

Multidisciplinary rural training opportunities for health students

the future of rural health

About us

National Rural Health Student Network

The National Rural Health Student Network (NRHSN) represents the future of rural health in Australia. It has more than 9,000 members who belong to 28 university Rural Health Clubs from all states and territories.

It is Australia's only multi-disciplinary student health network, bringing together people studying medicine, nursing and allied health, encouraging them to pursue rural health careers.

The NRHSN has two aims:

- ▶ to provide a voice for students who are interested in improving health outcomes for rural and remote Australians
- ▶ to promote rural health careers to students and encourage students who are interested in practising in rural health care.

The NRHSN and its Rural Health Clubs offer rural experience weekends, career information sessions and professional development activities as well as providing a social base for students at university and when on rural placement.

The student network leaders also advocate on behalf of health students of all disciplines - including opportunities for more rural placements and training support.

The NRHSN is managed by Rural Health Workforce Australia (RHWA) with funding from the Federal Department of Health.

Rural Health Workforce Australia

Rural Health Workforce Australia is the national body for the seven states and territory Rural Workforce Agencies. Our not-for-profit Network is dedicated to making primary health care more accessible by attracting, recruiting and supporting health professionals needed in rural and remote communities. RHWA is also committed to the future workforce through our support of the National Rural Health Student Network.

Contact us

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Rural Health Clubs



- 1 **ARMS** - Australian National University, ACT
- 2 **AURHA** - Adelaide University, SA
- 3 **BREAATHHE** - University of Newcastle, NSW
- 4 **BUSHFIRE** - Bond University, QLD
- 5 **CARAH** - Charles Darwin University, NT in assoc with Flinders University, SA
- 6 **CRANC** - University of Canberra, ACT
- 7 **FURHS** - Flinders University, SA
- 8 **HOPE4HEALTH** - Griffith University, QLD
- 9 **KRASH** - Notre Dame University, Broome, WA
- 10 **LARHC** - La Trobe University, Bendigo, VIC
- 11 **MARHS** - Charles Sturt University, Albury, NSW including La Trobe University Wodonga campus
- 12 **MIRAGE** - University of Sydney, NSW
- 13 **NERCHA** - University of New England, NSW
- 14 **NOMAD** - Deakin University, VIC
- 15 **OUTLOOK** - University of Melbourne, VIC
- 16 **RAHMS** - University of New South Wales, NSW
- 17 **RHINO** - James Cook University, QLD
- 18 **RHUUWS** - University of Western Sydney, NSW
- 19 **ROUNDS** - Notre Dame University, Sydney campus, NSW
- 20 **ROUSTAH** - University of South Australia, SA
- 21 **RUSTICA** - University of Tasmania, TAS
- 22 **SHARP** - University of Wollongong, NSW
- 23 **SPINRPHX** - Combined Universities of Western Australia, WA
- 24 **SIARRH** - Charles Darwin University, NT including Flinders University, SA
- 25 **TROHIQ** - University of Queensland, QLD
- 26 **WAALHIIBE** - Combined Universities of Western Australia, WA
- 27 **WARRIAHS** - Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW
- 28 **WILDFIRE** - Monash University, VIC

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Project synopsis

This document has been developed by the 2017 National Rural Health Student Network Executive Committee to provide a point of reference for students interested in exploring undergraduate and postgraduate rural training opportunities. There are a number of exciting placements and bursaries available for medical, nursing and allied health students that provide the opportunity to experience rural health in Australia.

Each section offers a brief blurb on the structure/arrangement of the training scheme and we encourage students to follow the links provided to find out more information.

Disclaimer:

This information has been prepared by the NRHSN Executive Committee to provide an overview of different undergraduate and postgraduate rural training options. As this area of health is dynamic, information contained within this Guide may have changed or programs altered/discontinued since publishing. The NRHSN advises you to seek more information from the relevant party before making any personal decisions. If you note any errors or omissions in this document, we urge you to email: executivecommittee@nrhsn.org.au.

