

Flexible Funds Guidelines

Purpose

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine's (ACRRM's) Flexible Funds has been designed as part of the [National Consistent Payments Framework](#) (NCPF) to support training on the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) pathway.

These payments provide a mechanism to address specific needs to build capacity and support training in areas of workforce need, accommodate the requirements of the ACRRM Fellowship, and where appropriate the individual circumstances of its participants.

Flexible Funds provides payments additional to the scope and business rules of the [NCPF](#). The payments aim to recognise the additional costs of participating and delivering ACRRM training in a rural or remote community. As the College of Rural and Remote Medicine, our key goal is to encourage and support our registrars and training providers to deliver and undertake the quality training necessary to attain Fellowship of ACRRM (FACRRM).

Prioritisation for payments will consider factors such as the additional costs associated with training in rural and remote locations, supporting training capacity building in communities of need, and incentivising training in areas of significant workforce shortage. Professional development support for ACRRM supervisors may also be provided through this funding.

These guidelines provide information on the eligibility, scope, and payment type. For further details and information refer to the [Department of Health and Aged Care, NCP Framework and Guidelines 2022](#)

Eligibility

- ACRRM AGPT registrars, supervisors and training posts* are eligible to apply for flexible funds.
- ACRRM will determine the eligibility, priority and approval of flexible payments, taking consideration of the following:
 - MM location
 - Other payments provided within the training term or training year
 - The requirements of the training program at the time of application
 - Eligibility requirements for payment types
 - The amount and type of funding received/applied for from RACGP or other sources for AGPT support

** Hospital based training posts funded by federal, or state government are excluded under this payment framework.*

Payment Type

Registrar Flexible Funds

Flexible funds are available to eligible registrars to subsidise the costs for mandatory training requirements and in recognition of MM location to ensure additional costs associated with rural and remote placement and training delivery are supported.

ACRRM's flexible payments provide registrars, supervisors and training practices the benefit of additional financial support over and above the NCP direct payments.

Flexible payment includes:

- Advanced Specialised Training requirements - ie registration, enrolment, training and courses or equipment outlined in the relevant AST curriculum.
- Rural Incentive: placement support, housing support, wellbeing support, priority placement
- Supervisor allowances: mandatory training, professional development, additional supervision allowances
- Practice payments: Rural practice training and additional support

The table below defines the allowance, MM, eligibility criteria and scope under each category

Support type	MM	Eligibility and Scope
Advanced Specialised Training		
AST requirements	\$6000 per registrar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGPT Registrars undertaking accredited and approved AST training that has commenced after Jan 2023 Only one AST is funded Support cost of mandatory education and training to meet AST requirements Payment issued at the commencement of AST training upon verification of approved placement and signed declaration
Rural Incentive		
Rural Placement Support	MM 2 & 3: Nil MM 4: \$3,000 MM 5: \$4,500 MM 6 & 7: \$6,000	Rural Placement MM4-7 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel and Accommodation – Additional to NCP where there is a disadvantage (reimbursement) Rural, preplacement visit in an MM 4 – 7 location visits, including interview <i>Pre-approval application and supporting documentation required.</i>
Rurality Incentive	MM 2 & 3: Nil MM 4: \$3,000 MM 5: \$4,500 MM 6 & 7: \$6,000	Respite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Placement MM 4-7 Respite will provide costs for the registrar only and will be subject to a completion of minimum 3 months in the post Personal/professional isolation Medical Educator/Supervisor support <i>Application and supporting documentation detailing costs required.</i>
	\$1,000	Professional Psychological Support <i>Pre-approval application required</i>

