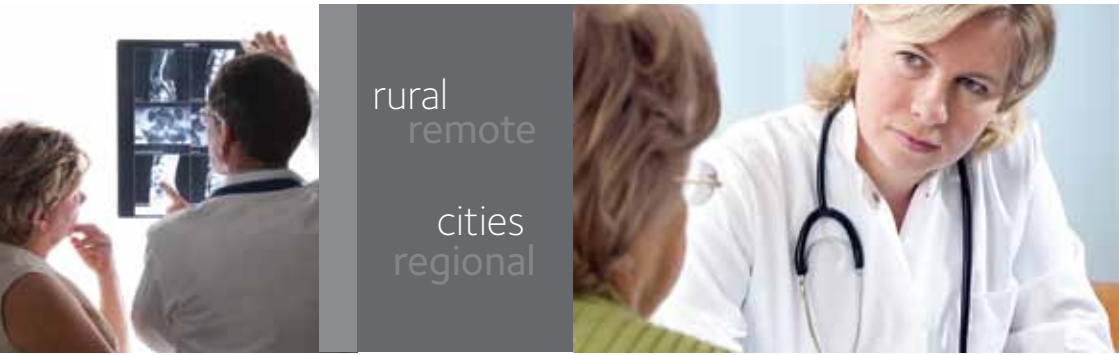


Qualify to be a General Practitioner. Work anywhere in Australia

Training towards Fellowship of ACRRM



rural
remote

cities
regional

independent
clinics

hospitals
in teams

general practice
retrieval



obstetrics
emergency

surgery
anaesthetics



**Australian College of
Rural and Remote Medicine**

A medical career of discovery and achievement

General Practitioners (GPs) who work in rural and remote areas need a broader set of skills than those of their colleagues in urban practice. Where an urban GP will readily refer an urgent or difficult case to a specialist or tertiary hospital — a GP in rural or remote communities are trained to take direct responsibility for most cases presented to them.

Their additional skills and competencies can include secondary medical care — such as surgery, obstetrics, anaesthetics, and emergency medicine — and the privilege of admitting their patients to the local hospital, where the GP continues to provide personalised care. Fellows of ACRRM acquire these advanced specialist skills as part of their training.

Research indicates that rural and remote medicine is particularly attractive to doctors who relish a challenge and value their independence. What is also evident throughout rural Australia is a spirit of collegiality. GPs readily exchange ideas with colleagues on particular cases and on rural and remote health issues generally.



They also develop strong bonds with their communities. Many emerge in leadership roles, becoming articulate advocates in local, regional, state, and national forums.

As GPs with extended specialist skills, Fellows of ACRRM are more than adequately equipped to also practise in metropolitan and large regional centres. Should a life stage require that they live for a time in an urban location, they can continue to enjoy the satisfaction, status, and income of a specialist General Practitioner.

The practice of rural medicine is measured in generations, not minutes. If you have chosen a medical career because you want to make a difference, rural General Practice as a Fellow of ACRRM creates opportunities for you to make a difference every day you practise, for life.

“The big advantage of ACRRM training is that you feel confident to work in a variety of environments.”

Dr Patrick O'Neill
Training supervisor
Fellow of ACRRM

Fellowship of ACRRM: independence, scope, and flexibility

The qualification, Fellowship of ACRRM (or FACRRM), is recognised by the Australian Government as a standard that practitioners must attain to be recognised for the specialty of General Practice.

Fellowship entitles you and your patients to the maximum benefits available from Medicare (A1 items).

Fellows of ACRRM are qualified to work independently (e.g. solo practice), in a team (e.g. clinic, hospital, or retrieval service), or as a collaborator (e.g. complementing the local regions health service skills with their specialist skills, such as anaesthetics, surgery, or obstetrics).

Recruiters for senior clinical and team leadership roles with government and other health services, now frequently identify Fellowship of ACRRM as an advantage for candidates, especially where the role calls for demonstrated breadth of medical knowledge and experience.

ACRRM is currently working with colleges and authorities in other countries on mutual recognition of fellowship qualifications.

This will give the qualification international portability, further broadening a Fellow's professional horizons.

As a Fellow of the College, you will be entitled to use the post-nominal: FACRRM.

You can begin training for Fellowship after you graduate from an Australian university medical school and complete your intern year (also called postgraduate year one, or PGY1).