Last updated: June 2017

Undergraduate Training Opportunities

Medicine

The John Flynn Placement Program

The John Flynn Placement Program (JFPP) introduces medical students to life as a rural doctor by offering them the opportunity to spend eight weeks over four years in one small rural or remote community. Students work closely with rural health professionals and are linked to a local person or organisation in the community to assist with social and cultural experiences. From 1 July, 2017 the Rural Workforce Agency Network will administer the JFPP in each state and the Northern Territory via Local Coordination Teams. The Rural Workforce Agency

More information: <https://www.jfpp.com.au/>

Rural Clinical Schools

Since 2001, the Department of Health has funded 14 Rural Clinical Schools associated with Universities from around Australia. They aim to provide students in their clinical years with high quality education in rural and regional areas. They provide links with local health organisations and close community connections. Their overall aim is to produce medical graduates that are eager to work in a rural area and are well trained to do so. Currently the Department of Health requires 25% of the domestic medical cohort to spend at least 12 months at a Rural Clinical School.

More information: <http://www.ausframe.org/index.php/links/58-rural-clinical-schools>

Fred McKay Medical Student Scholarship

Tasmania

This scholarship with the RFDS gives a Tasmanian medical student the opportunity to experience a two week placement at the RFDS Broken Hill Base, working as an observer in RFDS aircraft. A further two week placement may be offered in a rural setting in Tasmania

More information: <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/tas/our-services/scholarships-tas/>

Working Holidays for Undergraduates

New South Wales

This program is open to 1st and 2nd year NSW medical students and provides an opportunity to experience 'a week in the life of a rural GP'. Students stay with a host GP family for seven-ten days and experience rural General Practice, rural hospitals and the local rural town.

More information: <https://www.nswrdn.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=554705>

Bush Bursaries and the Country Women's Association (CWA) Scholarships

New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory

These bursaries provide selected medical students in NSW/ACT with financial support to assist with costs associated with their studies. In return, students spend two weeks on a rural placement in country NSW during their university holidays. Placements are coordinated by the rural Councils. Placement locations may differ each year due to the involvement of different Councils.

More information: <https://www.nswrdn.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=57860>

Rural Resident Medical Officer Cadetship

New South Wales

Medical students in NSW apply to the Rural Resident Medical Officer Cadetship and receive financial support in their final two years of medical school. In return they are required to work two years in a rural NSW hospital within three years of graduating. Applicants also receive mentoring from the NSW Rural Doctors Network (RDN), subsidised registration costs at RDN Conferences and relocation allowances.

More information: <https://www.nswrdn.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=57860>

Rural Resident Medical Cadetship for Indigenous Students

New South Wales

Indigenous medical students in NSW apply to the Rural Resident Medical Officer Cadetship for Indigenous Students and receive financial support in their final two years of medical school. In return they are required to work two years in a rural NSW hospital within three years of graduating. Applicants also receive mentoring from the NSW Rural Doctors Network (RDN), subsidised registration costs at RDN Conferences and relocation allowances.

More information: <https://www.nswrdn.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=57860>

Multidisciplinary

Go Rural events

Each Rural Workforce Agency is supported by Rural Health Workforce Australia to host Go Rural events Australia wide. They are designed to give students a taste of rural medicine and learn about the broad scope of practice that awaits them in rural areas. Outback immersion experiences, regional bus tours and clinical skills days are all part of a national campaign that offers smart insights for emerging health professionals.

More information: Please see your local Rural Workforce Agency - <http://www.rhwa.org.au/ruralworkforceagencies>

Student Vocational Experience Program

Western Australia

The Student Vocational Experience Program provides placements in rural settings for up to two weeks. Students have the opportunity to observe and experience rural practice, visit local health services, network with current rural health practitioners and increase exposure, knowledge and understanding of rural communities and rural health.

More information: <http://www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/students/student-vocational-experience>

Ride Along Program

South Australia

The Ride Along Program is a partnership between the Royal Flying Doctors Service and the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency. It allows medical and nursing students to 'ride along' with the RFDS for a one day observational attachment.

More information: <https://www.ruraldoc.com.au/ride-along-program>

Remote Oral Health Program

South Australia

Final year Dentistry students are able to take part in a two day Remote Oral Health Program which is an RFDS clinic in a remote community

More information: <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/sant/working-in-sant/student-placements-sant/>

Give Them Wings Scholarship

Victoria

Scholarship recipients are provided with an RFDS experience which includes a day travelling on the road or in the air with the RFDS crew, and are also invitation to an RFDS event.

The Give Them Wings Scholarship is designed to aid students by assisting them with their study costs. Up to five scholarships are available for first year nursing and allied health students.

