

AST ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH

This information sheet is designed to give a short summary of requirements for the AST in First Nations Health.

Full curriculum, competencies, assessments and requirements for training posts can be found in detail in the [AST Handbook Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health](#) and the ACRRM [Handbook for Fellowship Assessment](#). These resources should be referenced prior to making an application to be an ACRRM accredited training post.

ACRRM has many supports available for both registrars and supervisors, including online learning resources, access to medical educators and mentorship.

If you have any enquiries please contact your allocated Training Program Advisor or [ACRRM Training Team in your state](#).

Training Sites	<p>Training must take place in an ACRRM AST accredited post, or combination of posts, that have the caseload and teaching capacity to provide appropriate conditions to meet the curriculum requirements of the AST.</p> <p>Training would normally take place in rural or remote Australia, and other locations may be considered on a case by case basis – see AST Handbook Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health for further details.</p>
Supervision	<p>AST registrars will require specific medical, cultural, professional, and personal support and supervision arrangements. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Specialist Principal supervisor must be nominated, who is overall responsible for the clinical and educational supervision of the registrar. Additional supervisors may be nominated to assist with supervision and leave coverage. The specialist supervisor will have substantial experience in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health and ideally an understanding and experience of working in the community controlled sector. • An Academic supervisor with an academic tertiary qualification and who may have a medical qualification must also be nominated to assist with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health project. • A Cultural mentor - to advise the registrar on cultural issues and support them in exploring and understanding the cross-cultural, political and community-controlled context. A local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander health worker, an elder, or a community person will fulfill this important role, and it is strongly recommended that cultural mentors are provided appropriate support and remuneration to fulfill this important role. <p>The Supervisor and Training Post Standards has further details on supervisor requirements.</p>
Trainee Eligibility	<p>Satisfactory completion of 12 months Core Generalist Training component of ACRRM Fellowship training (PGY2+) or PGY3 for those doctors not in Fellowship training. Candidates should have attained core generalist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health competencies, knowledge and skills, as outlined in the Rural Generalist Curriculum.</p>
Suggested Prerequisites	<p>Strongly recommended to be completed as the final year of ACRRM Fellowship training or PGY5+. Prior experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities or groups is strongly recommended.</p>
Training Time	<p>Minimum 12 months full time (FTE) or equivalent part time training at no less than 0.5 FTE. The 12 months (FTE) is generally spent working full time in the Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS). At a minimum, 0.8 FTE must be spent undertaking tasks in the AMS and a maximum of 0.2 FTE spent undertaking work related to the project.</p>
Education	<p>Average minimum of four hours of protected teaching time per week should be spent engaged in educational activities related to the AST – see ACRRM Supervisor Guide. The education program hours should be additional to the project work time.</p> <p>A record of education must be kept by the registrar and discussed with the Supervisor and ACRRM Medical Educator regularly throughout training.</p>
Required Courses	<p>Registrars will supplement their learning by completing courses including ACRRM online courses with content relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.</p> <p>Refer to the AST Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Handbook for list of recommended modules.</p>
Encouraged Courses	<p>Registrars are encouraged to consider working towards related academic qualifications while undertaking their AST.</p> <p>Refer to the AST Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Handbook</p>
Required Competencies	<p>Advanced Specialised Training competencies are outlined in the AST Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Handbook and Rural Generalist Curriculum.</p>
Scope of Practice	<p>The AST Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Handbook refers to the specific credentials registrars may hold</p>
Onsite Assessments See ACRRM Assessment Handbook	<p>Registrars must submit to ACRRM the following:</p> <p>Four Supervisor reports: Plan and Progress Report Advanced Specialised Training should be completed by the registrar and supervisor every three months.</p> <p>Three Academic Supervisor reports: AST Project Academic Supervisor Report at project proposal, mid-project and at completed project stages</p> <p>Five miniCEXs conducted by specialist supervisor</p> <p>Five Case Based Discussions (CBDs) with Specialist Supervisor (strongly encouraged)</p>
External Assessments	<p>Registrars must complete a Project during the AST related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Project should be original work (at or near Masters Level) completed by the registrar.</p> <p>All projects will require ethics approval as well as local community approval. A candidate's AST Project Proposal Form and AST Project Academic Supervisor Report including details of ethics approval must be submitted to the College for review and approval by the Censor in Chief before commencement of the actual project. Completed projects must include submission of a piece of assessable written work of approximately 4000–5000 words in length. Refer to the AST Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Handbook and Fellowship Assessment Handbook for further information.</p>