Currently, you have a choice of three training pathways:

- Vocational Preparation Pathway (via Australian General Practice Training, or AGPT)
- Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS), and
- ACRRM Independent Pathway (IP).

(More about these on page 7).

International medical graduates can also attain Fellowship of ACRRM, though this is usually on an ACRRM assessment pathway for IMGs.

“The scope of medicine we get to see is amazing. I have always wanted to be a rural GP.”

Dr Natalie Meredith
ACRRM registrar



The ACRRM training program

You can complete your training within four years. Training time will be reduced if ACRRM determines that your prior experience is equivalent to training requirements. Read more about Recognition of Prior Learning on the College website.



Core Clinical Training

The Fellowship of ACRRM begins with Core Clinical Training. This stage is 12 months working in an accredited hospital, where you complete required terms in:

- general internal medicine
- general surgery
- paediatrics
- emergency medicine
- obstetrics and gynaecology, and
- anaesthetics.

This training should provide you with sufficient clinical cases and opportunistic learning to form a good foundation to begin work in rural or remote practice.

“I’d been working as a doctor for six years. ACRRM’s recognition of prior learning credited my skills and shortened my training.”

Dr Shaun Parish
ACRRM registrar

Primary Rural and Remote Training

Primary Rural and Remote Training comprises 24 months in rural or remote settings accredited by ACRRM. These can include hospitals, general practices, Aboriginal Medical Services, or the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

You may choose to complete your Primary Rural and Remote Training in one or several locations.

Training in a single location will enable you to build a strong relationship with colleagues and your community. However, training in several locations may better equip you to expand your posting opportunities later in your career.

Primary Rural and Remote Training will build your clinical and procedural skills, and your confidence to work in rural and remote contexts.



Advanced Specialised Training

Advanced Specialised Training broadens your skills and capacity beyond the standard scope of GP training. With these supplementary procedural skills, your expanded professional scope can include clinical privileging in hospitals, access to additional Medical Benefits Scheme item numbers, and contributing to the pool of medical skills in your district.

Advanced Specialised Training requires a minimum of 12 months training in one of the ten disciplines specified by the College:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- Adult Internal Medicine
- Anaesthetics
- Emergency Medicine
- Mental Health
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Paediatrics
- Population Health
- Remote Medicine, or
- Surgery.

Each Advanced Specialised Training discipline has its own curriculum and assessment requirements.

Flexible training options

After completing your Core Clinical Training, you can undertake components of your Primary Rural and Remote Training and your Advanced Specialised Training in any order, or concurrently.

Your ACRRM training plan can be tailored to fit with your personal and family circumstances. For instance, it may suit you to do some aspects of your training part-time.

Other elements of your training that can be completed at any point are:

- four modules from the College's teaching and learning resource, Rural and Remote Medical Education Online (RRMEO), and
- at least two ACRRM-accredited courses in emergency medicine.

“After my intern year I did the first year of primary rural and remote, then my advanced skills year, and now I am finishing the second year of primary rural and remote.”

Dr Lachlan McIver
ACRRM registrar



The three training pathways at a glance

The table summarises the three pathways that can lead to Fellowship of ACRRM. Details on how to apply for each is on the relevant organisation's website. (See in the last row of the table).

	TRAINING PATHWAYS		
	Vocational Preparation Pathway (AGPT)	Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS)	ACRRM Independent Pathway (IP)
Entry level	Recent medical graduates	Recent medical graduates and experienced doctors	Experienced doctors
Training provider	Regional Training Provider (RTP)	RVTS	ACRRM
Modes of learning	Structured education program primarily face-to-face	Structured education program primarily by distance	Structured education program primarily by distance
Supervision	Mainly on site	Mainly off site	Mainly on site
Location	ACRRM accredited post in rural or remote locations	Continue to work and reside in your rural or remote community (ACRRM accredited post)	ACRRM accredited post in rural or remote locations
Fees	Government-funded	Government-funded	Self-funded (full fee)
Application Process	1. Apply to AGPT 2. Enrol with ACRRM	1. Apply to RVTS 2. Enrol with ACRRM	Apply to ACRRM
Applications close	Usually in June	Usually in June	Usually February
Website	Visit www.agpt.com.au	Visit www.rvts.org.au	Visit www.acrrm.org.au

More information?

For more about any of the training pathways, please call the ACRRM Vocational Training and Assessment team on (Freecall) **1800 223 226**.