More information: <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/vic/scholarships-vic/>

Robin Miller RFDS Nursing Scholarship

Tasmania

The scholarship provides a senior nursing undergraduate with the experience of living in remote Australia and working there with the RFDS. The scholarship comprises two weeks flying and clinical work centered at the RFDS Base at Port Augusta, SA

More information: <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/tas/our-services/scholarships-tas/>

GROW Rural

Queensland

GROW Rural is a three year program, which provides medical, nursing and allied health students the opportunity to visit remote and rural Queensland communities each year for three consecutive years. Experiences include a farm stay, seeing a cattle property, attending a community trivia night, as well as undertaking clinical skill sessions as examples.

More information: <https://www.healthworkforce.com.au/grow-rural>

CARAH Health LEADS Program

Northern Territory

The CARAH Health LEADS Program is held in May-June in the Northern Territory and provides the opportunity for health students to experience the health and culture of the Outback. Students participate in Rural High School Visits, Leadership skills development and engaging with local health organisations. The program is aimed at building critical rural leadership skills in emerging health professionals. Applications are open to students from all around Australia

More information: <https://www.ntphn.org.au/carah>

Northern Territory High School Visits

Northern Territory

The program allows 12 undergraduate or postgraduate medical, nursing and allied health students from across Australia to visit Northern Territory junior and senior high schools to promote further education and health career opportunities. Participating university students present workshops to high school students demonstrating the challenges and rewards of pursuing a career in healthcare, drawing on their personal experiences.

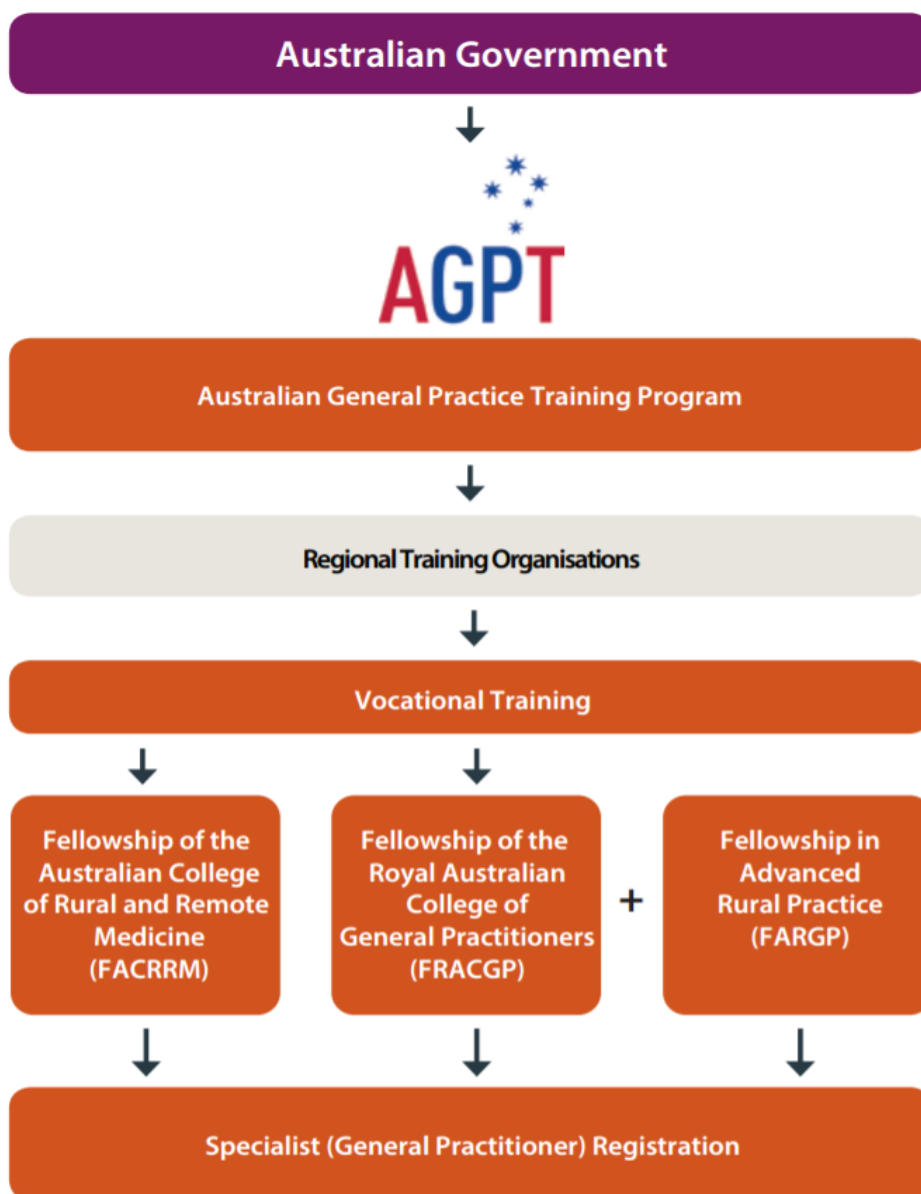
More information: <https://www.ntphn.org.au/nt-rural-high-school-visits>

