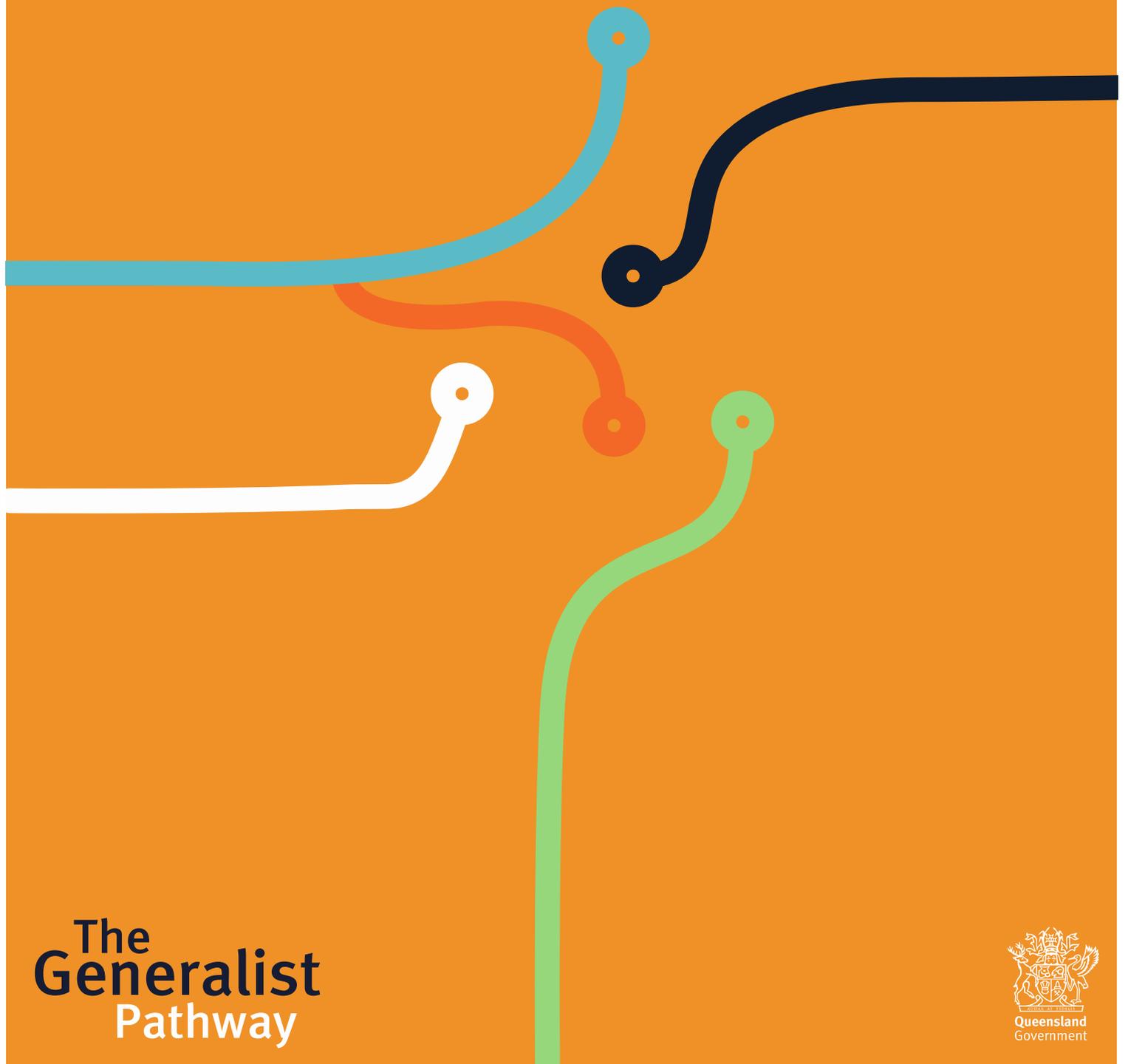


Orientation Handbook

Your guide to the Queensland Rural
Generalist Pathway



The
Generalist
Pathway



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Welcome

The Queensland Rural Generalist Pathway (QRGP) team welcomes you to the Pathway and congratulates you on your recent graduation and commencement as an intern.