How registrars are assessed

The assessment process has been designed by experienced rural doctors and leading academics. It ensures that you are acquiring the right mix of knowledge, skills and attitudes to work safely and competently in unsupervised general practice in all settings in Australia, especially in more challenging rural and remote contexts. The assessment is undertaken progressively throughout key stages of your training, rather than as one big exam at the end of your training.

Primary Training Assessment

These assessments are undertaken by all ACRRM registrars.

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

To take an MCQ exam, you could attend ACRRM's central exam centre, or arrange a suitable local venue and engage an invigilator who is approved by ACRRM. ACRRM offers you practice exams and online workshops to assist you to prepare for this exam.

Multi Source Feedback (MSF)

The Multi Source Feedback assessment provides a gauge of how well you interact professionally with colleagues and your patients. ACRRM recommends you take this

assessment early in your training so that you can make best use of the feedback you receive.

Mini Clinical Evaluation Exercise (miniCEX)

In a mini Clinical Evaluation Exercise you are assessed in your clinical environment by an experienced peer, who is appointed by ACRRM. You can prepare for your miniCEX by asking your supervisor or medical educator to observe your consulting performance from time to time and mark your performance against the criteria on the standard marking sheet.

Structured Assessment using Multiple Patient Scenarios (StAMPS)

The Structured Assessment using Multiple Patient Scenarios has been specially designed for ACRRM so that registrars can be assessed in their communities. It is similar to a viva voce, where you are questioned about clinical scenarios. The exam is conducted by video conferencing.

Procedural Skills Logbook

The Procedural Skills Logbook identifies the skills you need to practise independently in a rural and remote setting. ACRRM recommends you start gaining these important skills early in your career. You can begin making logbook entries during the 12 months prior to enrolling as an ACRRM registrar, or at any point during your training.

Advanced Specialised Training Assessment

The Advanced Specialised Training year has additional assessment requirements specific to the discipline. These are outlined in the individual Advanced Specialised Training curricula, which are available on the College website. Assessments may include any of the primary curriculum assessment types — such as miniCEX and StAMPS — as well as projects and supervisor reports.

“The training is flexible. ACRRM does not expect you to travel vast distances to do your assessments.”

Dr Umair Masood
ACRRM registrar



Notes

Things I would like to ask the ACRRM Vocational Training and Assessment team:

- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**
When can I apply for RPL? What is the process?
- Joining ACRRM**
Can I join ACRRM before I am accepted onto a training pathway?
- About assessments**
When can I start my assessments?
- International medical graduates**
How can an international medical graduate qualify for Fellowship of ACRRM?

Other things I would like to know

Watch the videos

You can watch short, informative videos about training and assessment for Fellowship of ACRRM on the College website: www.acrrm.org.au (under Programs > Vocational Training). Registrars, supervisors, and Fellows talk about training, the College, and rural and remote medicine as a career.

Apply now!

Join the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and train towards Fellowship—and enjoy the broadest possible scope to practise medicine anywhere in Australia.

Professional recognition

Fellows of ACRRM are recognised nationally as specialists in the discipline of general practice. Fellowship is frequently cited as the required standard for supervisory, executive and managerial roles in the public and private health sectors—and in challenging settings, such as expedition medicine.

Practise anywhere

Fellows of ACRRM are able to practise in any location in Australia: rural, remote, coastal, and metropolitan. This can be in teams (e.g. retrieval, hospital), independently (general practice), or in a collaboration contributing skills such as surgery, anaesthetics, emergency, and obstetrics. As the demands of your personal life change, you have real options to change where and how you work.

Medicare access

Fellowship of ACRRM entitles you to access Medicare items at the highest level (A1 items).

Peer network

Because of their extended skills set — and their special interests – Fellows of ACRRM have developed strong, rich, and productive professional networks. Regional and national events, such as the annual Rural Medicine Australia conference, give Fellows opportunities to renew acquaintances, share skills, and compare developments in medical practice, especially in rural and remote contexts.

For members, by members

ACRRM is a member-based organisation and the first college in the world dedicated to training, qualifying, and supporting general practitioners in rural and remote medicine.

The College specialises in designing and delivering quality education, training, assessment, and networking services that doctors and other members in rural and remote communities can easily access. The College has an international reputation as an innovator and adaptor of interactive communication and information management technology that bridges distance and provides members with 24-hour access.

Visit www.acrrm.org.au
Call 1800 223 226

Train for Fellowship with ACRRM and be rewarded every day ... for life



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