Support type	MM	Eligibility and Scope
Housing support	50% of the weekly rental cost up to a max \$1,500 per month	<p>Eligible registrars in an MM 4-7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moving for the purpose of meeting training requirements ▪ Continuing to reside in the community to meet training requirements ▪ Identified area of workforce/need shortage ▪ Proximity to training placement. ▪ Supervisor support ▪ Rental agreement in registrar’s name <p>Paid monthly for the term of the approved placement on submission of a rental agreement.</p> <p><i>Application and supporting documentation detailing costs required</i></p>
Priority Placement	Up to \$5,000 per term	<p>Priority placements as outlined by GPWPP and endorsed by ACRRM data through priority matrixes and scoring.</p> <p>Priority placements may also be identified and endorsed by ACRRM for priority training needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relocation ▪ Additional housing costs ▪ Increased childcare costs ▪ Additional travel and training costs based on distance to training delivery ▪ Travel for personal health care delivery ▪ Increased living costs <p>These payments will be managed and approved by ACRRM for registrars training in a preapproved priority placement/area of workforce need</p> <p><i>Application and supporting documentation detailing costs (supervisor support) required</i></p>

Supervisor Flexible Funds

Flexible Funds are available to eligible supervisors to subsidise costs of additional supervision, professional development, education, and training and in recognition of the MM location to ensure additional costs associated with rural and remote supervision and training are supported as outlined in the table below:

The table below defines the allowance in an MM location in which a registrar is based and training and or maximum support payment type

Payment type	MM	Eligibility Criteria and Scope
Mandatory Training Support		
AST - work based formative assessment, progress reports	\$2,000 per term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-approved AST Supervisor for registrars actively undertaking AST training Required work-based assessment as per the AST curriculum Quarterly registrar progress reports (two per term) Agreement of services required Payment within 30 days of submission of invoice and verification of receipt of reports
Rural Training Support		
Travel and Accommodation	MM 2: \$500 MM 3 & 4: \$1,200 MM 5: \$1,500 MM 6 & 7: \$2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACRRM Accredited Supervisors Site visits for work-based assessment, accreditation, supervision as requested by ACRRM Reimbursed on submission of invoices or statutory declaration Payment within 30 days of submission of invoice and verification of receipt of reports
Professional Development	\$2,000 per annum per supervisor Maximum \$4,000 per year, per training practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACRRM Accredited/Approved GP Supervisors, with active registrar placement Provided to reimburse costs relating to maintaining minimum CPD requirements for accreditation <p><i>To be paid annually at end of semester</i></p>
Work based assessment / site visit	\$300 per activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACRRM Accredited Supervisors Upon request by ACRRM Payment within 30 days of submission of invoice and verification of receipt of reports
Remote Supervision Teaching Allowance	\$150 per hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACRRM Accredited and or Approved Remote Supervisors Pre-approved supervision agreement and teaching plan Hourly rate paid monthly in arrears as per approved supervision and teaching plan
Additional supervision/ teaching	\$150 per hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved Supervisor -additional supervision/ teaching/respite for registrars in difficulty - professional support Pre-approved teaching plan Hourly rate paid monthly in arrears as per approved supervision and teaching plan

Training Post* Flexible Funds

Flexible payments in this category are to support practices with the additional costs required for training of registrars in rural and remote general practice training posts.

These have been built around MM locations to ensure additional costs in rural and remote delivery are covered and that practices have capacity to train registrars.

Financial recognition for rurality and priority placements is incorporated into this category of payment.

** Training posts funded by federal and state funding will not be eligible for these payments.*

Support type	MM	Eligibility Criteria and Scope
Rural Practice Training Support	MM 2: \$3,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Defined and accredited priority placement/ area of workforce need ▪ Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment ▪ Training and education for staff ▪ Develop training capability and capacity ▪ Infrastructure ▪ Payment subject to prior approval of planned activities ▪ One off payment ▪ Post activity report and outcome required <p><i>Application and supporting documentation detailing costs required</i></p>
	MM 3 & 4: \$6,000	
	MM 5: \$10,000	
	MM 6 & 7: \$15,000	
Additional support allowance	MM 2: \$3,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approved practices providing additional supervision/ teaching/respice for registrars in difficulty - professional support ▪ ACRRM Approved Support Plan required ▪ One off payment per approved plan <p><i>Application and supporting documentation detailing costs required</i></p>
	MM 3 & 4: \$5,000	
	MM 5: \$6,500	
	MM 6 & 7: \$8,000	

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