ACRRM Flexible Funds Guidelines

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)'s Flexible Funding has been designed as part of the National Consistent Payments (NCP) Framework to support training on the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) pathway. Flexible Funds provides payments over and above the scope of the NCP Framework for ACRRM registrars, supervisors and training posts. 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). These guidelines provide information on the eligibility, scope and payment types. For further details and information refer to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing NCP Framework and Guidelines, and ACRRM's Flexible Funds policy.

Eligibility

Funding is available to approved ACRRM AGPT program participants.

Claimants are responsible for ensuring that all submitted claims are completed accurately, signed, and accompanied by the required supporting evidence.

Funding will be allocated to the semester in which the expense was/will be incurred, except for relocation expenses for registrars which will be allocated to the relevant semester.

For any questions about training related costs in MMM 1-3 approved placements not addressed in these guidelines, please submit a general enquiry to your regional training team for advice.

Exclusions

Funding cannot be used to cover costs incurred by partners, spouses, dependants, other family members or the relocation of pets unless specifically stated in a flexible funds category.

Funding is not available to cover loss of income.

Funding is not available for the purchase or development of assets unless specifically stated in a flexible funds category.

Payments and claims will not be paid where funding for the same activity has already been provided, or will be provided, by another entity.

Application outcomes relating to previous versions of the Flexible Funds Guidelines are not relevant to decisions made under these Guidelines.

Any pre-approved arrangements will continue to be honoured.

Applications that are incomplete or are not accompanied by all required documentation and supporting evidence at the time of submission will lapse if the outstanding documentation and evidence are not provided within three months of the initial application date.

Payment type

Registrar Flexible Funds

Flexible funds are available to eligible AGPT registrars to subsidise the costs for Fellowship education and training requirements, and in recognition of MMM locations to ensure additional costs associated with rural and remote placement and training delivery are supported. These funds are only utilised to support active AGPT registrars during the **208 weeks** full time training, or equivalent, of their progression through the ACRRM Rural Generalist Fellowship program. The table below defines the allowance, MMM, eligibility criteria and scope of payments available under each support type.

Unless otherwise stated, the detailed funding available is the maximum that can be applied for per semester. If approved, the amount of funding provided will be based on costs that have supporting documentation provided except for personal vehicle travel costs, where Australian Taxation Office (ATO) approved rates can be applied.

Support type	MMM 1-7	Eligibility, Criteria and Scope
AST Requirements	$6,000 per registrar	AGPT Registrars undertaking accredited and approved AST training paid for the first AST during progression through the 208 weeks of the Fellowship Program. Subsidises the cost of required education and training to meet AST requirements, including registration, enrolment, training and courses or equipment outlined in the relevant AST curriculum. **No application is required.** An automated payment will be processed at the end of the semester that the AST was commenced.

Support type	MMM 1-3	MMM 4	MMM 5	MMM 6-7	Eligibility, Criteria and Scope
Rural Placement Support	Nil	$3,000	$4,500	$6,000	A rural preplacement visit to an MMM 4-7 location for an interview, pre-placement familiarisation and orientation. Payment covers costs associated with transport and accommodation. **Application is required.** **Supporting documentation required:** - Receipts

Support type	MMM 1-3	MMM 4	MMM 5	MMM 6-7	Eligibility, Criteria and Scope
Rurality Incentive	Nil	$3,000	$4,500	$6,000	**The value of support available per MMM is the total amount that can be claimed across the three subsections below per semester.** **(A) Relocation** Subsidises the costs associated with relocating to MMM 4-7 locations for • Removalists • Cleaning • Utility disconnection / reconnection • Travel to new location • In transit accommodation Placements must be for 3 months or longer. If the placement is in an MMM 4-7 location, but suitable accommodation is unavailable (for example, due to limited availability), an application can be submitted for relocation support to secure accommodation in a nearby MMM 3 location. Such applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at ACRRM's discretion, and approval is not guaranteed. AST relocations: • Relocations required to meet training requirements for AST placements unavailable in the registrar's current state will be considered on a case-by-case basis, irrespective of MMM classification. Such applications will be assessed at ACRRM's discretion, and approval is not guaranteed. • Exceptional circumstances: Applications that fall outside the published eligibility criteria can be considered where a registrar is required to relocate to meet mandatory AST training requirements and the placement location is determined by training availability. Such applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at ACRRM's discretion, and approval is not guaranteed. Please see

supporting documentation requirements below.

Application is required.

Supporting documentation required:

- Receipts

- For relocation to MMM 3 locations where accommodation in MMM 4-7 communities is unavailable: letter/email from Supervisor and/or Practice Manager

- For claims related to ASTs: letter from the relevant ACRRM Regional Director of Training

- For exceptional circumstances related to AST claims: A letter of support from the relevant Regional Director of Training confirming that the relocation is required to meet mandatory training requirements and that suitable alternative placements were not available.