We are here to support you as you navigate your career in rural medicine and we've outlined below some of the key information to be aware of as you begin your training.

Who is a Rural Generalist?

Rural Generalist Medicine was recognised in Queensland as a medical specialty in 2008. A Rural Generalist is a rural medical practitioner who provides:

- hospital and community-based primary medical practice;
- hospital-based secondary medical practice, including advanced skills in Indigenous health, mental health, adult internal medicine, emergency medicine, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, anaesthetics or surgery; and
- hospital and community-based public health practice.

What do we offer?

Advisory and support services

Your QRGP support team is a group of senior experienced rural medical advisors and administrators who work in consultation with leading training partners. On our team you'll find practising Rural Generalists, Staff Specialists, past Directors of Clinical Training, senior rural medical academics from Queensland universities and experienced administration staff who support and advise all trainees. We are passionate and dedicated to preparing you for the adventure and challenge of life as a Rural Generalist and we look forward to working with you. You can learn more about the team [here](#) and [here](#).

A Director of Rural Generalist Training (DRGT) is allocated to each of our prevocational training hospitals as outlined below:

DRGT	Hospital
Dr Claudia Collins	Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Gold Coast
Dr James Telfer	Caboolture, Nambour, Redcliffe
Dr Natasha Coventry	Cairns
Dr Leanne Browning	Toowoomba
Dr Dale Hanson	Mackay, Redland
Dr Michael Clements	Mount Isa, Logan
Dr Felicity Constable	Rockhampton, Ipswich
Dr Prue Wallin / Dr Alex Dunn	Townsville

Your first face-to-face contact with your DRGT will be at your initial Career Planning Interview within the first few months of your internship, usually by the end of March. Your DRGT will meet you at your training hospital during rostered hours to introduce themselves, learn a bit about who you are and what you want your rural generalist career to look like and offer you professional and personal

guidance and support as you need it. We'll be in contact soon to schedule a suitable time for this.

You should read through the accompanying supporting documentation before your first interview as it may help to answer questions you have and help you get the most out of your one-on-one time with your DRGT. A second Career Planning Interview will take place later in the year.

We recognise that the transition from medical student to intern is a steep learning curve and we encourage you to call on those around you, including us, to help get you through. There are lots of great wellness and self-care resources available online and we've referenced some top tips in the supporting documentation which accompanies this handbook.

If you find you are in need of additional assistance at any time during your training you may wish to access our Trainee in Need team. This is a small group of QRGP team members who can offer comprehensive, confidential support at your request or who may contact you if we think you may need some additional help. You can find more information [here](#).

Education

We run exclusive workshops during your training which are specifically designed to build your professional network of inspiring mentors, future employers and trainee colleagues; while contextualising your learning for the rural environment.

Your first workshop is the Rural Generalist Trainee Workshop (RGTW) which is run over 2.5 days and includes group forum sessions, case study discussions, procedural skills stations, simulated scenario sessions and several social networking opportunities. We will cover your travel and accommodation and be in touch with more information regarding your attendance as the date of your workshop draws closer.

Advanced skills and vocational training opportunities

Once you've mastered your internship it's time to start giving thought to what other training you would like to undertake to benefit the rural community you plan to work in. We coordinate recruitment campaigns and accreditation checks for a number of AST disciplines and can be contacted for support for the ones we don't. When it comes time to complete your vocational training, you'll have access to the only centralised list of rural medical vacancies in the State. We'll also be able to help put you in contact with potential employers in locations of interest in advance of the list being disseminated if you wish.

What are the qualifications prescribed for Rural Generalist Medicine?

To attain a Rural Generalist training endpoint you need:

- Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM) including certified completion of AST in at least one of the eight approved disciplines (i.e. anaesthetics, emergency medicine, Indigenous health, obstetrics and gynaecology, surgery, adult internal medicine, paediatrics and mental health); and / or
- Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP) plus Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) including certified completion of AST in at least one of the eight approved disciplines (as listed above); and evidence that the abilities and skills in the ACRRM Curriculum Statements for Obstetrics and Women's Health have been obtained (except where the certified AST is in Obstetrics and Women's Health).

What is Rural Generalist Medicine Prevocational Certification and how do I attain it?

