

# ACRRM Flexible Funds Guidelines

## Purpose

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

These funds are only utilised to support active AGPT program participants during the four years full time training, or equivalent, of their progression through the Fellowship program. They 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 over and above 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 posts 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 supporting training capability building, 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](#) and [Flexible Funds policy](#).

## 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:
  - MMM 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



# Payment type

## Registrar Flexible Funds

Flexible funds are available to eligible registrars to subsidise the costs for Fellowship education and training requirements and in recognition of MMM 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:

- Support for Advanced Specialised Training requirements – i.e. registration, enrolment, training and courses or equipment outlined in the relevant AST curriculum.
- Rural Incentives: placement support, housing support, wellbeing, priority placement

The table below defines the allowance, MMM, eligibility criteria and scope of payments available under each category.

Unless otherwise stated, the detailed funding available is the maximum that can be applied for. If approved the amount of funding provided will be based on costs that have supporting documentation provided eg receipts.

Support type	MMM 1-7				Eligibility, Criteria and Scope
Advanced Specialised Training					
AST requirements	\$6,000 per registrar				<p>AGPT Registrars undertaking accredited and approved AST training (only one AST during progression through the Fellowship Program).</p> <p>Subsidises the cost of required education and training to meet AST requirements.</p> <p><i>One off automated payment occurring in Mar – Apr period in the year of commencement.</i></p> <p><i>Application required for all others</i></p>
Rurality Incentive					
Support type	MMM 1,2,3	MMM 4	MMM 5	MMM 6 & 7	Eligibility, Criteria and Scope
Rural Placement Support	Nil	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$6,000	<p>Maximum amount is per semester</p> <p>Rural Placement MMM4-7 including rural preplacement visit to an MMM 4 – 7 location</p>



					<p>e.g. interview, pre-placement familiarisation and orientation</p> <p>Applications for support for MMM1-3 locations may be submitted and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p><i>Application and supporting documentation required e.g. receipts.</i></p>
<b>Rurality Incentive</b>	Nil	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$6,000	<p>Maximum amount is per semester</p> <p><b>Relocation</b></p> <p>Subsidises the costs associated with relocating to MMM4-7 locations including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removalists</li> <li>• Cleaning</li> <li>• Utility disconnection / reconnection fees e.g. electricity / internet</li> <li>• Travel to new location</li> <li>• In transit accommodation</li> </ul> <p>If the placement is in an MMM4-7 location, however accommodation is unavailable i.e. due to cost, quantity or suitability, an application may be submitted for relocation support for accommodation in a nearby MMM3 location.</p> <p>Applications for support for MMM1-3 locations may be submitted and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p><i>Must be supported by letter / email from Supervisor and / or Practice Manager.</i></p> <p><b>Respite</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Placement MMM 4-7</li> <li>• Provides relief for the registrar from arduous or difficult working and / or living conditions.</li> <li>• Subsidises travel and accommodation for the registrar only.</li> <li>• Can occur once per semester.</li> <li>• Can occur after 3 months in the placement.</li> <li>• Only for domestic travel.</li> </ul> <p><i>Application and supporting documentation required e.g. receipts.</i></p>



		<p><b>Personal Health Care</b></p> <p>Support the travel and accommodation costs of the registrar's personal health care that is not available within the local community</p> <p><i>Application and supporting documentation required e.g. travel and accommodation receipts and evidence of medical appointment (excluding In-Confidence details)</i></p>
<b>Wellbeing support</b>	Up to \$1,000	<p><b>Professional Psychological Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of a single or a series of appointments from the service provider.</li> <li>• Maximum amount is per semester.</li> </ul> <p><i>Application and supporting documentation required e.g. receipts or a letter detailing support plan and cost from the service provider.</i></p>
<b>Housing support</b>	50% of the weekly rental cost up to a max \$1,500 per month	<p>Eligible registrars in an MMM 4-7 location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving for the purpose of training requirements</li> <li>• Proximity to training placement.</li> <li>• Rental agreement in registrar's name.</li> <li>• Details start and end dates</li> </ul> <p>The purchase of assets, and therefore the financial subsidisation of mortgages, are not supported.</p> <p>If the placement is in an MMM4-7 location however accommodation is unavailable, an application may be submitted for housing support for accommodation in a nearby MMM3 location.</p> <p><i>Must be supported by letter / email from Supervisor and / or Practice Manager.</i></p> <p>Applications for housing support in MMM1-3 locations may be submitted and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p><i>Must be supported by letter / email from Supervisor and / or Practice Manager.</i></p> <p>Paid monthly in arrears for the term of the approved placement on submission of a rental agreement which indicates:</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Period of rental agreement</li><li>• Registrar's name.</li></ul> <p><i>Application and rental agreement required.</i></p>
<b>Priority Placement</b>	up to \$5,000	<p>Maximum amount is per semester</p> <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 supporting additional costs above that available through rurality incentive. Including but not limited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relocation</li><li>• Living costs above that of regional average e.g. childcare, housing, fuel</li><li>• Additional travel and training costs based on distance to training delivery.</li><li>• Travel for registrar's personal health care delivery.</li></ul> <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 required e.g. receipts.</i></p>
<b>Workforce placement initiative</b>	\$20,000	<p>Financial initiative paid to registrars in identified communities to support the recruitment and retention of registrars.</p> <p>Targeted communities are outlined by GPWPP and endorsed by ACRRM data through priority matrixes and scoring.</p> <p>Communities are reviewed bi-annually aligning with placement cycles and listed below.</p> <p><i>One off automated payment in semesters 2025.1 and 2025.2</i></p>



## Targeted Communities

NOTE: these communities will be reviewed at each placement round to ensure data is accurate and funds can be distributed in an equitable manner.