Postgraduate Training Opportunities

Medicine

There are two major training pathways to achieve recognition as a 'Rural Medical Generalist'. They are Fellowship with either the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) or the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM). Applicants train via the Australian General Practice Training Program towards Fellowship as a General Practitioner.

Diagram 1: The Australian General Practice Training Program



Reference: Australian General Practice Training Handbook 2016
http://www.agpt.com.au/ArticleDocuments/186/2016%20AGPT%20Handbook_web.pdf.aspx

Diagram 2: Fellowship Pathways as a General Practitioner



† There may be flexibility in the order in which training terms may be undertaken.

* Leading to specialist (general practice) registration.

** The FARGP is a specialist twelve month program for registrars wishing to specialise in rural general practice.

Reference: Australian General Practice Training Handbook 2016

http://www.agpt.com.au/ArticleDocuments/186/2016%20AGPT%20Handbook_web.pdf.aspx

Rural Generalist Training Pathways

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine have collated a Rural Generalist Pathway Jurisdictional Mapping document that provides more detail on each of the Rural Generalist Pathways in each state.

<http://www.acrrm.org.au/docs/default-source/documents/about-the-college/rural-generalist-pathway-jurisdictional-mapping.pdf?sfvrsn=4>

Queensland

The Queensland Rural Generalist Pathway is a well-established training program that starts straight from PGY1. Trainees obtain a Fellowship with either RACGP or ACRRM and have a number of advanced skills available for specialist training. Applications to the Queensland Rural Generalist Pathway open in early March for final year medical students applying for internship. The Pathway is designed to be completed by the end of PGY5 - an example Career Pathway is below:

Rural Generalist Pathway

Cunningham Centre | Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service

Rural Generalist Career Progression

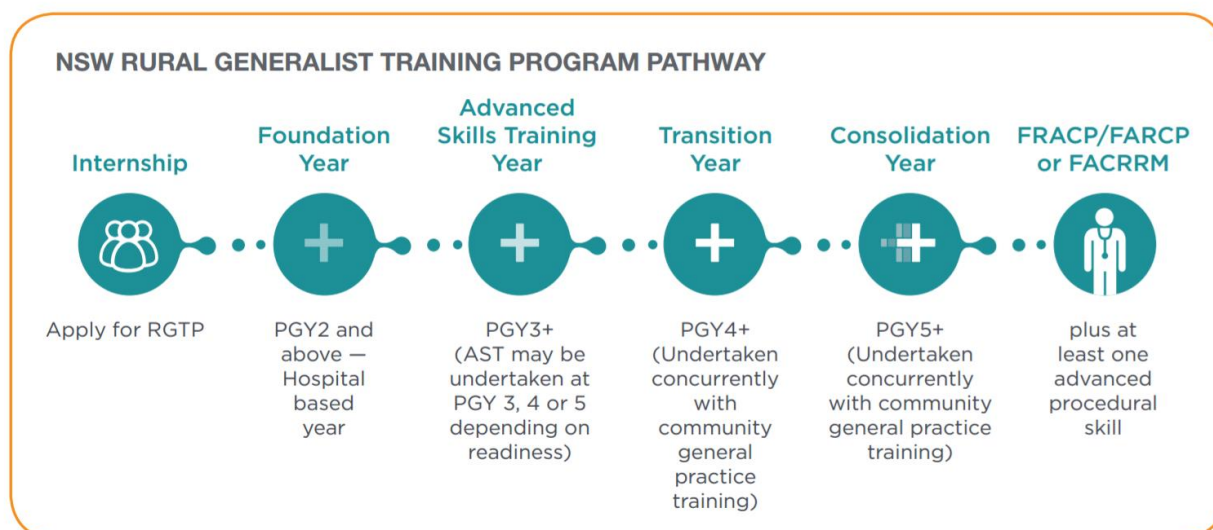
Postgraduate Year (PGY)	Rural Generalist Pathway	Queensland Health	Queensland Health Rural Scholarship Scheme Holders	Australian General Practice Training (AGPT)	Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS)	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)
1	Prevocational Training	Intern	Return of service	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 / Fellowship Training	Senior Medical Officer (Provisional Fellow)	Return of service	Year 3	Year 1	Primary Rural & Remote Training	GP Terms
5		Medical Officer with Private Practice (MOPP)		Year 4	Year 2		
6 +	Continuing Professional Development	Senior Medical Officer (Rural Generalist) Medical Superintendent with Private Practice (MSPP) MOPP Visiting Medical Officer Advanced Credentialed Practice (VMO AP)			Year 3+	FACRRM (Advanced Skill)	FRACGP FARGP (Advanced Skill) Certified in Women's Health



