

2026 Eligibility and Application Guide

ACRRM Fellowship

Australian General Practice Training (AGPT)

Rural Generalist Training Scheme (RGTS)

Independent Pathway (IP)





2026 ACRRM Eligibility and Application Guide

Disclaimer

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Version 1.0 2025

Date published: 14.01.2025

Date implemented: 14.01.2025

Date for review: January 2026

ACRRM acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the custodians of the lands and waters where our members and staff work and live across Australia. We pay respect to their elders, lores, customs and Dreaming. We recognise these lands and waters have always been a place of teaching, learning, and healing.

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“ACRRM was the natural choice for the highest standard of Rural Generalist training. The pathway is wholly tailored to rural practice but flexible enough to adapt to changing training needs. It is a rigorous training program but one which is directed from the start at producing world-class Rural Generalists.”

Dr Jackson Blythe

Discover ACRRM Fellowship

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) is the only College dedicated to rural, remote and First Nations health. ACRRM Fellowship is a four-year training program which integrates a rural focus from day one, preparing doctors to become safe, confident, and independent Rural Generalists.

With a competency-based, skills-focused curriculum developed by rural doctors for rural doctors, the Fellowship includes three years of Core Generalist Training and a minimum of 12 months of Advanced Specialised Training.

Learn more about our training and education requirements at acrrm.org.au/training-and-education



Where you can train

ACRRM training regions are based on the state or territory where registrars undertake their training. Each region offers unique placements and learning experiences tailored to community needs.

Applicants should explore their options and nominate up to four regional preferences when applying. Discover what each region has to offer at acrrm.org.au/training-regions.

Supporting First Nations registrars

ACRRM has the highest percentage of First Nations registrars enrolled in Rural Generalist training in Australia. We are committed to increasing this through comprehensive support during Fellowship training and beyond.

Registrars can train on Country and receive cultural education and mentorship via the Joint Colleges Training Services (JCTS), a partnership between ACRRM and RACGP. Opportunities to train at an Aboriginal Medical Service and undertake Advanced Specialised Training in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health are also available.

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Member Group offers peer support and ensures members are represented across College governance, while partnerships with the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) and other First Nations bodies provide wraparound support and advocacy.



Dr Danielle Dries

How to Become a Rural Generalist with ACRRM

Rural generalism is vital for delivering quality healthcare to rural and remote communities. Eligible doctors can access Commonwealth Government funding through the **Australian General Practice Training (AGPT)** program or the **Rural Generalist Training Scheme (RGTS)**, which support ACRRM Fellowship training and education requirements.

For those not eligible for Commonwealth funding, ACRRM offers the option to self-fund through the **Independent Pathway (IP)**.

The following guide outlines eligibility for ACRRM Fellowship training through these three options.



Australian General Practice Training (AGPT)

AGPT provides payment to subsidise travel and accommodation for attending mandatory education requirements through the National Consistent Payment Framework, and access to apply for Flexible Funds and Aboriginal Medical Services salary support.

Rural Generalist Training Scheme (RGTS)

RGTS provides standardised payments through the RGTS Payment Fund which provides access to payments such as relocation assistance.