Rural Generalist Medicine Prevocational Certification is an industrial requirement for employment as a Rural Generalist Senior Medical Officer (Provisional Fellow). It is designed to support access to a broad range of education and experience intended to prepare trainees for progressing to supervised rural practice or AST.

Trainees are assessed against Prevocational Certification requirements at the end of PGY2 using the standards prescribed by ACRRM and Queensland Health. The table below provides more detail.

Rural Generalist Medicine Prevocational Certification Requirements	Evidence you will need to provide
General registration with the Medical Board of Australia.	The team will conduct an AHPRA search to confirm your registration status. You are required to provide a copy of your MBBS / MD qualification upon commencing an intern position.
Satisfactory completion of all Medical Board of Australia and Rural Generalist terms in both PGY1 and 2 (<i>see below for more information</i>).	Send scanned copies of your term reports to rural_generalist@health.qld.gov.au
Satisfactory completion of 50% of the urgent care component of the ACRRM Procedural Skills Logbook	Your DRGT will discuss your Logbook progress at your Career Planning Interviews. The Logbook is completed online via https://www.acrrm.org.au/login and you will need to provide a printed copy to the team via rural_generalist@health.qld.gov.au by November of your PGY2.
Satisfactory completion of the Rural Generalist Trainee Workshop series	Your attendance will be logged by the RGP admin team.
Participation in at least one ACRRM online module (RRMEO)	RRMEO module completion report to be emailed by November of your PGY2 to rural_generalist@health.qld.gov.au You can also provide copies of attendance records or certificates of completion for any other accredited professional development activities you complete in PGY1/2 if you wish.
Assessment of personal and professional readiness (including clinical confidence and capability; and appropriate advanced skill interest) to commence practice in a rural area.	Your Rural Generalist Medicine Prevocational Certification assessment will be undertaken by your DRGT and incorporate all of the items above as well as consultation with the Director of Clinical Training (DCT) of your employing hospital.

Prevocational hospital term requirements:

1. Completion of mandatory intern term requirements in emergency medicine, medicine and surgery as specified by the Medical Board of Australia. Ten weeks terms required.
2. Completion of Rural Generalist term requirements (by the end of PGY2) in anaesthetics, obstetrics & gynaecology and paediatrics. Ten week terms preferred; five weeks satisfactory.

Please note: If you don't provide the above evidence, we can't assess you against the Certification standards. This may prevent you from proceeding to AST or rural vocational placement, or affect Queensland Health Rural Scholarship Scheme (QHRSS) return of service where applicable.

You should also keep the following in mind:

- advise the RGP team of any change to personal contact details via rural_generalist@health.qld.gov.au.
- Contact your DRGT if you have any concerns with regards to hospital terms or any other issues requiring advice and support.
- maintain consistent contact with the RGP team regarding your career intentions.

- give thought to your preferred AST discipline and ensure you are ready to apply for it by April of PGY2 if you want to commence your training in PGY3. We'll give you more information and reminders closer to the time.

Procedural Skills Logbook

It pays to start logging procedures you perform from the beginning of your internship. It sets up good habits for your future training and continuous professional development standards and is also a requirement of Rural Generalist Medicine Prevocational Certification.

You will receive a PDF logbook from the QRGP (usually with this Handbook) however how you log your procedures in the longer term may differ depending on which college you are training with and when you sign up.

As a QRGP trainee, you need to complete 50% of the Urgent Care procedures in the ACRRM Procedural Skills Logbook (*which equates to 15% of the total Logbook*) by the end of your PGY2, regardless of which college you want to train to fellowship with. We give you a PDF version of the logbook to start using in internship in case you don't join a college for a while. More college specific information is provided below.

You should carry your logbook with you so you can take advantage of everyday opportunities to log your procedures. It is especially important that you bring it with you to QRGP (and other) workshops as you'll find there are quite a few procedures you can get signed off at these events.

Training with ACRRM: You will receive access to ACRRM's online logbook via My College Dashboard once you are a College member. Anything you complete via the PDF logbook needs to be transcribed to the online logbook once you have College access and before your fellowship assessment.

Training with RACGP: Whilst RACGP doesn't have a logbook requirement for fellowship, you will still need to complete 50% of the Urgent Care procedures in the ACRRM Logbook for Prevocational Certification purposes.