### **New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory**

Merimbula

Coonabarabran

South East Regional

(specific locations)

Inverell

Narrabri

Manilla

Cootamundra

Wellington

### **South Australia**

Northern Catchment Zone

(Jamestown, Orroroo, Peterborough)

Loxton

Mannum

Karoonda

Walkerie

Kangaroo Island

Kapunda

### **Queensland**

Bowen

Mossman

Ravenshoe

Cloncurry

Kingaroy

Chinchilla

Charters Towers

### **Northern Territory**

Wadeye

Groote Eylandt

Jabiru

South Goulburn Island

(Waruwi)

Gove/Nhulunbuy

Alice Springs region

(specific locations)

### **Tasmania**

Bass Strait Islands

Swansea

St Helens

Burnie

Smithton

Scottsdale

Dover

Geeveston

### **Western Australia**

Derby

Manjimup

Kalgoorie

Karratha

Port Hedland

Moora

Denmark

### **Victoria**

Omeo

Orbost

Corryong

Beechworth

Terang

Cobram

Kyabram



## 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 MMM 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 MMM location in which a registrar is based and training and/or maximum support payment type.

Unless otherwise stated, the detailed funding available is the maximum that can be applied for. If approved the amount of funding provided will be based on costs that have supporting documentation provided eg receipts.

Payment Type	MMM 1 & 2	MMM 3 & 4	MMM 5	MMM 6 & 7	Eligibility Criteria and Scope
<b>Mandatory Training Support</b>					
<b>AST - work based formative assessment, progress reports</b>	\$2,000				<p>Maximum amount is per semester</p> <p>Pre-approved AST Supervisor for registrars actively undertaking AST training.</p> <p>Required work-based assessment as per the AST curriculum.</p> <p>Quarterly registrar progress reports (two per term).</p> <p>Payment made within 30 days of submission of invoice and verification of receipt of reports.</p>
<b>Rural Training Support</b>					
Payment Type	MMM 1 & 2	MMM 3 & 4	MMM 5	MMM 6 & 7	Eligibility, Criteria and Scope
<b>Travel and Accommodation</b>	\$500	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$2,000	<p>Maximum amount is per semester</p> <p>ACRRM Accredited Supervisors.</p> <p>Site visits for work-based assessment, accreditation, supervision as requested by ACRRM.</p> <p>Reimbursed on submission of invoices, receipts, or statutory declaration.</p>



		Payment made within 30 days of submission of invoice and verification of receipt of reports.
<b>Professional Development</b>	\$2,000 per annum per supervisor	<p>ACRRM accredited Supervisor as per the registrar's Placement Confirmation Form, with active AGPT registrar placement.</p> <p>Provided to reimburse costs relating to maintaining minimum supervisor CPD requirements for accreditation.</p> <p><i>No application required</i></p> <p><i>Paid in arrears in June of each year for Supervisors of AGPT registrars in placements during that financial year.</i></p>
<b>Work based assessment /site visit</b>	\$300 per activity	<p>ACRRM Accredited Supervisors.</p> <p>Upon request by ACRRM.</p> <p>Payment made within 30days of submission of invoice and verification of receipt of reports.</p>
<b>Remote Supervision Teaching Allowance</b>	\$150phr	<p>ACRRM Accredited and/or Approved Remote Supervisors.</p> <p>Pre-approved supervision agreement and teaching plan jointly developed with an ACRRM Medical Educator.</p> <p>Hourly rate paid monthly in arrears as per approved supervision and teaching plan jointly developed with an ACRRM Medical Educator.</p>
<b>Additional supervision/teaching</b>	Up to \$150phr with a maximum of \$3,000	<p>Approved Supervisor - additional supervision/ teaching for registrars in difficulty - professional support.</p> <p>Pre-approved teaching plan.</p> <p>\$150 hourly rate paid monthly in arrears as per approved supervision and teaching plan jointly developed with an ACRRM Medical Educator.</p>





## Training Post Flexible Funds

Flexible payments in this category are to support training posts with the additional costs required for training of registrars in rural and remote general practice settings. These have been built around MMM 2-7 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.

Unless otherwise stated, the detailed funding available is the maximum that can be applied for. If approved the amount of funding provided will be based on costs that have supporting documentation provided eg receipts, quotes.

Support type	MMM 2	MMM 3 & 4	MMM 5	MMM 6 & 7	Eligibility, Criteria and Scope
<b>Rural Practice Training Support</b>	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	<p>Maximum amount is per semester</p> <p>Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Professional development, training and education for staff including additional supervisors.</li> <li>• Develop training capability and capacity.</li> <li>• Infrastructure</li> </ul> <p><i>Not available for State or Federally funded training posts)</i></p>
<b>Additional support allowance</b>	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$8,000	<p>Maximum amount is per semester.</p> <p>Approved training post providing additional supervision/ teaching/respice for registrars in difficulty - professional support.</p> <p>ACRRM-approved Support Plan required jointly developed with an ACRRM Medical Educator.</p> <p>One off payment per approved plan.</p>