More information: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/ruralgeneralist>

New South Wales

The New South Wales Rural Generalist Training Program is designed to commence at PGY2 and take approx. four years to complete, with trainees obtaining Fellowship with RACGP or ACRRM plus an advanced skill in at least one of anaesthetics, obstetrics, emergency medicine, mental health or palliative care. Applications to the program's Foundation Year (PGY2) occur in Spring of the applicant's Intern (PGY1) year. See below as an example of the NSW Rural Generalist Training Program Pathway:



More information: <http://www.heti.nsw.gov.au/Rural-and-Remote/Rural-Generalist-Training/>

Victoria

The Victorian General Practitioner - Rural Generalist program spans five years from Internship to PGY5. Similar to other States, the Victorian General Practitioner - Rural Generalist program qualifies trainees for a Fellowship with RACGP or ACRRM and an advanced skill in a number of areas. Selection into the pathway is through several different entry points, including an internship in a rural or regional health service, a regional intern program, or one of Victoria's five Rural Community Intern Training programs. Applications to Rural Community Intern Training programs for internships are made through the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV) intern computer match.

See below as an example of the Victorian General Practitioner - Rural Generalist program:

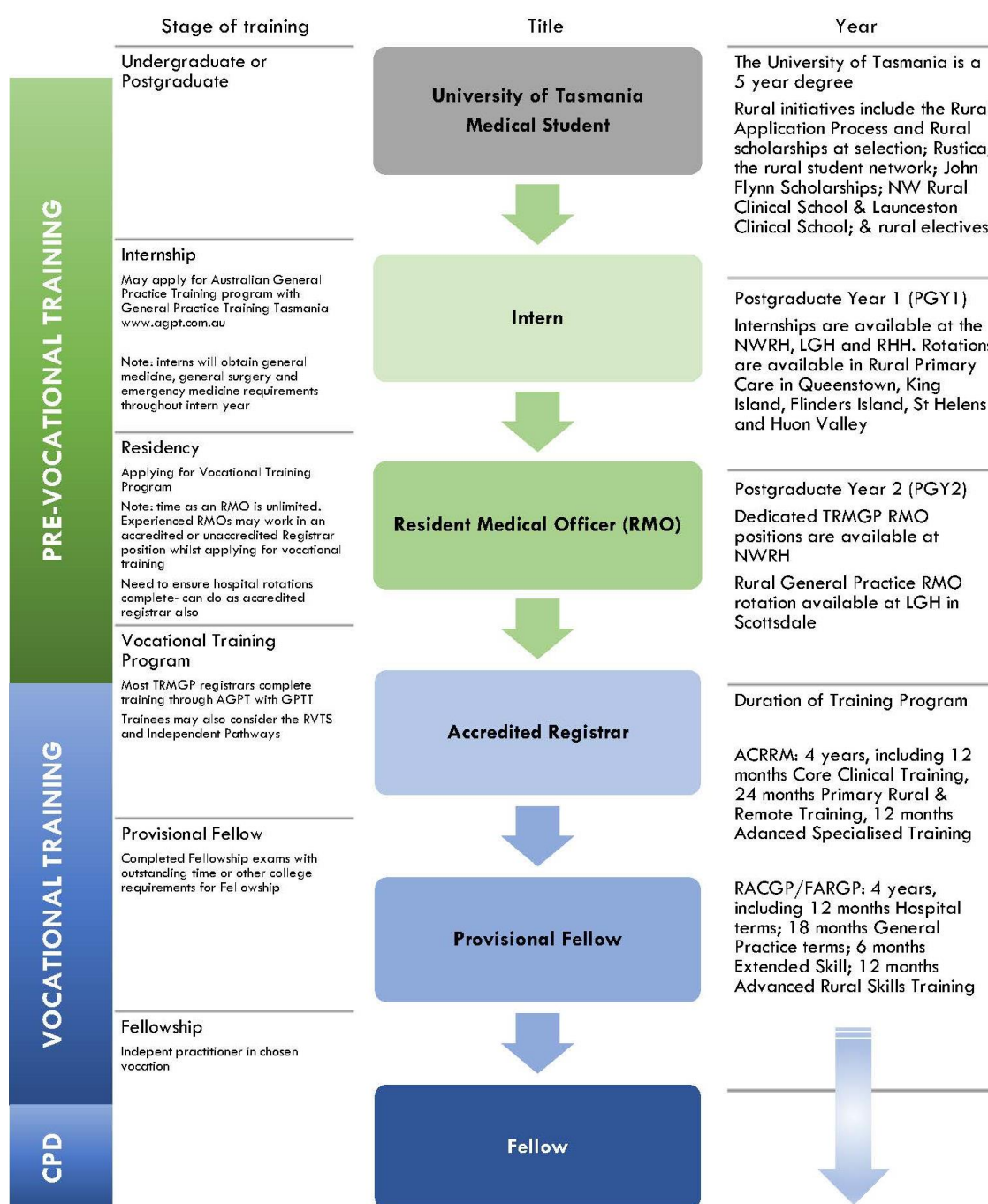


More information: <https://www.rwav.com.au/workforce-support/rural-medical-workforce-programs-2/>

Tasmania

The Tasmanian Rural Medical Generalist Pathway has recently been established to help recruit and retain doctors within rural areas. The Tasmanian Pathway allows for a flexible training pathway, individually optimised to suit the needs of the trainee and their desired career trajectory. The Tasmanian Rural Medical Generalist Pathway provides dedicated PGY2 and PGY3 rotations at the North West Regional Hospital that meet the core clinical training requirements of RACGP and ACRRM. Trainees are then supported by General Practice Training Tasmania to complete their Fellowship with RACGP or ACRRM.

The Pathway has multiple entry points from including student, intern, RMO and GPs looking to complete an advanced skill (e.g. FARGP).