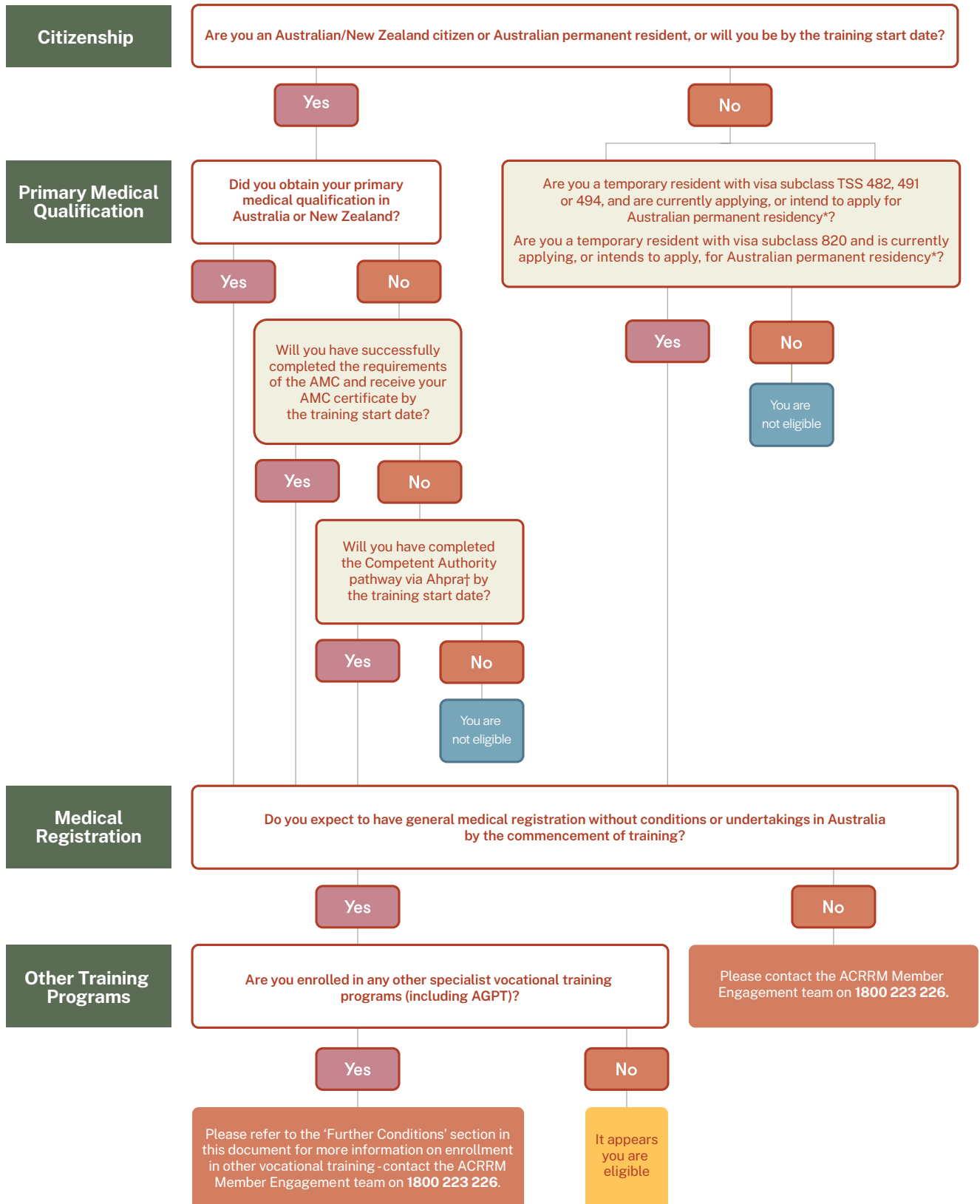
Independent Pathway (IP)

Fellowship training and education is self-funded. For those not eligible for Commonwealth funding.



To find out more about the differences between each funding option, refer to the [ACRRM Fellowship Program Funding Comparison](#).

Eligibility overview





Eligibility

Eligibility for ACRRM Fellowship program is determined by your citizenship or residency status, medical qualification and medical registration. All applicants must have Australian Medical Council (AMC) recognised medical qualifications to be eligible for training.

Citizenship details

Applicants must provide details and documentation of their current Australian or New Zealand residency status. New Zealand permanent residents are required to have a valid Australian working visa.

Temporary visas

ACRRM will accept 820 and TSS 482, 457, 491, 494 visa subclass holders with the addition of

- A statutory declaration before close of applications stating your intent to become a permanent resident in Australia by the completion Fellowship or
- Provide proof of an active Australian permanent residency application before applications close or
- Gain Australian permanent residency before completion of ACRRM Fellowship program.