Note: Despite the description of a 'certifier' in the Logbook which indicates that a certifier must possess the minimum qualification of Senior Registrar or equivalent, the QRGP will accept the signature of a credentialed Senior Medical Officer.

Applying for general practice training

You need to apply for a general practice training position with an accredited training body in order to obtain fellowship. The most common choice is Australian General Practice Training (AGPT), though there are other bodies to choose from.

When you apply to AGPT depends on what type of training you need to undertake for your community and where that might occur. Your DRGT can help you determine when the right time to apply is based on your training plan and you don't need to have all the answers in internship. We've developed an AGPT Guide with more information which you might like to read [here](#).

Applying to a College

You have two training colleges to consider in Australia, both of which are responsible for setting and arbitrating standards for the medical specialty of general practice:

- [Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine \(ACRRM\)](#); and
- [The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(RACGP\)](#)

The Fellowship of ACRRM is widely recognised in the international community of colleges and medical bodies. ACRRM Fellows may practice anywhere in Australia, but the ACRRM program particularly focuses on the unique scope and depth of clinical skills, knowledge and values that are required of a practitioner wishing to live and work in a rural and remote location.

The RACGP training program focuses on the safety and quality of general practice. The College's mission is to improve health and wellbeing for all Australians by supporting general practitioners, registrars and medical students by:

- assessing doctors' skills and knowledge
- supplying ongoing professional development activities
- developing resources and guidelines
- helping general practitioners with issues that affect their practice, and
- the development of standards that general practices can use as part of their accreditation processes.

You may also like to read more about the colleges and training requirements [here](#). Remember that to reach a Rural Generalist endpoint you'll need to complete FACRRM or FRACGP plus Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP). We've provided additional resources from the Colleges and Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) in the supporting documentation accompanying this handbook for you to peruse.

Advanced Skills Training

Once you have attained Rural Generalist Medicine Prevocational Certification you're eligible to proceed to AST. Queensland Health has approved eight AST disciplines:

- Mental Health
- Adult Internal Medicine
- Indigenous Health
- Anaesthetics
- Paediatrics
- Emergency Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Surgery

If you're a Queensland Health Rural Scholarship Scheme (QHRSS) holder you should note that you will likely need to defer your Service Period during AST. Contact the team for more information.

Rural Generalist Pathway Career Progression

The table below summarises how you might progress along the QRGP and includes other partners and their training stages / components. You don't have to undertake AST in PGY3 if you don't feel comfortable to do so. You can contact the team at any time to talk through your intentions so we can help you map out a plan that meets training requirements, your goals and community need.

PGY	Rural Generalist Pathway	Queensland Health	QHRSS	AGPT	RVTS	ACRRM	RACGP
1	Prevocational Training	Intern	SP*	Application^			
2		Junior House Officer		Year 1		Core Clinical Training	Hospital Training
3	Advanced Skills Training	Registrar / Principal House Officer	Deferral Year #	Year 2	Application	Advanced Specialised Training	Advanced Skills Training
4	Vocational Training	Credentialed Senior Medical Officer (Provisional Fellow) MOPP PHO	SP	Year 3	Year 1	Primary Rural & Remote Training	GP Terms
5				Year 4	Year 2		
6*	Continuing Professional Development	Senior Medical Officer (Rural Generalist) MSPP MOPP VMO (AP)			Year 3+	FACRRM (inc. Advanced Skill certification)	FRACGP FARGP (inc. Advanced Skill certification) Certified Women's Health

* Service Period (SP) retrospectively granted upon completion of Rural Generalist Medicine Prevocational Certification

Not eligible for SP unless training in an approved return of service location

^ Application may be delayed depending on individual circumstances

MSPP Medical Superintendent with Private Practice

MOPP Medical Officer with Private Practice

VMO (AP) Visiting Medical Officer (Advanced Practitioner)

AGPT Australian General Practice Training

FACRRM Fellowship of Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

FRACGP Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

FARGP Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice

Questions?

Get in touch!

p. 1800 680 291 | e. rural_generalist@health.qld.gov.au

w. www.generalistpathway.com.au

Once again, welcome. We look forward to supporting you as you find your calling in rural generalist medicine.