

General Practitioner Procedural Training Support Program **Anaesthetics**

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

FEBRUARY 2026

These applicant guidelines pertain to the Anaesthetics component only. For the Obstetrics component, please refer to [RANZCOG](#).

History, Aims and Objectives

The Maternity Services Review report ‘*Improving Maternity Services in Australia*’, delivered in February 2009, identified the need to improve access to maternity services for women in rural and remote locations. In response, the Government announced in the 2009-10 Budget a package of measures including a support program for General Practitioners (GPs) and Rural Generalists (RGs) to complete a procedural training program in obstetrics or anaesthetics.

The initiative targets existing GPs and RGs in rural and remote areas and, accordingly, limits support to GPs and RGs practising in those areas. The initiative to support GPs in rural and remote areas to complete a procedural training program in obstetrics or anaesthetics will help to overcome workforce shortages and increase the availability of maternity services in those areas.

The aim of the Program is to improve access to obstetric and anaesthetic services for women living in rural and remote communities by supporting GPs to attain procedural skills in obstetrics or anaesthetics.

The objective of the Program is to provide funding of \$40,000 (GST exclusive) to eligible GPs and RGs to enable them to gain either the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Associate Training Program (Advanced Procedural) (AFTP) or an Advanced Certificate in Rural Generalist Anaesthesia (RGA). Only Specialist GPs practising in rural and remote areas (MMM3 -7) are eligible to apply.

The Program will provide support for up to 20 eligible grant recipients to complete the procedural training program in obstetrics or anaesthetics. Of these places, up to 10 will be for the anaesthetics component and up to 10 for the obstetrics component (managed [through RANZCOG](#).)

Application Process

Eligibility

Applicants wishing to apply for support will need to satisfy the following eligibility criteria:

- Hold specialist registration with Ahpra in General Practice. For the purposes of this program this means a medical practitioner who has achieved Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and/or the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM).
- The physical location of their principal clinical practice is in an MMM 3-7 area.

An application form will be available on ACRRM's website for GPs and RGs wishing to apply for support. The application form will seek information on a range of matters, such as:

- GP Fellowship status;
- Medicare Provider Number;
- Ahpra registration;
- Location and MMM classification of principal clinical practice;
- Location and MMM classification of the practice where the applicant intends to use the skills of the Program;
- Demonstrated need for a GP/RG with procedural qualifications in obstetrics or anaesthetics in the applicant's geographic area;
- Current visa held by non-Australian citizens;
- The number of clinicians in the hospitals in their locality;
- The number of GPs in the area for which the applicant is applying.

Assessment / Ranking of Applications

A GPPTSP Selection Panel will be established by ACRRM to consider applications for support through the anaesthetic component. The GPPTSP Selection Panel will only consider matters related to the eligibility and assessment criteria and ranking of applicants as outlined in these guidelines. Any matter relating to the anaesthetic training program is the responsibility of the Tripartite Committee of Rural Generalist Anaesthesia (TC-RGA).

The GPPTSP Selection Panel established by ACRRM may include a representative from the RGA and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Only applicants who fully meet the eligibility criteria set out in eligibility section above will be considered for support.

The GPPTSP Selection Panel will rank eligible applications based on:

- 1. Rurality / remoteness (i.e. MMM) of the participant's intended practice;**
 - This criterion will be given a weighting of 50%;
 - A location in MMM3 will score 1 out of 5; MMM4 will score 2 out of 4; MMM5 will score 3 out of 4; and MMM6 will score 4 out of 5 and MMM7 will score 5 out of 5

2. Need for Anaesthetic Support and availability of maternity services and anaesthetics skills in the GP's geographic area of intended practice:

- This criterion will be given a weighting of 30%;
- A greater need demonstrated relative to other applications will score higher.
- The maximum score will be 3 out of 3.