If permanent residency is not obtained, ACRRM may withhold the registrar's certificate of completion and, if applicable, withdraw the registrar from the program.

Note: Subclass 408 Temporary activity visa holder are not eligible to apply.

For additional information on visa conditions and restrictions, please refer to the Department of Home Affairs website at homeaffairs.gov.au.

Ten-year moratorium

Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act 1973 (the Act) applies to some medical practitioners seeking to practice in Australia, including International Medical Graduates (IMGs) and foreign graduates of an accredited medical school (FGAMS).

The Act restricts access to Medicare benefits and requires these doctors to work in a distribution priority area (for General Practitioners) or a district of workforce shortage (for specialists) for a minimum period of ten years in order to access Medicare arrangements. These restrictions are referred to in this guide as a moratorium.

Section 19AB applies for a minimum period of ten years from the date a doctor first gains medical registration in Australia, which includes provisional or limited registration. The moratorium concludes at the ten-year mark, provided the doctor is a permanent resident or citizen of Australia.

The moratorium will otherwise continue for a temporary resident, until such time as they become a permanent resident or citizen of Australia.

Doctors who are subject to Section 19AB must train on the rural pathway. All ACRRM training positions are on the rural pathway and registrars must undertake all their training in rural and remote areas of Australia (defined as Modified Monash (MM) 2-7). The MM model classification for any given area can be found by using the locator tool on the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care website health.gov.au.

New Zealand doctors who obtained their primary medical qualification from an accredited Australian or New Zealand university and were either a permanent resident or citizen of New Zealand from the date of enrolment for that qualification, are not subject to Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act 1973.

Applicants wanting to apply for an exemption or are unsure about their moratorium status should contact the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care at 19AB@health.gov.au or search '19AB' at health.gov.au.



Moratorium scaling

Moratorium scaling is a non-cash incentive offering IMGs and FGAMS the opportunity to reduce their moratorium period by working in an eligible location and meeting a monthly Medicare billing threshold.

Further information on scaling is available at www.health.gov.au/topics/doctors-and-specialists/what-we-do/19ab/moratorium.

Applicants who believe they have received a scaling discount on their moratorium can check their revised end date through the Services Australia (previously known as the Department of Human Services) PRODA system at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/services/medicare/proda as the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care cannot provide this information.

Applicants requiring more detailed information about their individual circumstances in relation to Section 19AB, including eligibility and applications for an exemption, should contact the Australian Government Department of Health, Access Programs Section by emailing 19AB@health.gov.au.

Primary Medical Qualification

Applicants must provide the following details of their primary medical degree:

- country where degree was obtained
- university name
- final year of medical school.

Australian Medical Council (AMC) details

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) must provide details of their current AMC status. In order to be eligible, applicants must have completed the AMC requirements and received their certificate by the close of applications.

Medical Registration

Applicants must provide details of their current Australian medical registration status including any details of conditions and/or undertakings. To be eligible for ACRRM Fellowship, applicants accessing Commonwealth funding must hold, or expect to hold, General medical registration by the commencement of the training term. Applicants who currently hold provisional or limited registration can apply, however training offers for funded placements are conditional on receiving General registration before the commencement of training. If general registration is not received or expected by commencement of training, the applicant may be eligible for self-funded training (Independent Pathway). If applicants are unsure of their registration status, please contact the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra). Registrars are responsible for maintaining medical registration which enables them to remain on the ACRRM Fellowship program.

Medical registration with conditions and/or undertakings

If an applicant has, or anticipates having, conditions and/or undertakings on their medical registration at the commencement of training, they must upload

conditions/undertakings as part of their application. All applicants with conditions and/or undertakings on their medical registration are treated on a case-by-case basis and reviewed as per the Medical Restraints Process.

Applicants who have conditions and/or undertakings that prevent them from fully participating in training will be deemed ineligible. The College may require clarification regarding the conditions and/or undertakings from the Medical Board of Australia or the applicant.