(B) Respite

Available for approved placements in MMM 4-7 for relief from arduous working and/or living conditions.

Subsidises travel and accommodation.

Only for domestic travel.

Paid respite is available after 3 months in an approved placement.

Paid respite will be eligible once per semester.

Application is required.

Supporting documentation required:

- Receipts

- A statement explaining why the working and/or living conditions are arduous.

					(C) Medical Care Support the travel and accommodation costs of the registrar's medical care that is not available within the local community. Available for approved placements in MMM 4-7. **Application is required.** **Supporting documentation required:** - Receipts - Evidence of medical appointment (excluding in-confidence details)
Support type	**MMM 1-3**	**MMM 4**	**MMM 5**	**MMM 6-7**	**Eligibility, Criteria and Scope**
Remote Training Cost Support	Nil	Nil	Nil	$5,000	Supports additional travel and accommodation costs incurred by registrars in **MMM 6-7** locations to attend required education and training activities where distance results in significantly higher costs. **Application is required.** **Supporting documentation required:** - Receipts
Support type	**MMM 1-7**				**Eligibility, Criteria and Scope**
Wellbeing Support	$1,000				Covering professional psychological support. **Application is required.** **Supporting documentation required:** - Evidence of a single or a series of appointments from the service provider. - Receipts or a letter detailing a support plan and cost from the service provider.
Support type	**MMM 4-7**				**Eligibility, Criteria and Scope**
Housing Support	50% of the weekly rental cost up to a max $1,500 per month				Eligible registrars in an MMM 4-7 location moving for the purpose of training requirements. Placements must be for 3 months or longer.

		If the placement is in an MMM 4-7 location, but suitable accommodation is unavailable (for example, due to limited availability), an application can be submitted for housing support to secure accommodation in a nearby MMM 3 location. Such applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at ACRRM's discretion, and approval is not guaranteed. A person who is a spouse or partner (as legally recognised under applicable Australian law), or a child under the age of 18 of the registrar, who ordinarily resides with the registrar and is financially dependent on the registrar is supported if residing at the same residence. The purchase of assets, and therefore the financial subsidisation of mortgages, are not supported. Paid monthly in arrears for the term of the approved placement. **Application is required.** **Supporting documentation required:** - Rental agreement in registrar's name that lists the start and end date. - For relocation to MMM 3 locations where accommodation in MMM 4-7 communities is unavailable, a letter/email from the Supervisor and/or Practice Manager.
Support type	**Refer to Priority Placements table in this document**	**Eligibility, Criteria and Scope**
Priority Placement	$5,000	Provides additional costs above that available through rurality incentives for priority placements. Priority placements are identified and endorsed by ACRRM for priority training needs. The maximum amount is the total amount that can be claimed across the two subsections below. **The rurality incentives outlined elsewhere in these guidelines must be exhausted**

before priority placement applications will be considered.

Please refer to the list of locations in the Priority Placements table in this document.

(A) Relocation

Subsidises the costs associated with relocating to and from priority placement locations for

- Removalists
- Cleaning
- Utility disconnection / reconnection fees
- Travel to new location
- In transit accommodation

Placements must be for 3 months or longer.

Relocations required to meet training requirements for AST placements will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such applications will be assessed at ACRRM's discretion, and approval is not guaranteed.

Application is required.

Supporting documentation required:

- Receipts

- For claims related to ASTs: letter from the relevant ACRRM Regional Director of Training.

(B) Medical Care

Support the travel and accommodation costs of the registrar's medical care that is not available within the local community.

Application is required.

Supporting documentation required:

- Receipts

- Evidence of medical appointment (excluding in-confidence details)

Priority Placements

Priority placements have been identified by ACRRM, informed by evidence including the DHDA GP National Assessment Tool (NAT) and the Regional GP Workforce Prioritisation and Planning (WPP) Reports.

NSW & ACT

Cobar
Condobolin
Coonabarabran
Cootamundra
Crookwell
Glen Innes
Moree
Macksville

QLD

Allora
Boonah
Bowen
Collinsville
Millmerran
Murgon – Cherbourg
Cloncurry
Clermont

NT

Alice Springs region (including specific locations outside of Alice Springs Township – please discuss with your regional NT team)
Gove / Nhulunbuy / Groote Eylandt (Arnhem Lands)
Jabiru
Palumpa / Peppimentarti / Wadeye
South Goulburn Island (Warruwi)
Tiwi Island

SA

Jamestown
Kangaroo Island
Loxton
Millicent
Port Lincoln
Tumby Bay
Waikerie
Whyalla

VIC

Ararat
Cobram
Kerang
Lakes Entrance
Mallacoota
Swan Hill
Timboon-Cobden

TAS

Bass Strait Islands – Currie & Whitemark
Dover
East Coast Health – Triabunna & Bicheno
Queenstown
Scottsdale
Smithton
St Helens
Swansea

WA

Dallwallinu
Esperance
Katanning
Narrogin
Norseman

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 for the MMM location of the registrar placement and/or maximum support payment type.

