

Memorandum

To: Directors of Medical Services, Medical Superintendents, Rural Generalist Trainees

Copies to:

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Subject: Professional Development Leave for Vocational Trainees

Rural Generalist Trainees undertaking FACRRM, FRACGP or FARGP will be required to attend compulsory workshops during vocational training to attain Fellowship. These workshops, generally held in the first year of training, are a vital part of training to Fellowship and the Department of Health has committed to releasing Trainees to attend.

Trainees in Rural Generalist Senior Medical Officer (Provisional Fellow) or Medical Officer with Right of Private Practice (MORPP) positions are expected to use their generous Professional Development leave package for vocational training education sessions. As the position title suggests, Provisional Fellows are appointed to Senior Medical Officer roles subject to successful training to Fellowship; it is therefore expected that Professional Development entitlements, which include a \$20,000 Professional Development Allowance and three weeks leave (for Senior Medical Officers) per year will be used towards the compulsory release time.

Trainees often wish to use Professional Development entitlements for other training courses; unfortunately, the entitlements do not provide for additional days on top of mandatory Fellowship training requirements. Trainees should consider deferring other courses of interest until the subsequent year, utilise other leave entitlements such as annual leave, or review the need to attend the course. Where there is a special need, such as a workforce skill need, Trainees should consult their line manager to consider this.

The Rural Generalist Pathway team's advice to Medical Superintendents regarding vocational trainee leave requests is that leave should only be approved for compulsory education release training in the first year. This focuses training on the core elements of rural work which is primary care, preventative medicine, and chronic disease management. For Principal House Officers (PHOs), early discussion with the appropriate line manager is recommended to ensure a process for training release is available.

For further assistance please contact a member of the Rural Generalist Pathway team on 4616 6947.



Dr Dan Manahan
Medical Director
Rural Generalist Pathway
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