More information: http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/gp/about_us/tasmanian_rural_medical_generalist_pathway2

South Australia

The Road to Rural GP Program includes opportunities to train in rural SA in internship (Mt Gambier Districts Health Service) and through rural GP registrar training, including advanced skills training posts in Anaesthetics and Obstetrics. Rural training posts are managed by Country Health SA Local Health Network (CHSALHN).

For more information: <http://www.sahealthcareers.com.au/campaign.php?id=99>

Western Australia

The Western Australian Rural Practice Pathway provides opportunities for interns and RMOs to work in rural WA or rotate out to rural areas from a city based position. The Postgraduate Medical Education Unit (PMEU) is the organisation that supports junior doctors training in rural WA. Intern applicants select the WA Country Health Service to complete rural internships. RMOs have the ability to spend 20% of their time in rural communities through the Community Residency Program and work in outreach clinics, outpatient services, specialist community clinics, hospital GP clinics, Aboriginal Medical Services, Royal Flying Doctor Service or Hospital in the Home (HITH).

More information: <http://www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/rural-training-pathways/rural-practice-pathway>
<http://www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/index.php?id=899>

Nursing

RFDS Nursing/Midwifery Scholarship

The Royal Flying Doctor Service provides the opportunity for Registered Nurses to access a limited number of Midwifery Scholarships. The Scholarships, available across Australia, provide financial support to those Nurses so they can gain their Midwifery qualification, which is a requirement to become an RFDS Flight Nurse.

More information: <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/>

Paramedicine

Paramedics Australasia host a Rural and Remote Special Interest Group for paramedics who have a keen interest in the provision of health services in rural and remote areas.

More information: <https://www.paramedics.org/rural-remote/>

Pharmacy

There are a variety of Rural Training incentives for intern pharmacists. These include the Rural Intern Training Allowance and the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme.

More information: <http://6cpa.com.au/rural-support-programs/>