If clarification cannot be obtained, then the application for entry will be deemed ineligible. If conditions and/or undertakings are set after the application has been submitted, applicants must contact the College and update their application. Applicants who do not disclose medical registration conditions and/or undertakings and obtain a position on the program may have their training place offer withdrawn.

Further information on the Medical Restraints Process is available at <https://bit.ly/medicalRegistrationConstraints>.

Further Conditions

Enrolment in other vocational training programs

Applicants must not be enrolled in another GP Training program in Australia at the time of application to RGTS or AGPT.

Applicants should also be aware:

- if you hold Fellowship of another GP college in Australia, you are not eligible to apply for Commonwealth-funded training
- deferral will not be approved to pursue other specialist training

- if you have accessed Commonwealth funding for GP training in the past, your eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants who are not eligible for funding can continue their application for self-funded training through the Independent Pathway.

Please contact the ACRRM member engagement team on **1800 223 226** or email selection@acrrm.org.au.



Contracts and Deeds of Agreement

Some contracts may affect an applicant's ability to fulfil their training requirements.

Applicants must include details of the contracts and/or agreement on the application, including:

- a contract of employment that will not cease before commencement of training
- a deed of agreement
- a former / current recipient of a scholarship.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss with the College if they are unsure whether the contract will impact their ability to meet training requirements.

Please contact the ACRRM training team on **1800 223 226** or via email at training@acrrm.org.au

Important Notices

1. From 2025, applicants will no longer be able to apply for or complete a Commonwealth-funded dual Fellowship with ACRRM and RACGP.
2. Registrars on a current GP Fellowship program are not permitted to apply for Commonwealth funded training.
3. There is no guarantee that applicants with conditions and / or undertakings attached to their medical registration will be employed by hospitals, training practices or other training posts, despite their eligibility for entry to the program.
4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants may select whether they wish to identify as a doctor of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin and may be eligible to join the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA).
5. Australian Defense Force (ADF) applicants applying for the program are required to:
 - confirm they are a full-time serving ADF member
 - provide their service (i.e. Navy/Army/Air Force)
 - notify the ADF Medical Officer Professional and Career Development Committee (MOPCDC) Secretariat of their intention to apply for the program by emailing mopcdc.secretariat@defence.gov.au. ADF applicants are required to nominate training region preferences in the region they expect to be posted to from commencement of training. Applicants who cease full-time service in the ADF before commencement of training will be processed as a non-ADF applicant.

Application and selection process

The ACRRM Fellowship application and selection process is designed to ensure we have the right doctors, in the right places, with the right skills to provide rural and remote communities with excellent healthcare.

There are four intake cycles per year, enabling applicants to apply for a training position with ACRRM throughout the year.

The application and selection process for ACRRM Fellowship includes the following steps:



Selection criteria

To ensure we put the right doctors in the right places, ACRRM is looking for and selects applicants for entry into the Fellowship program based on the following criteria:

- demonstrated commitment to a career as a specialist general practitioner working in rural or remote Australia;
- demonstrated capacity to work with required skills and enthusiasm to gain required competence in the ACRRM domains of practice;
- rural background / sense of place and commitment to community;
- rural training exposure and demonstrated interest in rural health and rural careers;
- interest in procedural medicine and/or comprehensive advanced scope practice;
- personal qualities associated with self-reliance and clinical resilience.

You should address these criteria in your written suitability assessment and interviews.

Online Application

You can apply on the ACRRM website new.apply.acrrm.org.au where you will be guided through the application process.

Make sure you have checked your eligibility and have your supporting documentation ready (see page 10).

Referees

You are required to supply the names and contact details of two referees. Referees are provided with a short online survey to complete and must be able to confidently judge your:

- current skills and abilities
- experience and work performance
- suitability for training based on the selection criteria.

Your referees should be medical practitioners who have directly supervised you for a period of four weeks or longer within the past three years.