3. Commitment to rural practice:

- This criterion will be given a weighting of 20%;
- Greater commitment and rural experience relative to other applications will score higher
- The maximum score will be 2 out of 2

If more than one applicant records the same score after the GPPTSP Selection Panel considers the above criteria, then a higher ranking will be given to the applicant(s) that has obtained a training post in an accredited hospital. Applicants that score a 0 in the " Need for Anaesthetic Support and availability of maternity services " criteria will be ranked lower than those in a community with a higher need.

The Chief Executive Officer of ACRRM, in consultation with the Chair of the GPPTSP Selection Committee, will determine the successful applicants to be offered support through the anaesthetic component, based on the recommendations of the GPPTSP Selection Panel and the funds available.

Application Tips

- Carefully read the application guidelines and application form.
- Provide detailed information on your intended practice location and need for anaesthetic support and availability of maternity services. This includes information on current staffing, geographical distance to the closest maternity service, and how provision of your anaesthetic services, upon completion of training, will improve sustainable birthing services in the community.
 - Practices with no maternity services will result in lower scoring and ranking.
 - We encourage you to research your intended practice if this differs from your principal practice.
- Provide detailed information on your experience in rural practice, and your long-term commitment to rural and remote practice.
- Providing detailed information allows the panel to effectively assess merit for GPPTSP.
- GPs and RGs who are currently undertaking RGA training are also encouraged to apply for GPPTSP.

Conditions of The Program

- On being offered support by ACRRM, the support recipient is required to enter into an agreement with ACRRM, which specifies the obligations of both parties. Agreements should be returned to ACRRM within 14 working days.
- Under the Program, support recipients will receive a total of \$40,000 (GST exclusive).
- From the date of being offered support, the recipient has 6 months to confirm to ACRRM that they have secured a training post and have enrolled for the Rural Generalist Anaesthesia Training Program. Recipients are expected to complete their RGA qualification within 2 years from the date they commence the training.
- Support recipients who have not secured a training post within 6 months will be withdrawn from the Program.

Payments

Successful applicants for support through the anaesthetic component will enter into a funding agreement and be paid a total of \$40,000 (GST exclusive) directly by ACRRM. This payment will be made as follows:

- An initial payment of \$35,000 following acceptance into the RGA Training Program and securing of a training post at an accredited site.
- A final payment of \$5,000 following successful completion of the Advanced Certificate in Rural Generalist Anaesthesia.

Reporting to ACRRM

All support recipients will be required to lodge an annual report to ACRRM on progress towards completing the Rural Generalist Anaesthesia Training Programs.

All support recipients will be required to lodge a final report to ACRRM on completion of the Advanced Certificate in Rural Generalist Anaesthesia. The final report to ACRRM in the anaesthetics component of the Program will include a copy of the letter from the Tripartite Committee of Rural Generalist Anaesthesia that confirms completion of all the training requirements for Advanced Rural Skills Training in Anaesthesia.

Refund of support funds

If you cease to be enrolled in the RGA Training Program, the reasons for such action will need to be lodged with ACRRM.

ACRRM would then need to consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether the support provided under GPPTSP should be refunded.

Support recipients are expected to successfully complete the Advanced Certificate in Rural Generalist Anaesthesia within 2 years of commencing the training. If a recipient has not completed the anaesthetic training program within 2 years and has not been given an extension of time by the TC-RGA ACRRM would consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether the support provided under GPPTSP should be refunded.

Complaints

ACRRM has the final decision regarding all offers of support. Decisions will be based on the eligibility and assessment criteria and ranking of the application. An individual that has been unsuccessful in being offered support may seek from ACRRM reasons behind the decision. If an applicant wishes to lodge a complaint or seek further information regarding the decision on their application, they may contact ACRRM.

Further in

For further information, please contact the Member Services team at: gpptsp@acrrm.org.au or on 1800 223 226.

Note: These guidelines are made available for information purposes only and are merely intended as a guide. These guidelines do not purport to contain all the information that may be required to evaluate the Program. ACRRM may update or supplement these guidelines and determine funding processes and requirements.