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

Support Type	MMM 1-7	Eligibility, Criteria and Scope
Primary Care Training (PCT) Supervisor Capacity Payment	$5,000 MMM 2-7 locations or MMM 1-7 for placements at an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS) or Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS)	The PCT Supervisor Capacity Payment is available to ACRRM-accredited Supervisors who support a registrar undertaking their first primary care placement in the ACRRM Fellowship Training Program at an ACRRM-accredited training post. It is payable once per registrar without requiring evidence of additional work or expenditure and will operate as a time-limited trial until the end of 2027. Supervisors will only receive payment for part-time registrars undertaking their first PCT semester, with no payments made for subsequent semesters. **No application is required.** An automated payment will be processed week 6 of each semester.

Support Type	MMM 1-7	Eligibility, Criteria and Scope
AST: Work based Formative Assessment and Progress Reports	$2,000 MMM 1-7	Provides the financial support to supervisors for ongoing supervision of registrars completing their first AST for the 12 months of the AST (24 months for Surgery) **Application is required.**

					Supporting documentation required: - Work-based assessment as per the AST curriculum. - Quarterly registrar progress reports (two per term). - Invoices
Support Type	**MMM 1-2**	**MMM 3-4**	**MMM 5**	**MMM 6-7**	**Eligibility, Criteria and Scope**
Travel and Accommodation	$500	$1,200	$1,500	$2,000	Paid to accredited ACRRM supervisors for site visits to conduct work-based assessment, accreditation or supervision as requested by ACRRM. **Application is required.** **Supporting documentation required:** - Invoices, receipts or statutory declaration.
Support Type	**MMM 1-7**				**Eligibility, Criteria and Scope**
Professional Development	$2,000 per annum per supervisor				Paid to active supervisors who were at a Training Post that hosted an active AGPT registrar placement. Provided to reimburse costs relating to maintaining minimum supervisor CPD requirements for accreditation. **No application is required.** An automated payment will be processed at the end of each financial year.
Support Type	**MMM 1-7**				**Eligibility, Criteria and Scope**
Work Based Assessment/Site Visit	$300 per activity				Paid to accredited ACRRM supervisors for conducting work-based assessment, accreditation or supervision as requested by ACRRM. **Application is required.**

		Supporting documentation required: - Invoices - Reports
Support Type	**MMM 1-7**	**Eligibility, Criteria and Scope**
Remote Supervision Teaching Allowance	$150phr	Paid to an ACRRM Accredited and/or Approved Remote Supervisor. Hourly rate paid monthly in arrears per approved supervision and teaching plan jointly developed with an ACRRM Medical Educator. **Application is required.** **Supporting documentation required:** - Pre-approved supervision agreement and teaching plan jointly developed with an ACRRM Medical Educator.
Support Type	**MMM 1-7**	**Eligibility, Criteria and Scope**
Additional Supervision/ Teaching	Up to $150/hr with a maximum of $3,000	Paid to an approved Supervisor for the additional supervision/teaching related to registrars in difficulty and requiring additional support. $150 hourly rate paid monthly in arrears as per approved supervision and teaching plan **Application is required.** **Supporting documentation required:** - Pre-approved supervision agreement and teaching plan jointly developed with an ACRRM Medical Educator.

Training Post Flexible Funds

Flexible payments in this category support training posts by covering the additional costs of training in MMM 2-7 rural and remote general practice settings, helping practices maintain the capacity and capability to train registrars. Financial recognition for rurality and priority placements is incorporated. Unless otherwise stated, the detailed funding available is the maximum that can be applied for per semester. Training posts receiving federal or state funding are not eligible to receive Flexible Funds.

Support type	MMM 2	MMM 3-4	MMM 5	MMM 6-7	Eligibility, Criteria and Scope
Rural Practice Training Support	$3,000	$6,000	$10,000	$15,000	Limited to: - Recruitment activities - Professional development, training and education for staff including additional supervisors - IT equipment and software to support a registrar - Develop or increase the training capability/capacity of the training post. - Minor infrastructure Excludes asset development. Training Posts must have had an ACRRM registrar within the past three years. Posts accredited in the last 24 months are exempt. **Application is required.** **Supporting documentation required:** - Receipts and quotes

Support type	MMM 2	MMM 3-4	MMM 5	MMM 6-7	Eligibility, Criteria and Scope
Additional Support Allowance	$3,500	$5,000	$6,500	$8,000	Paid to approved training post for additional supervision/ teaching/respite for registrars in difficulty. One payment per plan. **Application is required.** **Supporting documentation required:** - ACRRM-approved Support Plan jointly developed with an ACRRM Medical Educator.