Suitable referees may include:

- Staff specialist
- Medical superintendent
- Visiting Medical Officer (VMO)
- General Practitioner

Suitability Assessment

The suitability assessment requires you to answer five essay-style questions by stating how your interests and experience directly relate to the selection criteria.

This is an important assessment piece which is graded and used to shortlist applicants for the final stage of the selection process.

It is important to note there is a minimum 250-word count for each question.

Multiple Mini Interviews

Applicants who have successfully been shortlisted following the suitability assessment stage are invited to attend Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs). MMIs are a series of six short interviews where applicants have two minutes to read a scenario followed by eight minutes to respond.

The questions are designed to allow applicants to display their ability to think logically about a topic and communicate ideas and understanding effectively. Applicants can prepare for MMIs by reading the selection criteria and relating their experiences to the key elements of the selection criteria.

Questions?

For questions on application and selection, contact the member engagement team on **1800 223 226** or by emailing selection@acrrm.org.au.



Supporting documentation

As part of your application, you are required to upload clear, colour original scans or photographs of your supporting documentation. If your documents are in black and white they must be certified by an authorised officer (see below).

Documents certified by medical practitioners will not be accepted.

Certification requirements

Only documents certified correctly within 18 months of submitting your application can be accepted. Authorised certification officers:

- Justice of the Peace (JP)
- Commissioner for Affidavits or
- Declarations or Oaths
- Bank Manager or Credit Union Branch
- Manager
- Judge of the Court
- Police Officer (all ranks)
- Physiotherapist*
- Optometrist*
- Pharmacist*
- Clerk of the Court
- Barrister or Solicitor
- Postal Manager
- Dentist*
- Chiropractor*
- Australian Consular Officers.

* Certification must include their registration number.

The authorised officer must certify each document by writing: 'I certify this is a true and full copy of the original document sighted by me'. All certifying officers must also include:

- signature (on same page as statement)
- full name
- contact telephone number
- profession or occupation (including Ahpra registration number, if applicable)
- date certified
- the certifying officers must be citizens of Australia or New Zealand and currently reside in Australia or New Zealand. Documents certified outside Australia or New Zealand will only be accepted if they are certified by an officer at the Australian Consulate
- photocopies of certified copies will not be accepted
- double-sided documents must be certified on both sides.

Note: Documents without all mandatory details written by the certifying officer will not be accepted and applicants will be required to resubmit newly certified documents.

Previously certified documents

While it is recognised that some birth certificates or university degrees have been certified by a Births, Deaths and Marriage registrar or an official at the university at the time of printing, this does not constitute full certification.

Upon request, applicants who submit documents without certification from an authorised officer is required to resubmit newly certified supporting documents and their application will not progress until the documents are received.

The College reserves the right to request any documents be certified by an authorised officer for verification. Applicants who upon request do not produce correctly certified copies of their supporting documents may be deemed ineligible.

Mandatory Documents

Applications for entry to the training program are only considered complete when the online application is submitted before the application close date.

All mandatory documents are to be submitted correctly and certified in full, if required.

1. Recent colour photo

Applicants must provide a recent photograph taken within the past 12 months of their head and shoulders facing the camera. If applicants do not have a digital photo to upload they will be unable to submit their online application.

The photo must be in a compatible format: JPG, JPEG, PDF, PNG or GIF and:

- must be in full colour, sharp and sufficiently detailed to be identifiable
- must be less than 12 months old
- must be of the applicant's head and shoulders only
- must be looking directly at the camera

Photos cropped from official documents, e.g. copies of passports or driver licenses, will not be accepted.

2. Proof of photo identification

Applicants must provide a clear, colour, original scan or photograph of one of the following:

- Australian passport (current or expired by up to two years)
- International passport
- Australian drivers license or proof of age card.

3. Evidence of current residency status

Applicants must have Australian permanent residency, or citizenship of Australia or New Zealand. Applicants who were born overseas and obtained their primary medical degree in Australia or New Zealand may be eligible to apply with Australian temporary residency. Refer to the information related to temporary visa holder applicants in this document.

