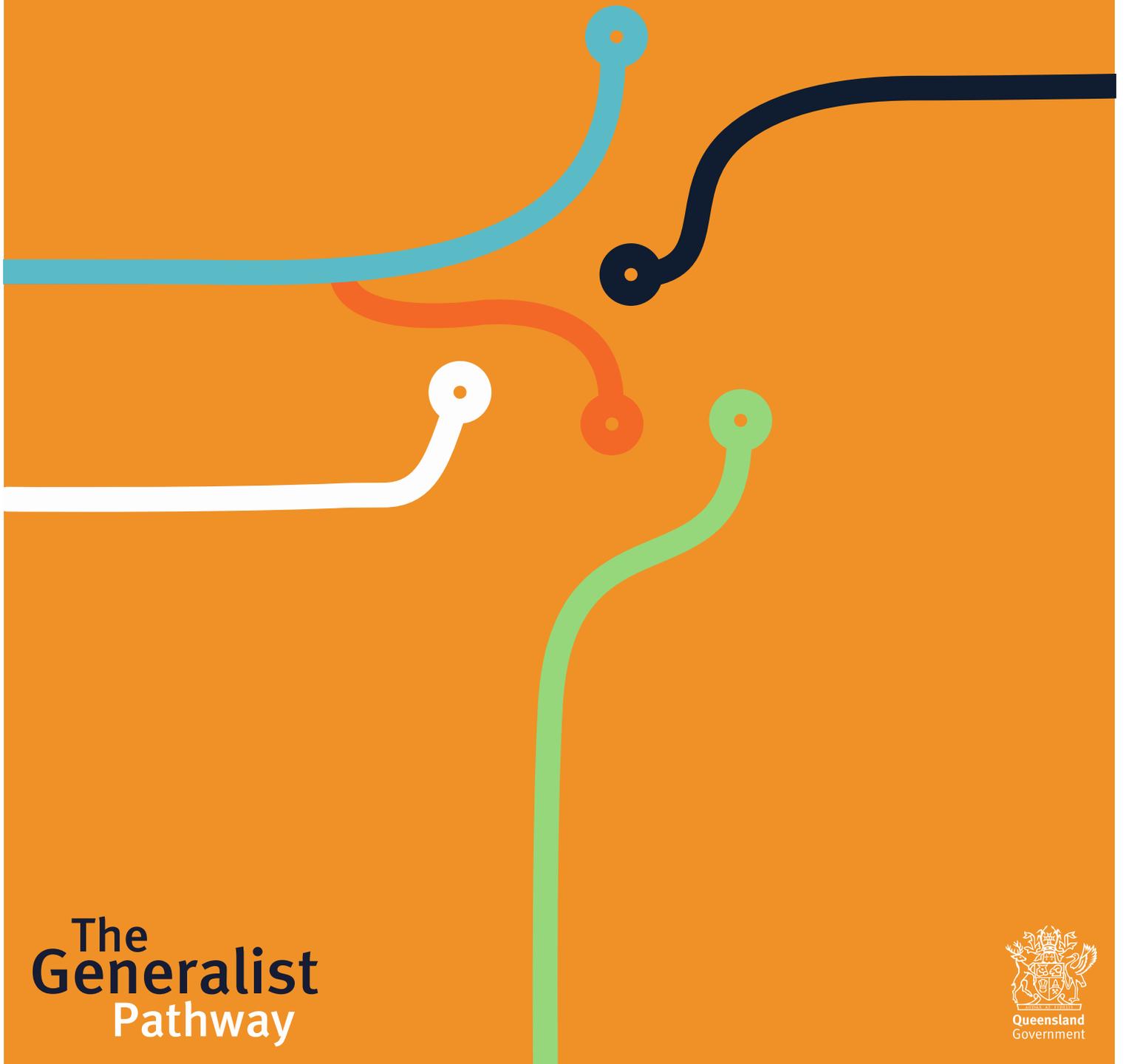


# Orientation Handbook

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. This handbook contains important information to be aware of as you begin your training. We also have an extensive collection of information and resources available on our [website](#), so be sure to save it to your favourites for future reference.

