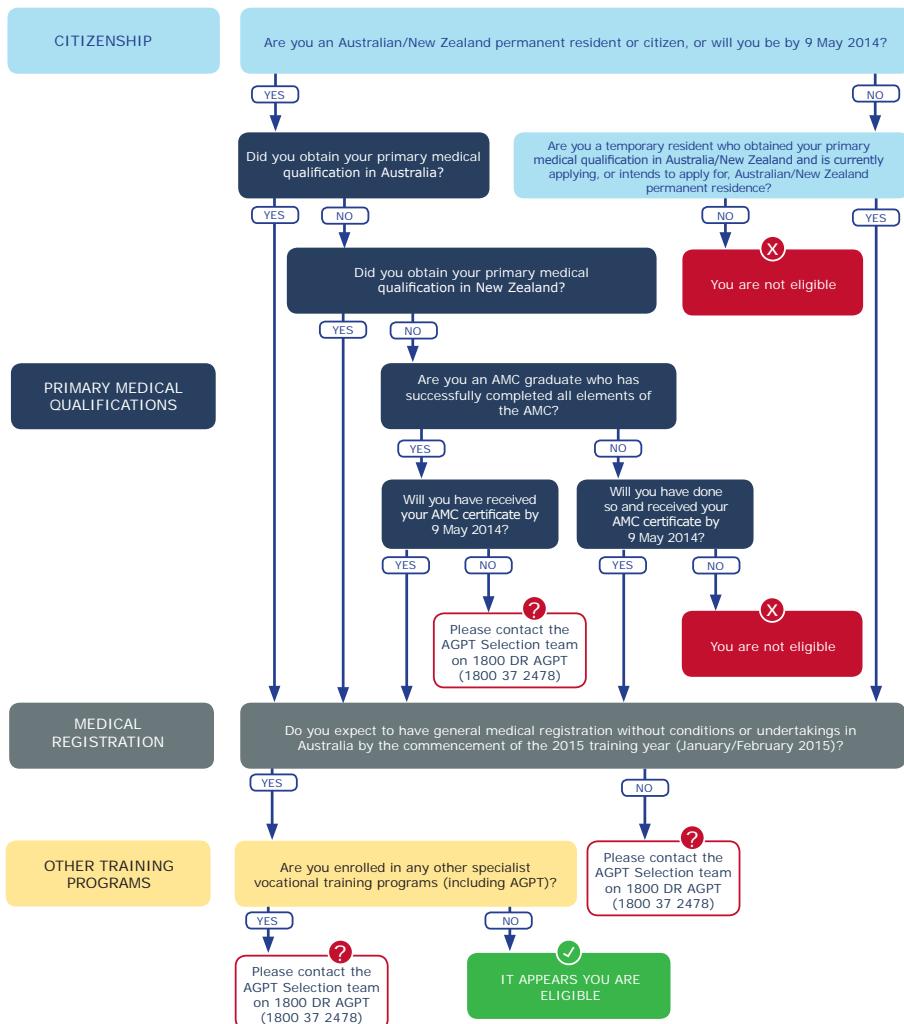
Fax: (02) 6103 9035

Website: [www.gpet.com.au](http://www.gpet.com.au)

## Notes:

## Diagram 5: Program Eligibility Guide – AGPT 2015

The flowchart below can be used to determine eligibility for the 2015 AGPT program



[gpet.com.au](http://gpet.com.au)



Australian Government  
General Practice Education  
and Training Limited



RACGP



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