

TASMANIAN RURAL GENERALIST PATHWAY (TRGP)

Rural Generalists are General Practitioners who have trained to gain **additional clinical skills** in one or more specialty area allowing them to work unsupervised in that specialty area in regional, rural and remote locations. Additional skills may include anaesthetics, emergency medicine, obstetrics, paediatrics, palliative care, polar medicine, mental health, or other areas relevant to meeting the health care needs of rural and remote communities.

The additional clinical skills of Rural Generalists are recognised by attaining a **Fellowship of Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP)** through the Royal Australian College of General Practice, and/or **Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM)**.

The **Tasmanian Rural Generalist Pathway (TRGP)** is a State Government initiative that promotes and supports opportunities (through incentives, placements, rotations, skills and training) for medical students and junior doctors to pursue a career as a Rural Generalist in Tasmania:

PREVOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)

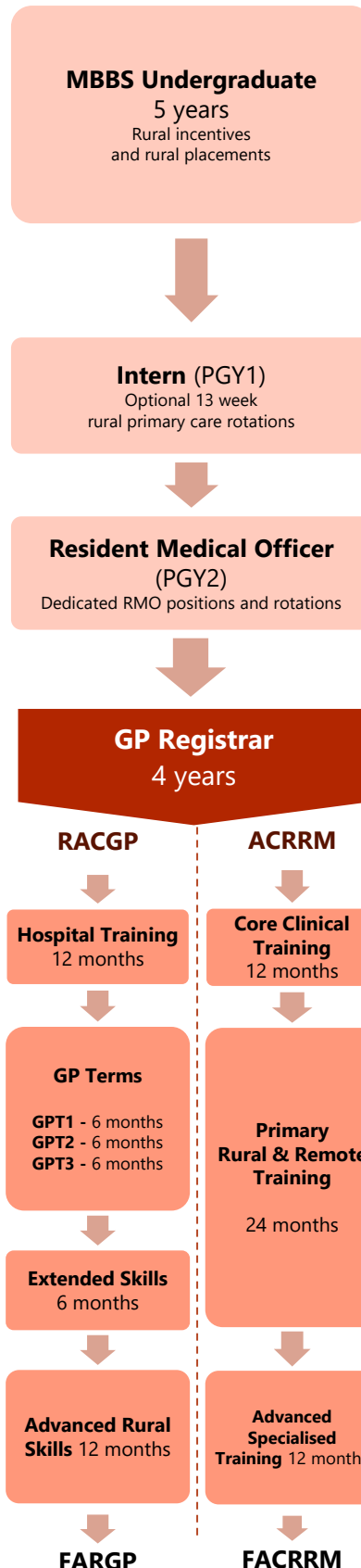
- **Rural Application Process (RAP)** – supports students from rural areas to study medicine
- **RAP Funding Scheme Grant** – provides financial support for eligible students from rural and remote areas
- **John Flynn Placement Program** – provides scholarships to support medical students to spend two weeks each year over three or four years working alongside a rural doctor
- **Years 1 & 2** – “Rural Week” programs for 1st and 2nd year medical students
- **Years 4 & 5** – students who have an interest in rural health can complete the final two years of their study at the Rural Clinical School in Burnie
- **Rural placements** – 5th year students undertake five-week rural and remote medical placements in the North-West towns of Smithton, Queenstown and Currie on King Island.
- **Tasmanian Rural Generalist (TRG) scholarships** – to support graduates from the University of Tasmania’s Launceston Clinical School or North West Rural Clinical School to train as a Rural Generalists

VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Application for entry into GP Vocational Training in Australia can be made through:

- The **Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program** – funded by Government to provide vocational training as a pathway to Fellowship of ACRRM and/or RACGP. In 2019 AGPT offered approximately 1,500 GP training positions across Australia.
- The **Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS)** – also Government funded, provides vocational training pathways for Fellowship of ACRRM and/or RACGP. RVTS is a smaller program specifically targeted at training in remote and isolated communities. Training is provided via distance education and remote supervision. In 2019 RVTS offered 32 training positions across Australia.
- The **ACRRM Independent** (self-funded) pathway – does not receive Government funding; therefore registrars are required to pay the fees associated with achieving Fellowship.

Overseas Trained Doctors may also be eligible to train as Rural Generalists through the RACGP’s new Practice Experience Program (PEP). See: <https://www.racgp.org.au/education/imgs/fellowship-pathways/practice-experience-program>



Internship (Postgraduate Year 1)

Internships are available at the North West Regional Hospital, Launceston General Hospital and Royal Hobart Hospital.

Optional 13-week rural primary care rotations are currently available in five rural general practice locations: Queenstown and King Island (NW), Flinders Island and Scottsdale (N) and the Huon Valley (S). Those interested in the TRGP are encouraged to complete one of these rotations.

Residency (Postgraduate Year 2)

A number of rural Resident Medical Officer (RMO) rotations and positions are available to junior doctors on a pathway to GP training:

- Four dedicated TRGP RMO positions at the NWRH each year, ensuring RMOs gain the mandatory experience required for GP training
- Two 13-week rural General Practice rotations in Scottsdale (N) and East Devonport (NW) with the latter including 1 day per week at the Mersey Community Hospital Emergency Department
- 13-week Paediatrics rotation at the Royal Hobart Hospital
- 13-week Anaesthetics rotation at the Launceston General Hospital

Additional skills training posts required to meet the 12 months Advanced Rural Skills Training (ARST) for RACGP Registrars and/or the Advanced Specialised Training (AST) for ACRRM Registrars must be accredited by General Practice Training Tasmania (GPTT).

See <https://gptt.com.au/training/extended-advanced-skills-placements/>

Additional Skills training posts are currently available to GP Registrars in Tasmania in a range of specialty areas including:

- Adolescent & Youth Health
- Alcohol & Drug Services
- Anaesthetics
- Emergency Medicine
- Mental Health
- Paediatrics
- Palliative Care
- Polar Medicine

With advanced notice, it may be possible to develop additional skills posts to suit the particular needs of a community.

For the most up to date information about the TRGP go to:

https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/gp/about_us/tasmanian_rural_medical_generalist_pathway2