## Who is a Rural Generalist?

A Rural Generalist is a medical practitioner who is trained to meet the specific current and future healthcare needs of Australian rural and remote communities, in a sustainable and cost-effective way, by providing both comprehensive general practice and emergency care and required components of other medical specialist care in hospital and community settings as part of a rural healthcare team.

## What do we offer?

### Advisory and support services

The QRGP team is a group of experienced senior rural medical advisors and administrators who work in consultation with leading training partners to support you in your training. Together, our experiences and expertise include practising Rural Generalists, Staff Specialists, past Directors of Clinical Training, senior rural medical academics from Queensland universities and experienced administration staff with backgrounds in event management, case management, policy, projects, and adult education. We are passionate and dedicated to preparing you for the adventures and challenges 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 Rural Generalist Training Advisor (RGTA) is allocated to each of our prevocational training hospitals as outlined below. Allocations can occasionally change, for example during periods of extended leave. We will let you know if that is the case in your circumstance.

RGTA	Hospital
Dr Claudia Collins	Bundaberg, Hervey Bay
Dr James Telfer	Caboolture, Sunshine Coast, Redcliffe
Dr Natasha Coventry	Cairns
Dr Leanne Browning	Toowoomba
Dr Dale Hanson	Mackay, Redland
Dr Michael Clements	Mount Isa
Dr Felicity Constable	Rockhampton, Ipswich
Dr Prue Wallin	Townsville
Prof Scott Kitchener	Logan, Gold Coast

Your first face-to-face contact with your RGTA will be at your initial Career Planning Interview, which usually takes place by the end of March. Your RGTA will meet you at your training hospital during rostered hours to introduce themselves, learn a bit about you 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 if we haven't already.

Read through this handbook before your first interview as it may help to answer your initial questions and help you get the most out of your one-on-one time with your RGTA. A second Career Planning Interview (CPI) will take place later in the year, usually around July.

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, including on our [blog](#).

These articles are a great starting point:

- [Taking time to care for yourself](#) | Dr Ebonney van der Meer
- [What I wish I knew as an Intern](#) | Dr Tom Currie
- [Night shift hacks for junior doctors](#) | Dr Bek Adams

If you find you require 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 benefit from additional support. You can find more information about our Trainee in Need Policy [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 to 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. You will attend a RGTW annually for your first two years of training.

## Advanced skills and vocational training opportunities

Once you've settled into your internship, you may wish to start considering other training you would like to undertake. We coordinate recruitment campaigns and accreditation checks for a number of [Advanced Skills Training](#) (AST) disciplines and can be contacted for support for the disciplines that are not part of our centralised recruitment process. When it comes time to complete your vocational training, you'll have access to the only centralised list of rural medical vacancies in Queensland. 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. Past vocational employment vacancies are available on our [website](#).

## 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; 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.

Trainees generally undertake AST in anaesthetics, emergency medicine, Indigenous health, obstetrics and gynaecology, surgery, adult internal medicine, paediatrics or mental health.

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

Rural Generalist Medicine Prevocational Certification is a 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 standards prescribed by ACRRM and Queensland Health. The table below provides a summary of requirements.