New Zealand permanent residents will be assessed on their current Australian visa.

All New Zealand permanent residents must have a valid Australian visa allowing them to work in Australia.

New Zealand citizens are granted a Special Category Visa (SCV). The SCV allows a New Zealand citizen to live, work or study in Australia lawfully as long as that person remains a New Zealand citizen.

More information is available from the Department of Home Affairs by searching '444' at

immi.homeaffairs.gov.au

Applicants must provide a clear, colour, original scan or photograph of one of the following:

- Australian / New Zealand citizenship certificate
- current Australian / New Zealand passport
- current international passport with Australian permanent residency visa label
- visa grant letter from the Department of Home Affairs confirming permanent residency status (must be accompanied by original scan of current international passport)
- Australian birth certificate
- New Zealand birth certificate.

Documents to be uploaded, if applicable:

1. Evidence of name change

If an applicant's name is stated differently across their mandatory documents, applicants must provide a clear, colour, original scan or photograph of one of the following:

- marriage certificate (if original is not in English, both original and English translation required)
- deed poll
- name change certificate
- statutory declaration stating your known names are of the same person.

2. Pathway to Medical Registration

An International Medical Graduate (IMG) who obtained their primary medical degree from a university outside of Australia or New Zealand and who is currently on limited or provisional registration must provide one of the following:

- AMC Certificate
- Competent Authority Pathway 12-month supervision assessment letter*

*If the applicant completed the Competent Authority Pathway and currently holds general registration, no further documentation is required.

3. Evidence of active Australian permanent residency application or intention to apply for permanent residency

An overseas-born applicant who enrolled in and / or obtained their primary medical qualification in Australia or New Zealand, whilst a temporary resident must provide a clear, colour, original scan of the statutory declaration of intention to become an Australian permanent resident prior to the completion of training and active Australian permanent residency application with the Department of Home Affairs.

4. Temporary Visa Holders: Temporary Skills Shortage (TSS) 482, 457, 491 and 494

If an applicant currently holds a temporary visa subclass TSS 482, 457, 491 or 494 and gained their primary medical degree in Australia or New Zealand, ACRRM will assess the application on the understanding that the applicant will only be considered if the applicant:

- submits a statutory declaration before close of applications, stating their intent to become a permanent resident in Australia by the completion of the RGTS or AGPT, or
- provides proof of an active Australian permanent residency application before close of applications, or
- gains Australian permanent residency before close of applications.



Other avenues to Fellowship

If you are an International Medical Graduate, have extensive experience as a GP, or hold recognised Canadian or New Zealand specialist qualifications, you could achieve Fellowship with ACRRM through an alternative avenue.

Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS)

Application and selection is managed by RVTS. For more information on eligibility, visit acrrm.org.au/rvts.

Rural Experienced Entry to Fellowship (REEF)

REEF is designed for doctors who hold specialist registration in general practice in Australia. REEF recognises your existing skills and experience and provides you with an accelerated option to achieve Fellowship with ACRRM.

Eligibility & Applying

If you hold specialist registration with the Medical Board of Australia in general practice and have gained five years rural experience following specialist registration, you may be eligible.

For more information on eligibility or applying, visit acrrm.org.au/reef.

Specialist Pathway

Specialist Pathway is a Fellowship avenue for International Medical Graduates, who hold recognised overseas General Practice qualifications.

Eligibility & Applying

If you have achieved Fellowship from one of the colleges on the codified list, you may be eligible. For more information on this Fellowship avenue, eligibility or applying, visit acrrm.org.au/specialist-pathway.

ACRRM membership

ACRRM members have one thing in common - a desire to See More, Do More and Be More.

With a membership type to suit all stages of your career, join today to access a range of member benefits to equip you with the specialised skills and knowledge you need to confidently provide world-leading rural and remote healthcare, including;

- professional development
- advocacy
- resources
- networking opportunities

Join today: acrrm.org.au/membership



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