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 your hospital employment.
Satisfactory completion of all Medical Board of Australia and Rural Generalist terms in both PGY1 and 2  ^If you train with ACRRM you will need to ensure you have completed ten weeks in each of these terms or met ACRRM's equivalence requirements prior to applying for fellowship. Your RGTA can advise further.	Completion of mandatory Intern term requirements in emergency medicine, medicine and surgery as specified by the Medical Board of Australia. 10 week terms are required.  Completion of Rural Generalist term requirements (by the end of PGY2) in anaesthetics, obstetrics & gynaecology and paediatrics. 10 week terms preferred; five weeks satisfactory^.  <a href="#">Email</a> the QRGP team copies as required. End of term reports must be as soon as they are available from your employing facility.
Satisfactory completion of 80% of the QRGP logbook	It is beneficial to start logging skills you perform from the beginning of your internship. It sets up good habits for your future training and continuous professional development standards.  You will receive an email with instructions on how to access and update your logbook prior to commencing your internship.  You need to complete 80% of the procedures in the QRGP Logbook by the end of your PGY2, regardless of which college you want to train to fellowship with. If you choose to train with ACRRM you will receive access to their online logbook when you commence training towards fellowship. Some items may be transcribable from the QRGP Logbook so have a look when you're granted access and take advantage of that if you can. RACGP doesn't require a logbook for fellowship training.  Take advantage of everyday opportunities to log your procedures. It is especially important that you remember to log your skills at workshops (such as RGTW) as you'll find there are quite a few procedures you can get signed off at these educational events.  Your RGTA will discuss your Logbook progress at your Career Planning Interviews. You will need to provide your completed logbook to the team by November of your PGY2.
Satisfactory completion of the Rural Generalist Trainee Workshop series	Your annual attendance will be logged by the QRGP team.
Completion of the QRGP Community Preparation module	This exclusive module is designed to contextualise your junior doctor training to rural practice. The module includes common scenarios faced by Rural Generalists living and working in Queensland communities, as well as resources to further your learning.  You will automatically be enrolled via the Queensland Health iLearn e-learning platform. The Module must be completed by November of your PGY2. The team will automatically be notified when you have completed the Module through the iLearn system.  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 RGTA and incorporate all the items above, as well as consultation with the Director of Clinical Training (DCT) of your employing hospital.

You should also keep the following in mind:

- advise the QRGP team of any change to personal contact details via [rural\\_generalist@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:rural_generalist@health.qld.gov.au).

- Contact your RGTA if you have any concerns with regards to hospital terms or any other issues requiring advice and support.
- maintain consistent contact with the QRGF team regarding your career intentions.
- consider 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. If you don't, the pressure is off! The QRGF team will provide more information and reminders closer to the time.

### Applying for general practice training

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

Knowing where you want to train vocationally and what type of training you need to undertake are two important factors that affect your AGPT application. Your RGTA can help you determine when the right time to apply is based on your training plan. You don't need to have all the answers in internship. We've developed an AGPT Guide with more information [here](#).

When you apply to AGPT you'll need to select 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 \(ACRRM\)](#)
- [The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(RACGP\)](#)

You may like to read more about the colleges and training requirements [here](#). Remember that to reach a Rural Generalist Medicine endpoint, you'll need to complete FACRRM or FRACGP plus FARGP.

### Advanced Skills Training

Once you have attained Rural Generalist Medicine Prevocational Certification you're eligible to proceed to AST. AST is predominantly undertaken in one of the disciplines listed below, however other options are available. Contact the team if you require additional information.

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

## 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.

Postgraduate Year (PGY)	Old Rural Generalist Pathway Stage	Position	Australian General Practice Training (AGPT)	
			Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)
1	Prevocational Training	Intern	AGPT Application can occur in PGY1 or PGY2. If application is not made until PGY2, training will commence from PGY3, unless RPL is applied for.	
2		Junior House Officer	Core Clinical Training AGPT Year 1	Hospital Training AGPT Year 1
3	Advanced Skills Training	Registrar / Principal House Officer (PHO)	Advanced Specialised Training AGPT Year 2	Advanced Rural Skills Training AGPT Year 2
4	Vocational / Fellowship Training	PHO Senior Medical Officer (Provisional Fellow)	Primary Rural & Remote Training AGPT Year 3 & 4	GP Terms AGPT Year 3 & 4
5		Medical Officer with Private Practice (MOPP) Rural General Practitioner Registrar		
6+	Continuing Professional Development	Senior Medical Officer (Rural Generalist) Medical Superintendent with Private Practice (MSPP) MOPP Rural General Practitioner Visiting Medical Officer Advanced Credentialed Practice (VMO AP)	FACRRM	FRACGP FARGP

\*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

## Get social

Stay up to date with news and information by connecting with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). We also have an exclusive [QRGP Facebook group](#) for QRGP Trainees and Fellows to connect and share experiences as well as QRGP-specific information.

## Questions?

Contact the QRGP team.

p. 1800 680 291 | e. [rural\\_generalist@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:rural_generalist@health.qld.gov.au)

w. [www.generalistpathway.com.au](http://www.generalistpathway.com.au)

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